

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-123

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Education Expenses

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator McKenzie

Question:

- a) What are the Department/Agency's guidelines on study? Please provide details.
- b) 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:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing recognises the value that tertiary study provides in enhancing the capability, knowledge and skills of staff.

Under the Department's Enterprise Agreement (2011 – 2014), the Studybank Scheme provides support to staff in the form of paid study leave to attend study activities during standard working hours, and potential reimbursement of a percentage of total study costs.

b) Department of Health and Ageing:

Type of Educational Institution	Participants:
Universities:	312
Institutes of Technology / TAFE:	11
Other Institution:	57
Australian New Zealand School of Government	2
Total Participants:	382

FYTD expenditure (1 July 2011 – 25 June 2012*) on Studybank **\$283,197.23**

FYTD expenditure (1 July 2011 – 25 June 2012*) on ANZSOG **\$ 63,043.00**

* figures provided as at 25 June 2012

Total expenditure excluding GST **\$ 346,240.23**

To provide the level of detail to the remaining parts of the question would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Benefits of a consistent approach to study for staff include improved departmental capability, a broadening of Australian Public Service skills and a retention strategy.