



**Hon. Robert McClelland MP**  
Attorney-General

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday, 9 December 2011

### **COMMONWEALTH LEGAL SERVICES EXPENDITURE**

Attorney-General Robert McClelland today released the *Commonwealth Legal Services Expenditure Report 2010 - 2011*.

The report includes information on legal services expenditure across all applicable Commonwealth departments and agencies.

“This report further increases the transparency and accountability around legal services expenditure across the Commonwealth and is a result of reforms introduced by the Government, to ensure that all Commonwealth departments and agencies report against standardised criteria.

The 2010-2011 Report noted:

- a slight increase in legal services expenditure across the Commonwealth from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011, with an overall increase in total legal services expenditure of 5.6%
- that the percentage of direct briefs to Counsel continues to increase (45% from 2009-2010)
- that equal opportunity briefing practices have continued to ensure that 26.66% of all Commonwealth briefs went to female counsel, a greater proportion than women’s 19% representation at the Bar<sup>1</sup>.

The slight increase in expenditure across the Commonwealth is due in part to increases in expenditure in a number of traditionally high spending Commonwealth agencies.

“I recognise that the findings of the 2010-2011 Report indicate that there is more to be done to better manage the Commonwealth’s legal services.”

“The Government remains committed to pursuing further reforms to enhance the management and delivery of legal services across the Commonwealth.”

“I am pleased to announce that applications for the whole of government Legal Services Multi-Use List (LSMUL) opened this week.

“The list will help make positive changes to Commonwealth purchasing behaviours through sharing of performance and other information about service providers at a whole of government level. It will also reduce barriers to entry into the market for Commonwealth legal work and streamline processes for purchasing Commonwealth legal work,” Mr McClelland said.

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<sup>1</sup> As at 2008, and reported in the Law Council of Australia’s report **2009 Court Appearances Survey – Beyond the Statistical Gap**.



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Applications from interested legal service providers wishing to be appointed to the LSMUL are due by **5.00pm on Friday 24 February 2012.**

The *Commonwealth Legal Services Expenditure Report 2010 - 2011* report is publicly available on the Attorney-General's Department website, along with further information on the Commonwealth legal services reforms, including details of industry briefings on the establishment of the LSMUL.

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