

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0143) Program: Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

The legal services rendered to the department during these periods by private firms (excluding AGS) were for legal advice and litigation related services. The following is a breakdown of the department's external legal services by Professional Fees, Counsel and Disbursements.

Current financial year to 31 March 2012

<i>Agency's total Other Firms legal services expenditure</i>	\$million
External expenditure on solicitors ¹	7.921
External expenditure on counsel	0.975
Other disbursements on external legal services	0.563
total external	9.459

MRT/RRT

The Migration Review Tribunal-Refugee Review Tribunal has not accessed legal services from private firms in the 2011-12 financial year to 31 March 2012.

¹ As the Department has entered into a 'fixed fee' arrangement for the payment of some of its litigation matters, this figure will also include some expenditure on counsel and disbursements that cannot be separately identified.