

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000299

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Comcare - 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. *How often has each board met, break down by board name*

- i) The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC) has met three times, on 24-25 September 2015, 13 November 2015 and 9 December 2015.
- ii) The Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority (Seacare Authority) has met three times, on 23 September 2015, 10 December 2015 and 29 January 2016.

2. *What travel expenses have been incurred*

Travel expenses are provided as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal – *Official Travel by Office Holders Determination 2015-11*.

- i) SRCC travel expenses incurred total \$16,718.
- ii) Seacare Authority travel expenses incurred total \$3,830.

3. *What has been the average attendance at board meetings*

- i) The average attendance at SRCC meetings is nine members.
- ii) The average attendance at Seacare Authority meetings is six members.

4. *List each member's attendance at meetings*

i) SRCC members that attended the meetings since 14 September 2015 were:

	24-25 September 2015	13 November 2015	9 December 2015
Commissioner			
Mr Barry Sherriff	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mr Dominic Andreatchio	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vice Admiral Ray Griggs	Yes (Day1)	Apology	Yes
Mr Michael Borowick	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ms Michelle Baxter	Apology	Yes	Yes
Ms Lisa Newman	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mr Stephen Somogyi	Yes	Apology	Yes
Mr Trevor Gauld	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ms Catherine Hudson	Yes (Day1)	Yes	Yes
Mr Steve Kibble	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deputies			
Ms Amanda Grey	Yes	n/a	n/a
Air Vice Marshal Tony Needham	Yes (Day2)	Yes	n/a

- ii) Seacare Authority members that attended the meetings since 14 September 2015 were:

	23 September 2015	10 December 2015	29 January 2016
Members			
Mr Barry Sherriff	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ms Jennifer Taylor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mr Dale Emmerton	Yes	Yes	Apology
Mr Mal Hearnden	Apology	Yes	Yes
Mr John Wydell	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mr Martin Byrne	Apology	Yes	Apology
Mr Mick Kinley	Yes	Apology	Yes
Deputy Members			
Mr Sarah Cerché	observer	observer	n/a
Mr Richard Berriman	Yes	n/a	n/a
Mr Allan Schwartz	n/a	Yes	observer
Mr Jamie Newlyn	Yes	observer	n/a
Mr Jarrod Moran	n/a	n/a	observer

5. *How does the board deal with conflict of interest*

- i) SRCC members complete a yearly declaration of interests form. In addition, conflicts of interest is a standing item on the agenda and members declare an interest if one arises.
- ii) Conflicts of interest is a standing item on the Seacare Authority meeting agenda and members declare an interest if one arises.

6. *What conflicts of interest have been registered*

- i) No conflicts of interest have been registered for the SRCC.
- ii) No conflicts of interest have been registered for the Seacare Authority.

7. *What remuneration has been provided to board members*

- i) Members are remunerated as per the Remuneration Tribunal – *Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Office* – Determination 2015-20.
- ii) Only the Chairperson of the Seacare Authority is remunerated as per the Remuneration Tribunal – *Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Office* – Determination 2015-20.

8. *How does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards*
- i) Section 89P of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* provides for the termination of appointments to the SRCC by the Governor-General.
 - ii) Subsection 118(2) of the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992* provides for the termination of appointments by the Minister.
9. *Have any requests been made to dismiss board members*
- i) SRCC – No.
 - ii) Seacare Authority – No.
10. *Please list board members who have attended less than 51 per cent of meetings*
- i) SRCC – None.
 - ii) Seacare Authority – None.
11. *What have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list*
- i) The cost of catering for SRCC meetings was: September - \$722; November - \$314; December - \$449.
 - ii) The cost of catering for Seacare Authority meetings was: September - \$316; December - \$132; January - \$0.