

Table  
18 FEB 08  
Sen Brandis

<b>Name of Policy:</b>	<b>Reduce spending on legal services purchasing</b>
Person requesting policy	Leader of the Opposition
Date of Public Release of Policy	21 November 2007
Date of request to cost the policy:	21 November 2007
Summary of Policy	The policy will establish a common legal services panel to provide services to whole of government. The panel arrangements will be managed by a committee chaired by the Solicitor-General and supported by representatives from the Attorney-General's Department, Department of Finance and Administration and other major procurers of legal services.
Intention of Policy	The policy will provide opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce costs to government and business,</li> <li>• increase transparency,</li> <li>• rationalise the procurement of legal services, and</li> <li>• improve consistency of advice and service delivery.</li> </ul>
<b>Description of policy.</b> What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy including:	
Is the policy part of a package? If yes, list and outline components and interactions with proposed or existing policies?	No.
Will funding/cost require indexation? If yes, list factors used?	No.
What are the estimated costs each year? Are these provided on a cash or fiscal basis?	The impact on the underlying cash balance will be a saving of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil in 2007-08</li> <li>• \$ 15.2 million in 2008-09</li> <li>• \$ 15.2 million in 2009-10</li> <li>• \$ 15.2 million in 2010-11</li> </ul>
What assumptions have been made in deriving the expected financial impact in the party costing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net savings of 10% of total external legal expenditure can be achieved.</li> <li>• Historical expenditure on external legal services provides a reasonable estimate of future legal expenditure.</li> <li>• Administrative costs associated with establishing and managing a whole of government panel will be funded from savings.</li> <li>• Agencies will cease using individual panel arrangements upon the commencement of the whole of government panel.</li> </ul>
What is the expected community impact of the policy?	Greater consistency in the way government operates, reduced costs of

	doing business with government and reduced expenditure on legal services allowing greater spending on other priorities.
How many people will be affected by the policy?	n/a
What is the likely take up?	n/a
<b>How will the policy be administered: who will administer the policy?</b>	
Should Departmental expenses associated with this policy be included in this costing?	No.
If no, will the Department be expected to absorb expenses associated with this policy?	Yes.
If yes, please specify the key assumptions.	n/a
Intended date of implementation. Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	1 July 2008
List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS cat. no. 3201.0).	Austender.
Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?	No.