

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 27-28 May 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of National Assessments

Outcome/Program: 1

Topic: Education expenses

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 98

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- What is the department/agency's guidelines on study?
- 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.

ONA Response:

Studies assistance is available to all ongoing ONA staff, as well as non-ongoing staff employed for period exceeding 12 months, who are undertaking study through Australian universities, technical institutions and other appropriately registered learning institutions. Eligible candidates may receive 30 to 60 hours of study leave per semester and 50% to 100% reimbursement of course costs based on the relevance of the student's study to the work of ONA, the NIC and the broader APS.

- \$ 32,577 Conferences and seminars
- \$176,455 Training courses
- \$ 24,253 Studies assistance

ONA does not record educational expenses in a way that would readily allow more detailed answers to be provided to these questions. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.