

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-086

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Education Expenses

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Smith

Question:

- a) What are the department/agency's guidelines on study?
- 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) Under the Department of Health and Ageing'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) See below table for education expenses for this financial year to date for the Health and Ageing Portfolio:

Department	Expenditure 1 July 2012 – 31 May 2013
Department of Health and Ageing including the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment; Office of the Gene Technology Regulator; Office of the Aged Care Commissioner and Therapeutic Goods Administration	\$237,341.47

To provide the level of detail to the remaining parts of the question would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources. The Department recognises the value that tertiary study provides in enhancing the capability, knowledge and skills of staff.