

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
Outcome/Program: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
Topic: Education expenses

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 100

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. What are the department/agency's guidelines on study? Please provide details.
2. 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:

1. The Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman Enterprise Agreement 2011 – 2012 provides for Studies Assistance to be considered where the proposed course of study is of benefit to the Office, the broader APS, and/or the employee's career. It further provides up to 60 hours of study leave per semester plus travel time, and financial assistance of up to \$275 per unit to a maximum payment of \$1,100 per academic year for university students and up to \$275 per semester up to a maximum of \$550 per academic year for TAFE students.
2. Total training costs of \$106,844 have been incurred for the financial year to end April 2012. The provision of more specific detail would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.