

Question on notice no. 70

Portfolio question number: AE25-070

2024-25 Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Attorney-General's Portfolio

Senator David Shoebridge: asked the Federal Court of Australia on 4 March 2025—

According to paragraph 12 of the Office of Legal Services Coordination's Guidance Note 8 - reporting on legal services expenditure, the Office of Legal Services Coordination expects that non-corporate Commonwealth entities calculate the full cost of internal legal services. Taking this into account:

1. What is the total amount expended on internal legal services in the 2023-24 financial year for the non-corporate Commonwealth entity known as the Federal Court of Australia?

(Please include direct and indirect salary costs, direct and indirect overheads, legal unit overheads and any training costs)

2. For the 2023-24 financial year please provide the amounts in 1 in respect of each of:

(a) direct salary costs (e.g. administrative staff, paralegals, general counsel etc.) ; and

(b) indirect salary costs (e.g. superannuation, leave entitlements, other salary contributions etc.) ; and

(c) direct overhead (e.g. costs of desks, computers, stationery etc.) ; and

(d) indirect overhead (e.g. apportioned rent, electricity etc.) and

(e) legal unit overhead (e.g. specialist software licenses, cost of law library, loose-leaf services etc.) ; and

(f) other relevant costs

3. What proportion of the time of the General Counsel of the Federal Court of Australia was devoted to the provision of legal services in 2023-24?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2024-2025

PA-Federal Court of Australia

AE25-070 - Federal Court: Internal legal services expenditure

Senator David Shoebridge asked the following question on 04 March 2025:

According to paragraph 12 of the Office of Legal Services Coordination's Guidance Note 8 – reporting on legal services expenditure, the Office of Legal Services Coordination expects that non-corporate Commonwealth entities calculate the full cost of internal legal services. Taking this into account:

1. What is the total amount expended on internal legal services in the 2023-24 financial year for the non-corporate Commonwealth entity known as the Federal Court of Australia?

(Please include direct and indirect salary costs, direct and indirect overheads, legal unit overheads and any training costs)

2. For the 2023-24 financial year please provide the amounts in 1 in respect of each of:

a) direct salary costs (e.g. administrative staff, paralegals, general counsel etc.); and
b) indirect salary costs (e.g. superannuation, leave entitlements, other salary contributions etc.);
and

c) direct overhead (e.g. costs of desks, computers, stationery etc.); and

d) indirect overhead (e.g. apportioned rent, electricity etc.) and

e) legal unit overhead (e.g. specialist software licenses, cost of law library, loose-leaf services etc.); and

f) other relevant costs

3. What proportion of the time of the General Counsel of the Federal Court of Australia was devoted to the provision of legal services in 2023-24?

The response to the senator's question is as follows:

1. \$706,897

2.

a. \$512,520

b. \$86,691

c. Overheads are not allocated directly or indirectly to the Office of General Counsel. Using the Department of Finance standard template, The Court

estimates the total overhead cost of the Office of General Counsel to be \$107,686.

- d. See the answer to (c).
 - e. Nil.
 - f. Nil.
3. Insufficient data exists to be able to accurately answer this question. As a dedicated legal unit, the entire costs of the Office of General Counsel would be included within the internal legal services expenditure.