

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 3/ 3.1

Topic: Staff Training Budgets

Senator: Stephens

Question reference number: F27

Type of question: Hansard F&PA Committee, pages 79-80, 14 February 2012

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

I want to go to the issue of staff training budgets. I know that we have an entitlement for three external training opportunities for our staff and, given that we now have four staff, I wondered whether any consideration had been given to an increase. Secondly, I am interested in how many members and senators take up that training opportunity.

Answer:

During the 2011 Professional Development Program (PDP) 12 courses were offered, which were attended by 312 *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* employees (MOP(S) Act employees).

MOP(S) Act employees also have access to other training and professional development activities that satisfy their individual development needs, in accordance with clause 65.6 of the *Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Enterprise Agreement 2010-2012* (Enterprise Agreement). The Department of Finance and Deregulation (the Department) approves applications to attend ad hoc training on a case by case basis, considering a variety of factors, including whether similar training is available through the PDP.

The Department is unable to provide the exact number of MOP(S) Act employees who accessed ad hoc training opportunities during 2011, as consolidated records are not maintained.