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Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Report on Legal Services Expenditure 2020-21

This is a statement of legal services expenditure by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the 2020-21 financial year, published in compliance with paragraph 11.1(ba) of the *Legal Services Directions 2017*. All figures are GST exclusive.

Total legal services expenditure	\$1,227,756
Total external legal services expenditure	\$1,227,756
Total internal legal services expenditure	\$0

Total external legal services expenditure comprised:

Total external legal services expenditure	\$1,227,756
External expenditure on solicitors - professional fees and disbursements, excluding counsel	\$1,158,920
External expenditure on counsel (through 7 briefs: 3 to male counsel and 4 to female counsel)	\$68,836

Explanatory Notes

This report has been prepared on the following basis.

- ‘Legal services expenditure’ has been defined as legal services accrued by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet during the 2020-21 financial year.
- On 1 July 2020, the Indigenous Affairs Group of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet became the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), an executive agency in the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio. This report does not include expenditure on legal services by the NIAA, which is required by paragraph 11.1(ba) of the *Legal Services Directions 2017* to report separately.
- ‘Internal legal services’ have been identified in accordance with the definition used by the Australian National Audit Office in Audit Report No. 52 of 2004-05: “The procurement of legal services from within the agencies through the employment of APS personnel with appropriate professional legal qualifications, or such personnel collectively.” Activities of the department coming within the ANAO definition of ‘internal legal services’ may also involve the provision of policy advice, so internal legal services are not necessarily directly comparable with, or able to be substituted by, external legal services.

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