

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 1377-1378**

**Topic: Education Expenses**

**Written: 17 June 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

1377. What are the department/agency's guidelines on study?

1378. 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.

*\*Financial year to date – 31 May 2013*

**Answer:**

1377. There has not been any change to the Productivity Commission's guidelines on study since 2012-2013 Budget Estimates (see response to BET 1089).

1378. For this financial year to date, the Productivity Commission has ten staff approved for studies assistance.

Nine courses of study directly relate to the research work of the Commission (masters in economic related fields), and one corporate services executive level employee is undertaking an MBA.

All students are entitled to six hours of study leave per week.

For the financial year to date, the total education costs for the Productivity Commission approved under its Studies Assistance policy were \$37,065 (ex GST). A further break down of data is not readily available and compilation of the information would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.