

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 3 / 3.1

Topic: Professional Development Calendar

Senator: Stephens

Question reference number: F30

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

A few years ago I know that several Members and Senators organised for their staff to undertake mental health first aid certificates. It would be great if that could be put into the professional development calendar.

Answer:

The Professional Development Program (PDP) includes a number of courses that provide MOP(S) Act employees with training in dealing with people with mental health issues.

In response to feedback from MOP(S) Act employees, the PDP calendar for 2012 includes two courses, *Challenging Behaviours* and *After the Event*, which each focus on interactions with constituents, including people with mental health issues, and debriefing after critical incidents.

Courses on these topics have been available to MOP(S) Act employees through the PDP program each year since 2000. The amount of training relating to handling constituents with mental health issues has increased since this time, and continues to evolve in response to feedback from MOP(S) Act employees.

In addition to training provided under the PDP, the Employee Assistance Provider for MOP(S) Act employees is available to provide tailored training on dealing with specific mental health issues to any Senator's or Member's office.