

Accountability

Freedom of information

Complaints about ORIC staff and contractors

Commonwealth Ombudsman

Legal services expenditure



Freedom of information

Freedom of information (FOI) requests are administered by the Registrar in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. Supplementary material may be used to support the handling of FOI requests. This includes the Registrar's policy statement, *PS-13: Freedom of Information*, and FOI guidelines that are available from www.pmc.gov.au. Nine FOI requests were made between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010. Ten requests were finalised and two requests were in progress on 30 June 2009.

Complaints about ORIC staff and contractors

ORIC responds to complaints about its staff and contractors in accordance with policy statement 3: *Complaints about the Registrar's staff and contractors*. ORIC tries to respond promptly, thoroughly and with sensitivity to complaints. During 2009–10 five complaints about staff and contractors were received. The complaints have been resolved.

Commonwealth Ombudsman

In 2009–10 ORIC received one section 8 letter from the Commonwealth Ombudsman under the *Ombudsman Act 1976* in which the Ombudsman requested information to assist in the investigation of the complaint. The issues raised in the letter were responded to within agreed timeframes and the Commonwealth Ombudsman advised that further investigation was not warranted.

Legal services expenditure

Table 6 is a statement of legal services expenditure by ORIC for 2009–10. The legal services expenditure in this table is also included in the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Annual Report 2009–2010 in compliance with paragraph 11.1(ba) of the Commonwealth's Legal Services Directions 2005.

Table 6: ORIC’s Legal Services Expenditure, 2009–10

Total internal legal services expenditure (GST inclusive)	\$229 560
Australian Government Solicitor	\$35 841
Minter Ellison	\$130 426
Total professional fees paid	\$166 267
Counsel briefs	\$12 058
Other disbursements on external legal services	\$7 200

Total external legal services expenditure (GST inclusive)	\$185 525
Number of male counsel briefed	1
Value of briefs to male counsel	3300
Number of female counsel briefed	1
Value of briefs to female counsel	8758

