

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 27 FEBRUARY 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Boards

Question reference number: HS 89

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 April 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Since September 7th 2013:

- a) How often has each board met, break down by board name?
- b) What travel expenses are provided?
- c) What is the average attendance at board meetings?
- d) How does the board deal with conflict of interest?
- e) What conflicts of interest have been registered?
- f) What remuneration is provided to board members?
- g) How does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
- h) Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members since September 7, 2013?
- i) Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings.
- j) What have catering costs been for the board meetings held this year; is alcohol served?

Answer:

The only board within the Human Services portfolio is the Australian Hearing Services Board (the Board).

- a) Between 7 September 2013 and 17 April 2014, the Board has met four times:
 - 25 October 2013;
 - 13 December 2013;
 - 28 February 2014; and
 - 9 April 2014.
- b) For Directors who travel on official business and are interstate, flights, meals, incidentals and accommodation are arranged as per the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16.
- c) There has been 100 per cent attendance at all Board meetings apart from 9 April 2014, when one Board member was unable to attend.

- d) Any potential conflict of interest is managed through a standing agenda item at each Board meeting, and noted in Board minutes.
- e) Since 7 September 2013, no conflicts of interest have been registered.
- f) Board members are remunerated as per the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/03.
- g) The Board does not have the authority to dismiss members.
- h) Since 7 September 2013, there have been no requests made to the Minister to dismiss any Board members.
- i) Since 7 September 2013, no Board members have attended less than 51 per cent of meetings.
- j) For the two Board meetings held so far in 2014, the total combined cost of catering was \$326. No alcohol is provided.