





Accountability



Freedom of information

The Registrar's website implements Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's model webpage, including an FOI disclosure log and the Information Publication Scheme.

Five FOI requests were made to the Registrar between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012. Three requests were finalised. Two requests were in progress at 30 June 2012.

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 with sensitivity to complaints. During 2011–12, three complaints about staff and contractors were received. All complaints have been resolved.

Commonwealth Ombudsman

In 2011–12 ORIC received seven section 8 letters from the Commonwealth Ombudsman under the *Ombudsman Act 1976* in which the Ombudsman requested information to help investigate complaints to the Ombudsman.

The Registrar responded to all issues raised in the Ombudsman's letters. The Ombudsman advised that no further investigation was warranted in six complaints. One complaint still remains under consideration by the Ombudsman.

Legal services expenditure

Table 14 is a statement of legal services expenditure by ORIC for 2011–12. The legal services expenditure is also included in the annual report of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) in compliance with paragraph 11.1(ba) of the Commonwealth’s Legal Services Directions 2005.

Table 14: ORIC’s legal services expenditure, 2011–12

Total internal legal services expenditure (GST inclusive)	\$375,226.34
Australian Government Solicitor	\$253,113.09
Minter Ellison	\$54,035.52
HWL Ebsworth	\$5,423.00
Total professional fees paid	\$312,571.61
Counsel briefs	\$120,355.24
Other disbursements on external legal services	\$40,107.50
Total external legal services expenditure (GST inclusive)	\$473,034.35
Number of male counsel briefed	3
Value of briefs to male counsel	\$107,389.91
Number of female counsel briefed	2
Value of briefs to female counsel	\$12,965.33

