

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: Whole-of-Government 01

Division/Agency: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Topic: External legal services spend

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Ludwig asked:

What sum did the department or agency spend during 2005-2006 on external legal services (including private firms, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others).

Answer:

The expenditure on external legal services during the 2005-06 fiscal year by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was \$3,686,789.63

Question: Whole-of-Government 02

Division/Agency: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Topic: Internal legal services spend

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Ludwig asked:

What sum did the department/agency spend on internal legal services?

Answer:

In the 2005-06 fiscal year, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry spent \$2,112,364.26 on internal legal services.

Question: Whole-of-Government 03

Division/Agency: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Topic: Projected legal services expenditure

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Ludwig asked:

What is the department or agency's projected expenditure on legal services for 2006-2007.

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Answer:

The projected legal services expenditure for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio for 2006-07 is \$3,000,000.00.

Question: Whole-of-Government 04

Division/Agency: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Topic: Executive coaching/leadership training

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Ludwig asked:

The following questions relate to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services by the department/agency, broken down for each of the last four financial years.

Where available, please provide:

1. Total spending on these services.
2. The number of employees offered these services and their salary level.
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their salary level.
4. The names of all service providers engaged.
5. For each service purchased from a provider listed in the answer to the previous question, please provide:
 - a. The name and nature of the service purchased.
 - b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based.
 - c. The number of employees who received the service.
 - d. The total number of hours involved for all employees.
 - e. The total amount spent on the service.
 - f. A description of the fees charged (e.g. per hour, complete package).
 - g. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
 - i. The location used
 - ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion.

The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part.

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Answers:

1. The total amount spent on SES executive coaching and leadership training courses between 2002 and 2006 was:

2002-03	\$13,954.55
2003-04	\$50,571.00
2004-05	\$72,933.00
2005-06	\$75,379.55

2. Over the four year timeframe between 2002-03 and 2005-06, there were 147 offers of executive training made to Senior Executive Service (SES) officers at the Band 1, 2 and 3 levels.

3. Over the four year timeframe between 2002-03 and 2005-06, approximately 55 offers of coaching were accepted by SES officers at the Band 1, 2, and 3 levels. Departmental records, however, do not show whether the take-up of the offers included separate individuals attending more than one offer of training.

4. The service providers engaged to provide these services were:

- Australian and New Zealand School of Government
- Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Australian Public Service Commission
- Palm Consulting Group
- Stone Wilson Consulting
- VT Coach Pty Ltd
- Yellow Edge Performance Architects

5. Departmental records do not contain the level of detail sought by this question. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is however able to advise that:

- a. The nature of the services provided varied with each course but included training in such areas as: individual coaching; financial management; media training; human resource management; and strategic planning.
- b. The services provided were both one-on-one and group-based, but were mainly group-based.
- c. Refer to the response to Question 3 above.
- d. The total number of hours for each officer who attended these services is not available.
- e. The specific total cost of each service provided to individuals is not available.
- f. The fees charged for the various services were on both a per hour basis and for the whole course to be provided.

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- g. Training services were provided at a number of locations including:
- i The Kurrajong Hotel, Barton, ACT;
The Boat House, Barton, ACT;
Lincoln Down Resort, Batemans Bay, NSW;
Craighburn, Bowral, NSW;
Hyatt Regency, Gold Coast, QLD;
Federal Golf Club, Canberra, ACT;
Kamberra Winery, Canberra, ACT;
Grand Mercure, Bowral, NSW;
Rydges, Eagle Hawk, NSW;
Thredbo Alpine Village, NSW;
Coolangatta Estate, Nowra, NSW;
Corrigan's Resort, Batehaven, NSW; and
Parliament House, Parkes, ACT.
 - ii The number of employees who took part on each occasion is not available.

It is estimated that the total number of hours involved for all employees who took part was approximately 1,389. This equates to slightly more than 25 hours and 15 minutes per attendee over the four year period.

Question: Whole-of-Government 05

Division/Agency: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Topic: Costs associated with Australia's engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

Can the department identify all departmental or administered costs related to:

(1) Australia's engagement in Iraq

(2) Australia's engagement in Afghanistan

in each of the forward years to 2009-10 including, but not necessarily limited to, assistance to Ministries of Agriculture?

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Answer:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is not able to identify any specific administered costs related to Australia's engagement in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services (AQIS) has however provided inspection (off shore) services to the Australian Department of Defence on an 'as required' basis. AQIS is not able to identify or predict the likely future demand for such services.