

Department/Agency: Department of the Senate

Topic: Education expenses

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 54

Type of question: Written

Question

For 2011-12, 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

Employees of the department participate in a range of professional development activities including Corporate Induction Program sessions, parliamentary-specific training session, seminars and lectures and other activities focussed on developing skills relevant to their work (e.g. leadership, time management and IT skills etc). The majority of these sessions are delivered in house, by employees from the department at no cost to the department (other than time spent participating in the professional development activities).

During the 2011-12 financial year, the following training has been delivered by external training providers at a cost to the department:

Seminars and conferences on subject matter relevant to employees' duties including parliamentary-specific topics, employment law, administrative law, project management and IT.

33 employees participated (some employees participated in more than one seminar or conference)

Total cost = \$21,125.24

Cost per participant = \$640.16

No study leave was provided as seminars and conferences were generally participated in during work time.

Training courses provided either in house or externally, by external training providers on subject matter relevant to employees' duties including editing, writing and proof-reading, IT,

project management, emotional intelligence, health and safety representatives responsibilities and employee well-being.

246 employees participated (some employees participated in more than one training course)

Total cost = \$58823.82

Cost per participant = \$239.12

Training Course	Total Cost	Number of participants	Cost per participant	Reason for training
Australasian Study of Parliament Group	\$1018.18	4	\$254.55	Parliamentary specific training
Parliamentary Law, Practice and Procedure	\$2388.00	2	\$1194.00	Parliamentary specific training
Rushworth Consulting (Editing and Proofreading and Office Writing for the Public Sector)	\$7839.26	9	\$871.03	Skills for the workplace
Australia and New Zealand Association of Clerks at the Table	\$3010.00	7	\$430.00	Parliamentary specific training
Dealing with Difficult Calls	\$900.00	9	\$100.00	Skills for the workplace
Tanner James PRINCE 2 training	\$2460.00	1	\$2460.00	Skills for the workplace
Foundations of Emotional Intelligence	No cost	11	No cost	Skills for the workplace
Employee Assistance Provider Presentation – Stress and Stress Management	No cost	39	No cost	Skills for the workplace
Employee Assistance Provider Presentation – Work/Life Balance	\$495.00	32	\$15.50	Skills for the workplace
Employment Law Seminar	\$1018.00	2	\$509.00	Skills for the workplace
Australian Public Service Commission training	\$1781.81	4	\$445.45	Skills for the workplace
Alpha Computer IT training	\$6097.47	9	\$677.27	Skills for the workplace
Australian Institute of Management training	\$560.90	1	\$560.90	Skills for the workplace
Wizard Corporate IT training	\$5918.10	11	\$538.00	Skills for the workplace
Sitecore IT training	\$3500.00	2	\$1750.00	Skills for the workplace
Lynda.com Online training	\$1810.00	8	\$226.25	Skills for the workplace
Health and Safety Representative training	\$1450.00	2	\$725.00	Skills for the workplace
Legal training – Exercising Delegations and Authorisations	\$6359.00	40	\$159.00	Skills for the workplace
Chubb Fire Safety Training	\$461.60	20	\$23.08	Skills for the workplace
VoiceRecognition IT Training	\$477.27	2	\$238.64	Skills for the workplace
CEO Training Pty Ltd	\$3753.60	1	\$3753.60	Skills for the workplace
University of New South Wales	\$1612.73	2	\$806.37	Skills for the workplace
Kurracca Consultancy	\$1963.00	16	\$122.00	Skills for the workplace
Frontier Software	\$800.00	3	\$266.00	Skills for the workplace
Technology One	\$750.00	1	\$750.00	Skills for the workplace
Department of the House of Representatives	\$516.24	2	\$258.12	Skills for the workplace
Department of Parliamentary Services	\$1207.02	4	\$301.76	Skills for the workplace
Other conferences and training	\$613.64	2	\$306.82	Skills for the workplace

Study leave was not provided to employees to participate in these sessions as they were generally conducted during work time.

The department also supported eight employees through the department's Studybank scheme, providing both study leave and financial assistance. Employees supported through this scheme are studying a variety of subjects including IT, teaching, law, business administration and public policy. Six hundred and thirty-eight hours of study leave was granted between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012. This is an average of 80 hours per employee.

A total of \$7,177.52 was also provided in financial assistance for these studies.

In addition to the professional development activities detailed above, employees participate in activity such as professional reading, mentoring and on-the-job training, which have not been included in the costs detailed above.