

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Output 1.2**

**Question No. 17**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2006:**

What was the breakdown of the Attorney-General's Department's expenditure on internal legal services in 2004-05?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The Department does not have a legal services branch as such. Within the Department, there are units that provide both internal and external services, principally the Office of International Law, the Office of Legislative Drafting and Publishing, and the Counsel assisting the Solicitor-General. Legal services are provided at no cost to the areas of the Department receiving the services. These expenses are treated as part of the aggregate of staffing costs for the Department.

An estimate of the cost of internal legal services provided by officers of the Department to the Department in 2004-05 has been derived from an assessment of the number of staff involved in providing internal legal services and the proportion of their time involved in providing those services.

The cost of internal legal services can then be estimated based on salary levels for these positions and increased by a factor reflecting typical staffing and other overheads within the Department.

By this method, it is estimated that approximately \$0.95 million was spent on internal legal services by the Department in 2004-05.

In addition, the costs of the Solicitor-General (including salary) are met by the Department, and the Solicitor-General devotes some of his time to providing legal services to the Department. However, the Solicitor-General is not an employee of the Department so his services have not been included with internal legal services.