

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross

**Question No:** 373

**Topic:** Education expenses

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Smith** asked:

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:** In order to respond to the level of detail requested in the Question on Notice, the Department would be required to allocate extensive resources to gather this information. However, the Department has gathered centrally coordinated information relating to staff attendance for training provided and total costs incurred in the attachments.

For the financial year to date to 31 May 2013, the total cost for all education expenses for FaHCSIA, for which information has been reported, is \$4,321,143.98 (GST exclusive). Based on the information provided, the average cost of training courses was \$325.66 per participant. Training is available across all classifications within the Department.

Information on internal and external learning and development activities, such as attendance at the Department's internal training and development programs, external conferences and seminars is at **Attachment A**.

Information on FaHCSIA studies assistance is at **Attachment B**.

Training in the Department is provided to enable employees to develop the skills and knowledge they need to improve their work performance and career prospects, and to ensure employees have the capabilities to deliver on the business outcomes of the Department.

Information regarding portfolio bodies is at **Attachment C**.