National Indigenous Australians Agency Report on Legal Services Expenditure 2025-26

This is a statement of legal services expenditure by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) for the 2025-26 financial year, published in compliance with section 109(1)(d) of the *Legal Services Directions 2025*. All figures are GST exclusive.

Total external legal services expenditure	**$1,579,203**
Total internal legal services expenditure	**$4,674,611**
Total legal services expenditure	**$6,253,814**

Total external legal services expenditure comprised:

External expenditure on solicitors - professional fees and disbursements, excluding counsel	$1,523,280
External expenditure on counsel (through 8 briefs: 3 to male counsel and 5 to female counsel)	$55,923
Total external legal services expenditure	$1,579,203

Explanatory notes

This report has been prepared on the following basis.

- 'Legal services expenditure' has been defined as legal services accrued by the NIAA during the 2025-26 financial year.
- 'Internal legal services' have been identified in accordance with the definition used by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) in Audit Report No. 52 of 2004-05. Activities of the NIAA within the ANAO definition of 'internal legal services' may also involve the provision of policy advice, so internal legal services are not necessarily directly comparable with, or able to be substituted by, external legal services.
- In considering the NIAA's internal legal services expenditure, relevant managers estimated the percentage of time spent by legally qualified staff on legal work. Approximate totals were derived using base salaries and include an estimate of overheads.