

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Budget Estimates**

17 October – 18 October 2012

**Question: SBT 1374 - 1376**

**Topic: Education Expenses (PC)**

**Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

1374. Has there been a change to the department/agency's guidelines on study since 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)? If yes, please provide details.
1375. 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.
1376. For 2011-12, 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:**

1374. There has not been any change to the Productivity Commission's guidelines on study since 2012-13 Budget Estimates.
1375. For this financial year to date, the Productivity Commission has six staff approved for studies assistance. Five courses of study directly relate to the research work of the Commission (undertaking post-graduate level studies in economics), and one corporate services executive level employee is undertaking an MBA.
1376. For the financial year 2011-12, the total education costs for the Productivity Commission approved under its Studies Assistance policy were \$24,442 (ex GST) and there were six approved students.

The Productivity Commission is unable to break down the costs any further as the exercise would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.