

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

**Question No: 44**

**Program No. Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

Since September 7th 2013;

1. How often has each board met, break down by board name;
2. What travel expenses are provided;
3. What is the average attendance at board meetings;
4. How does the board deal with conflict of interest;
5. What conflicts of interest have been registered;
6. What remuneration is provided to board members;
7. How does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
8. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members since September 7, 2013?
9. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
10. What have catering costs been for the board meetings held this year; is alcohol served?

**Answer:**

1. The Authority has met 11 times since 7th September 2013
2. Travel expenses are paid to Full time Members and part-time Members in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16: Official Travel by Office Holders.
3. In the interval since 7 September 2013 the average attendance at each meeting is 92%.
4. The Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005 (the ACMA Act) imposes a standing requirement on members of the Authority to disclose interests to the Minister if those interests could conflict with the proper performance of the functions of their office. The ACMA Act also obliges members to make a disclosure to their fellow members where such an interest applies in a particular matter for decision. Members are also bound by the APS Code of Conduct as set out in Division 2.1 of the *Public Service Regulations 1999*;
5. Since 7 September 2013 one Authority Member excuses themselves from discussions involving the Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency (TUSMA) because they concurrently sits on the board of that other statutory authority.;
6. The Chairman, Deputy Chair and the Full-time Member are paid an annual salary in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/10. Part-time Members are paid a daily sitting fee in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/01.;
7. No such power is vested in the members of the Authority. A power of this type is vested in the Governor-General with respect to full-time and part-time members of the Authority: see s.34(5)(a) and s.34(6) of the ACMA Act.
8. No.
9. None.
10. \$5k, no alcohol is served.