

ACCOUNTABILITY



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Registrar's website implements the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's model webpage, including a freedom of information (FOI) disclosure log and the Information Publication Scheme.

Thirteen FOI requests were made to the Registrar between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014, up from 11 in the previous year. Twelve requests were finalised at 30 June 2014.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT ORIC STAFF

ORIC responds to complaints about its staff and contractors in accordance with policy statement *PS-03: Complaints about the Registrar's staff and contractors*. ORIC tries to respond promptly, thoroughly and with sensitivity to complaints. During 2013–14, five complaints about staff and contractors were received. All complaints have been resolved.

COMMONWEALTH OMBUDSMAN

In 2013–14 ORIC received two section 8 letters from the Commonwealth Ombudsman under the *Ombudsman Act 1976* in which the Ombudsman requested information to help investigate complaints made to it. The Registrar responded to all issues raised in the Ombudsman's letters. The Ombudsman advised that no further investigation was warranted in each complaint.

LEGAL SERVICES EXPENDITURE

Table 15 is a statement of legal services expenditure by ORIC for 2013–14. It complies with paragraph 11.1(ba) of the Commonwealth’s *Legal Services Directions 2005*.

Table 15: ORIC’s legal services expenditure 2013–14

Internal legal services expenditure	\$ GST exclusive
Total internal legal services expenditure	\$516 009.70
<hr/>	
External legal services expenditure	\$ GST exclusive
Professional fees:	
Australian Government Solicitor	\$95 284.72
Minter Ellison	\$121 485.80
Total professional fees paid	\$216 770.52
Counsel briefs	\$53 320.91
Other disbursements on external legal services	\$46 866.89
Total external legal services expenditure	\$316 958.32
<hr/>	
Counsel	
Number of counsel briefed	
Number of male counsel briefed	4
Number of female counsel briefed	1
<hr/>	
Value of counsel briefs	
Value of briefs to male counsel (GST exclusive)	\$28 935.00
Value of briefs to female counsel (GST exclusive)	\$24 385.91

NOTE: Internal legal services expenditure was derived through estimates of the percentage of time spent by legally qualified staff on legal work. Expenditure was calculated using base salaries and overheads.

