

# Accountability

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

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

Eleven FOI requests were made to the Registrar between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. Ten requests were finalised by 30 June 2013.

## COMPLAINTS ABOUT ORIC STAFF

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 sensitively to complaints. During 2012–13, four complaints about staff and contractors were received. All complaints have been resolved.

## COMMONWEALTH OMBUDSMAN

In 2012–13 ORIC received four section 8 letters from the Commonwealth Ombudsman under the *Ombudsman Act 1976* requesting information to help investigate the complaints. The Registrar responded to all issues raised in the Ombudsman's letters. The Ombudsman advised that no further investigation was warranted in each complaint. In one complaint the Ombudsman made observations to improve communications with complainants.

## LEGAL SERVICES EXPENDITURE

Table 14 is a statement of legal services expenditure by ORIC for 2012–13. It complies with paragraph 11.1(ba) of the Commonwealth's Legal Services Directions 2005.

**Table 14:** ORIC's legal services expenditure 2012–13

<b>Internal legal services expenditure</b>	<b>\$ GST inclusive</b>
<b>Total internal legal services expenditure</b>	<b>\$373,587.82</b>
<b>External legal services expenditure</b>	<b>\$ GST inclusive</b>
Professional fees:	
Australian Government Solicitor	\$100,647.47
Minter Ellison	\$110,000.00
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers	\$2,772.00
King & Wood Mallesons	\$10,450.00
Total professional fees paid	\$223,869.47
Counsel briefs	\$55,414.25
Other disbursements on external legal services	\$4,602.89
<b>Total external legal services expenditure</b>	<b>\$283,886.61</b>
<b>Counsel</b>	
Number of counsel briefed:	
Number of male counsel briefed	2
Number of female counsel briefed	1
Value of counsel briefs:	
Value of briefs to male counsel (GST inclusive)	\$18,017.00
Value of briefs to female counsel (GST inclusive)	\$37,397.25

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.