

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

PA-National Native Title Tribunal

BE25-036: NNTT: Expenditure

Senator David Shoebridge asked the following question on 02 April 2025:

1. Please calculate and report, in the light of the Office of Legal Services Coordination's Guidance Note 8 - reporting on legal services expenditure, the total amount expended on internal legal services in the 2023-24 financial year for the Director of Legal and Compliance in the National Native Title Tribunal, and any other providers of internal legal services supporting the legal work of the Director of Legal and Compliance in the National Native Title Tribunal (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, Director of Legal and Compliance etc.)

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

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

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

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

(f) other relevant costs

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

1. In 2023-24 National Native Title Tribunal went through a period of consolidation following the appointments of Mr. Kevin Smith as President and Ms. Katie Stride as Registrar in July and August 2023 respectively. Under new leadership, a significant whole of organisation review and planning process was conducted. This resulted in a substantial restructure with the introduction of four (4) teams Legal and Compliance, Dispute Resolution and Assistance, Geospatial and Business Support. Therefore, the costings below are based on the introduction of a Director, Legal and Compliance, Manager Legal and Compliance and a Legal Research officer in February 2024.

2. (a) \$136,292
- (b) \$26,600
- (c) to be \$63,576 (estimated cost)
- (d) \$57,124 (estimated cost)
- (e) Nil
- (f) Nil