

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 420-421**

**Topic: Education Expenses**

**Written: 17 June 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

420. What are the department/agency's guidelines on study?
421. 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:**

420. Treasury's Studies Assistance Guidelines have previously been provided in response to question AET 266, and have not been changed since.
421. Expenditure on education expenses in the financial year to 31 May was \$1,661,578.24. This includes expenditure of \$367,364.33 for studies assistance. The studies assistance figure consists of reimbursements of \$178,454.14 for staff who paid their fees directly to their educational institution and \$188,910.19 for staff who deferred their fees to the ATO via the HECS-HELP or FEE-HELP schemes.

Information on the type of course, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant has not been provided, as it would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources to collate this information.