

# Legal Services Expenditure Report 2025-26

|                                          |
|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman</b> |
| <b>43 884 188 232</b>                    |
| <b>NCCE</b>                              |

## Summary Totals

|                                                                         |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total legal services expenditure                                        | \$ 24,129,454 |
| Total internal legal services expenditure                               | \$ 18,262,533 |
| Total external legal services expenditure                               | \$ 5,866,921  |
| Total number of government lawyers                                      | 82            |
| Total number of briefs to counsel                                       | 57            |
| Total value of briefs to counsel                                        | \$ 1,610,157  |
| Total value of disbursements (excluding counsel)                        | \$ 510,698    |
| Total number of domestic providers (excluding AGS)                      | 8             |
| Total value of professional fees                                        | \$ 3,746,066  |
| Total value of professional fees using the Panel flexibility mechanisms | \$ -          |

## Expenditure Comparison

|                                            |               |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total Legal Services Expenditure (2025-26) | \$ 24,129,454 |
| Total Legal Services Expenditure (2024-25) | \$ 24,015,822 |
| Total Expenditure Change                   | \$ 113,632    |
| Internal Expenditure Change                | -\$ 84,905    |
| External Expenditure Change                | \$ 198,537    |

## Legal Services Expenditure Report 2025-26

|             |                                   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Entity Name | Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman |
| Entity ABN  | 43 884 188 232                    |
| Entity Type | NCCE                              |

## Totals

|                                           |               |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total legal services expenditure          | \$ 24,129,454 |
| Total internal legal services expenditure | \$ 18,262,533 |
| Total external legal services expenditure | \$ 5,866,921  |

## Section 1 Internal Legal Services Expenditure

|                                                    |               |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total value of internal legal services expenditure | \$ 18,262,533 |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|

## Section 2a Number of Government Lawyers

|                                                                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| APS Levels 1-6 (Junior Legal Officer / Lawyer <2 years PAE / Lawyers >2 years PAE)          | 41 |
| Executive Legal 1 (Senior Legal Officer / Assistant Director / Associate)                   | 24 |
| Executive Level 2 (Principal Legal Officer / Director / Senior Associate / Special Counsel) | 13 |
| SES Bands 1-3 (General Counsel / Chief Counsel / Partner)                                   | 4  |

## Section 2b Government lawyers primary workplace

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| ACT                     | 0  |
| NSW (capital city)      | 23 |
| NSW (other)             | 0  |
| NT (capital city)       | 0  |
| NT (other)              | 0  |
| QLD (capital city)      | 16 |
| QLD (other)             | 0  |
| SA (capital city)       | 7  |
| SA (other)              | 0  |
| Tasmania (capital city) | 0  |
| Tasmania (other)        | 0  |

