

Estimates Committee 2005 Questions Taken On Notice

(23/06/2005 to 01/10/2005)

Date: 05/07/2005

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Cost for Consultancies

From: Ms Jodeen Terese CARNEY to Honourable Dr Peter TOYNE
Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

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Question: During the 2004-05 financial year, were any consultants, legal practitioners or others, retained by the Solicitor for the Northern Territory? If so, could you detail on a generic level the purpose for which they were retained?

Answer:

Answered On: 05/07/2005

Answer: It was agreed that, as lengthy lists of interstate and Northern Territory private legal practitioners, and the amounts paid to them, have already been provided, a generic answer as to the nature of services provided would be given:

Local barristers were briefed in respect of specific cases on behalf of the Northern Territory to represent the interests of agencies, Ministers, or government employees in court proceedings, or in some cases, to provide written legal opinions.

In the case of the Northern Territory law firms, general legal services were provided pursuant to outsourcing tender packages or, in some cases, for ad hoc legal services not covered by the particular tender package.

The services provided by Northern Territory law firms covered a wide range of services, including general advice, crimes victims assistance matters, medical negligence claims, work health claims, commercial advice and documentation, representation in native title and land rights cases, advice to Boards and Tribunals, representation in child protection, adult guardianship and adoption matters, and negligence and compensation claims.

In the case of interstate solicitors and barristers, instructions have in all cases been ad hoc (all tender packages are held by NT firms) on the basis of specialised expertise required for a specific purpose that was not available from NT practitioners.

Significant, specific cost items include the ongoing NT Power case and specialised commercial advice and documentation in respect of the Waterfront Development.