

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013

PM&C Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Mental Health Commission
Outcome/Program: National Mental Health Commission
Topic: Education Expenses

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 98

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

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:

The National Mental Health Commission employment conditions for staff mirror those in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Enterprise Agreement, which sets out guidelines on study.

For this financial year to 28 May 2013, the National Mental Health Commission has spent \$4,080 (ex GST) on training courses for staff. This includes:

- \$2,080 'Dealing with difficult conversations': a three hour course provided to all non-SES staff members (9 participants).
- \$2,000 'Beyondblue, Manage awareness and well-being at work' provided to all non-SES staff members.

The employment classification of participants who attended both training sessions are two x EL2, two x EL1, APS6, three x APS5 and APS4.

The National Mental Health Commission is committed to providing a mentally healthy environment for its staff and to ensuring the mental health literacy of staff. This provides staff with the tools to assist the general public who might contact our agency seeking help.

Study leave was not applicable for these training courses.