

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 OCTOBER 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0156) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Humphries (written) asked:

Portfolio wide - Legal Costs: What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for 2011-12 and this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

The legal services rendered during these periods were for legal advice and litigation related services. The following is a breakdown of external legal services by Professional Fees, Counsel and Disbursements.

2011-12 financial year

<i>Agency's total AGS legal services expenditure</i>	<i>\$million</i>
External expenditure on solicitors ¹	6.771
External expenditure on counsel	1.485
Other disbursements on external legal services	0.310
total external	8.566

Current financial year to 30 September 2012

<i>Agency's total AGS legal services expenditure</i>	<i>\$million</i>
External expenditure on solicitors ²	1.519
External expenditure on counsel	0.356
Other disbursements on external legal services	0.048
total external	1.923

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.

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MRT/RRT

The MRT-RRT spent \$39,444.28 on legal services in 2011-2012 from the AGS. For 2012-13 to 31 October 2012, the tribunals spent \$2,799.50 on legal services from the AGS.