

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Education expenses

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 71

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

Number of pages: 2

Question:

What is the department/agency's guidelines on study?

For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the department/agency.

Answer:

Under the Enterprise Agreement and SES employment arrangements, studies assistance is available to all employees undertaking tertiary, professional or technical study relevant to the work of the Department. Across all classification levels, employees who are approved to access studies assistance are entitled to a maximum of six hours of study leave per week. Indigenous employees are entitled to an additional six hours per week. On average, each participant takes between two to six hours per week study leave.

Studies assistance is beneficial to the Department as it encourages employees to continue their professional development and enhances their capability.

The department has spent a total of \$682,038.59 from 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 on centrally coordinated training through the Capability Development Fund (CDF). The courses included core, mandatory, professional (technical) and leadership components which were delivered both externally and in-house.

During the same period \$135,236 was reimbursed to employees under the studies assistance scheme.

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The Department does not record capability development data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to this remainder of this question. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.