

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Walker to the Minister for Children and Families:

#### Legal Practitioners and Law Firms

1. What was the total expenditure incurred by your Department on payments to legal practitioners and law firms in 2012/13 and 2013/14 representing both the Department and children in care?
2. How many legal practitioners and law firms received payments from your Department in 2012/13 and 2013/14?
3. Which legal practitioners and law firms received payments from your Department in 2012/13 and 2013/14?
4. For each relevant legal practitioner and law firm:
  - a. What was the value of each payment made?
  - b. When was each payment made?
  - c. Who was the legal principal submitting invoices on behalf of each law firm?
5. Has your Department conducted any reviews, audits or investigations of payments made to legal practitioners or law firms in 2012/13 and 2013/14?
6. If so, which legal practitioners and firms were subject to reviews, audits or investigations in 2012/13 and 2013/14?
7. Have any overpayments or anomalies been identified in relation to payments to legal practitioners or law firms in 2012/13 and 2013/14?
8. If so, would you provide details of all overpayments and anomalies identified and the legal practitioners or law firms involved?
9. Has any recovery or remedial action been initiated to correct any overpayments or anomalies identified?
10. If so, what was the dollar amount and percentage of any overpayment actually paid back to the Department of Children and Families?
11. Was legal action required to ensure repayment?
12. What processes have been put in place to validate invoicing to the Department?
13. Was a complaint lodged with the NT law Society in relation to overcharging?
14. What contractor performance measures are in place to oversight legal contractor performance and is this taken into account in future tender opportunities?

15. Were your Department's contractual arrangements with law firms and legal practitioners in 2012/13 and 2013/14 subject to:

- a. Expressions of interest?
- b. Public tenders?
- c. Certificates of exemption?
- d. Some other arrangement?

16. If the answer to (d) above is yes, what are the relevant arrangements?

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