

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 3

Program 1.1

Question No. 128

Senator McKenzie asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

At last Estimates, I asked a QON in relation to emergency management training:

- a) Given the natural disasters experienced by areas of regional Victoria in recent years, are there any plans to expand access to courses for regional Victorian local governments?

This question wasn't answered by the department. Can you please advise if there is any change planned in the number of and access to courses on offer through the Australian Emergency Management Institute?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Please refer to response 103 addressing Senator McKenzie question at the hearing on 14 February 2012.

In addition to this we can add the following:

The States and Territories have primary responsibility for emergency management arrangements, including education and training, within their respective Jurisdictions. The Commonwealth, through the provision of nationally consistent education builds interoperability and emergency management capability that complements Jurisdictional programs.

The Australian Emergency Management Institute's core education product is the Advanced Diploma in Emergency Management. Participants attend from across the nation and include all levels of government, the volunteer and private sectors. Selection processes for attendance are designed to ensure no one sector is over represented and this supports a multi-agency approach in disaster management. To obtain the qualification a participant must complete 11 units of study within a three year period and to facilitate this timeframe, a twelve month rolling schedule includes residential delivery of up to 32 units of study per annum.

If demand for any given unit of study is greater than what can be accommodated within the 12-month rolling schedule, the Institute will, within its capacity, program additional units. This was the case early this year with the scheduling of an extra unit of study in '*Design and manage activities which exercise elements of emergency management*' to accommodate demand.

Currently, the number of residential courses delivered meets demand and is within the Institute's resourcing capacity. As such participants, including Local Government, will continue to be accommodated within the current 12-month rolling schedule.