

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 108

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2007:

Customs engaged for services under contract for a range of purposes including legal probity and so on. The expected cost is \$700,000.

- a) Can the reporting of that be identified from your website?
- b) Was this contract an all-up term, or billed on an hourly basis?
 - i) If on an hourly basis how many hours was Customs billed for?

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

- a) The estimate of \$700 000 was based on expected expenditure for advice and services for 2006-07. There were three principal advisers that are published on the Customs website, as is the contract for the provision of legal services. Additional services have been gazetted, but not listed on the Customs website during 2006-07, and will be incorporated in the next update.
- b) Services provided under these contracts were billed on either an hourly or daily basis.
 - i) Customs was billed for 1,080 hours of advice from the three principal consultants and approximately 300 hours of legal services.