|                                                  |                                                                                                                                                           |              |  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--|
|                                                  | Victoria (capital city)                                                                                                                                   | 35           |  |
|                                                  | Victoria (other)                                                                                                                                          | 1            |  |
|                                                  | WA (capital city)                                                                                                                                         | 0            |  |
|                                                  | WA (other)                                                                                                                                                | 0            |  |
|                                                  | Australia (other – external territories etc)                                                                                                              | 0            |  |
|                                                  | Overseas                                                                                                                                                  | 0            |  |
| <b>Section 3 Counsel Briefs</b>                  |                                                                                                                                                           |              |  |
|                                                  | Total number of briefs to counsel                                                                                                                         | 57           |  |
|                                                  | Total value of briefs to counsel                                                                                                                          | \$ 1,610,157 |  |
| <b>Section 3a Junior Counsel (direct briefs)</b> |                                                                                                                                                           |              |  |
|                                                  | Total number of direct briefs to male junior counsel                                                                                                      | 11           |  |
|                                                  | Total value of direct briefs to male junior counsel                                                                                                       | \$ 86,483    |  |
|                                                  | Total number of direct briefs to female junior counsel                                                                                                    | 15           |  |
|                                                  | Total value of direct briefs to female junior counsel                                                                                                     | \$ 261,688   |  |
|                                                  | Total number of direct briefs to gender X junior counsel                                                                                                  | 0            |  |
|                                                  | Total value of direct briefs to gender X junior counsel                                                                                                   | \$ -         |  |
| <b>Junior Counsel (indirect briefs)</b>          |                                                                                                                                                           |              |  |
|                                                  | Total number of indirect briefs to male junior counsel                                                                                                    | 0            |  |
|                                                  | Total value of indirect briefs to male junior counsel                                                                                                     | \$ 37,092    |  |
|                                                  | Total number of indirect briefs to female junior counsel                                                                                                  | 1            |  |
|                                                  | Total value of indirect briefs to female junior counsel                                                                                                   | \$ 69,230    |  |
|                                                  | Total number of indirect briefs to gender X junior counsel                                                                                                | 0            |  |
|                                                  | Total value of indirect briefs to gender X junior counsel                                                                                                 | \$ -         |  |
|                                                  | Total number of briefs to junior counsel                                                                                                                  | 27           |  |
|                                                  | Total value of briefs to junior counsel                                                                                                                   | \$ 454,493   |  |
| <b>Section 3b Senior counsel (direct briefs)</b> |                                                                                                                                                           |              |  |
|                                                  | Total number of direct briefs to male senior counsel                                                                                                      | 15           |  |
|                                                  | Total value of direct briefs to male senior counsel                                                                                                       | \$ 470,695   |  |
|                                                  | Total number of direct briefs to female senior counsel                                                                                                    | 12           |  |
|                                                  | Total value of direct briefs to female senior counsel                                                                                                     | \$ 343,683   |  |
|                                                  | Total number of direct briefs to gender X senior counsel                                                                                                  | 0            |  |
|                                                  | Total value of direct briefs to gender X senior counsel                                                                                                   | \$ -         |  |
| <b>Senior Counsel (indirect briefs)</b>          |                                                                                                                                                           |              |  |
|                                                  | Total number of indirect briefs to male senior counsel                                                                                                    | 3            |  |
|                                                  | Total value of indirect briefs to male senior counsel                                                                                                     | \$ 322,057   |  |
|                                                  | Total number of indirect briefs to female senior counsel                                                                                                  | 0            |  |
|                                                  | Total value of indirect briefs to female senior counsel                                                                                                   | \$ 19,229    |  |
|                                                  | Total number of indirect briefs to gender X senior counsel                                                                                                | 0            |  |
|                                                  | Total value of indirect briefs to gender X senior counsel                                                                                                 | \$ -         |  |
|                                                  | Total number of briefs to senior counsel                                                                                                                  | 30           |  |
|                                                  | Total value of briefs to senior counsel                                                                                                                   | \$ 1,155,664 |  |
| <b>Section 4 Disbursements</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                           |              |  |
|                                                  | Total value of disbursements                                                                                                                              | \$ 510,698   |  |
| <b>Section 5 Legal Services Panels</b>           |                                                                                                                                                           |              |  |
|                                                  | Entity participation in the Whole of Australian Government Legal Services Panel during 2025-26 (Auto-filled)                                              | Yes          |  |
|                                                  | Invoiced Panel Fee for 2025-26 (GST exclusive) (Auto-filled)                                                                                              | \$ 15,965    |  |
|                                                  | Total value of professional fees expenditure under the Whole of Australian Government Legal Services Panel (SON3622041) – Old Panel expired 30 June 2024  | \$ 475,044   |  |
|                                                  | Total value of professional fees expenditure under the Whole of Australian Government Legal Services Panel (SON4072331) – New Panel commenced 1 July 2024 | \$ 1,346,571 |  |
|                                                  | Total value of professional fees expenditure – 10% off-Panel allowance                                                                                    | \$ -         |  |
|                                                  | Total value of professional fees expenditure – Exemption from using the Panel granted by AGD                                                              | \$ -         |  |

| Section 6 Professional Fees                  |                                                                            |              |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|                                              | Total value of professional fees                                           | \$ 3,746,066 |
| Section 6a Other Government Providers        |                                                                            |              |
|                                              | Attorney-General's Department (DO NOT INCLUDE PANEL FEE)                   | \$ -         |
|                                              | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade                                    | \$ -         |
|                                              | Office of Parliamentary Counsel                                            | \$ -         |
| Section 6b Overseas Legal Services Providers |                                                                            |              |
|                                              | Overseas firms (total figure)                                              | \$ -         |
| Section 6c Domestic Providers                |                                                                            |              |
|                                              | Australian Government Solicitor                                            | \$ 1,919,690 |
|                                              | <b>Ashurst</b>                                                             |              |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure                                                 | \$ 4,760     |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – 10% off-Panel allowance                       | \$ -         |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – Exemption from using the Panel granted by AGD | \$ -         |
|                                              | <b>Clayton Utz</b>                                                         |              |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure                                                 | \$ 1,252,217 |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – 10% off-Panel allowance                       | \$ -         |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – Exemption from using the Panel granted by AGD | \$ -         |
|                                              | <b>Mallesons</b>                                                           |              |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure                                                 | \$ 9,633     |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – 10% off-Panel allowance                       | \$ -         |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – Exemption from using the Panel granted by AGD | \$ -         |
|                                              | <b>Kingston Reid</b>                                                       |              |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure                                                 | \$ 9,905     |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – 10% off-Panel allowance                       | \$ -         |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – Exemption from using the Panel granted by AGD | \$ -         |
|                                              | <b>Maddocks</b>                                                            |              |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure                                                 | \$ 2,540     |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – 10% off-Panel allowance                       | \$ -         |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – Exemption from using the Panel granted by AGD | \$ -         |
|                                              | <b>Moray &amp; Agnew</b>                                                   |              |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure                                                 | \$ 71,618    |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – 10% off-Panel allowance                       | \$ -         |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – Exemption from using the Panel granted by AGD | \$ -         |
|                                              | <b>Norton Rose Fulbright Australia</b>                                     |              |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure                                                 | \$ 451,852   |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – 10% off-Panel allowance                       | \$ -         |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – Exemption from using the Panel granted by AGD | \$ -         |
|                                              | <b>Sparke Helmore Lawyers</b>                                              |              |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure                                                 | \$ 23,851    |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – 10% off-Panel allowance                       | \$ -         |
|                                              | Total value of expenditure – Exemption from using the Panel granted by AGD | \$ -         |