

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000624

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

#### Question

##### SWA - 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. From 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016, Safe Work Australia Members met twice – on 1 October 2015 and 3 December 2015.
2. Safe Work Australia Members meet their own travel costs.
3. All 15 members or their substitutes attended the two Safe Work Australia meetings, which is 100 per cent attendance.
4. Attendance at meetings is provided below:

| Member                   | 1 October 2015       | 3 December 2015      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Ann Sherry (Chair)       | Attended             | Attended             |
| Justine Ross (Cwlth)     | Attended             | Attended             |
| Vivek Bhatia (NSW)       | Apology (substitute) |                      |
| Anthony Lean (NSW)       |                      | Apology (substitute) |
| Clare Amies (Vic)        | Attended             | Attended             |
| Simon Blackwood (Qld)    | Attended             | Apology (substitute) |
| Lex McCulloch (WA)       | Apology (substitute) | Attended             |
| Marie Boland (SA)        | Apology (substitute) | Attended             |
| Michael Young (ACT)      | Attended             | Attended             |
| Martin Shirley (Tas)     | Attended             | Attended             |
| Stephen Gelding (NT)     | Attended             | Attended             |
| Andrew Dettmer (ACTU)    | Attended             | Attended             |
| Michael Borowick (ACTU)  | Attended             | Attended             |
| Carolyn Davis (ACCI)     | Attended             | Attended             |
| Mark Goodsell (Ai Group) | Attended             | Attended             |
| Michelle Baxter (SWA)    | Attended             | Attended             |

5. The disclosure of conflict of interests by Members of Safe Work Australia to the Minister are provided for in section 18 of the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008* (the Act) which states that a voting member must give written notice to the Minister of all interests that conflict or could conflict with the proper performance of the member's functions, and in section 40 of the Act which deals with disclosure of interests relevant to a matter being considered or about to be considered by Safe Work Australia.
6. No conflicts of interest have been registered since 14 September 2015.
7. The remuneration for the Chair of Safe Work Australia is set by determination in accordance with the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*. No other Members are remunerated.
8. Section 20 of the Act states that the Minister may terminate the appointment of a voting Member if the Member is absent from three consecutive meetings of Safe Work Australia.
9. The Minister has not been asked to dismiss any Member due to not meeting attendance standards since 14 September 2015.
10. No Safe Work Australia Members have attended less than 51 per cent of meetings.
11. The total cost of catering for the two meetings was \$1761.34 (GST exclusive).  
A breakdown of this cost is provided below (GST exclusive):

|                        | <b>Morning tea</b> | <b>Lunch</b> | <b>Afternoon tea</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| <b>1 October 2015</b>  | \$256.20           | \$707.70     | \$42.00              |
| <b>3 December 2015</b> | \$90.90            | \$664.54     | Not applicable       |
| <b>Total:</b>          | \$347.10           | \$1372.24    | \$42.00              |