

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000248

Senator Ludwig provided in writing

Question

ASEA - Boards

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. how often has each board met, break down by board name;
2. what travel expenses have been incurred;
3. what has been the average attendance at board meetings;
4. List each member's attendance at meetings;
5. how does the board deal with conflict of interest;
6. what conflicts of interest have been registered;
7. what remuneration has been provided to board members;
8. how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
9. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members?
10. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
11. what have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list.

Answer

1. Since 14 September, 2015 there have been two meetings of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council.
2. Travel expenses incurred include domestic flights, overnight accommodation, meals and taxi reimbursements for interstate Council members.
3. Average attendance at these two meetings was 60 per cent.
4. Meeting 14 (20 October, 2015) attendees: Geoff Fary, Ian Gardner, Lex McCulloch, Barry Robson, Tanya Segelov and Robert Walters.
Meeting 15 (24 November, 2015) attendees: Geoff Fary, Tracey Browne, Lex McCulloch, Barry Robson, Tanya Segelov and Robert Walters.
5. Council members have signed a conflict of interest declaration and there is a standing item on the agenda for additional conflicts of interest to be declared at each meeting.
6. Nil.
7. Eligible Council members are paid a sitting fee of \$615. Members who are employed by a state/territory government or the Commonwealth government are not entitled to be paid a sitting fee. The Chair is paid an annual fee of \$26,120.
8. Council members who are absent for, except on a leave of absence, from three consecutive meetings may be dismissed by the Minister under s40(d) *Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency Act 2013*.
9. No.
10. No Council members have attended less than 51 per cent of meetings.
11. Meeting 14 (20 October, 2015) \$299 (excl GST).
Meeting 15 (24 November, 2015) nil.