

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Board Appointments

Question reference number: HS 145

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 July 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Since Additional Estimates in February 2014:

- 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 Additional Estimates in February 2014;
- i) please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings; and
- j) what have catering costs been for the board meetings held this year, and is alcohol served?

Answer:

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

- a) Between 13 February 2014 and 5 June 2014, the Board met twice.
- 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, Ms Glenise Coulthard, 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 13 February 2014, 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 13 February 2014, there have been no requests made to the Minister to dismiss any Board members.
- i) Since 13 February 2014, one Board member, Ms Glenise Coulthard, has attended less than 51 per cent of meetings. However, Ms Coulthard has attended 75 per cent of Board meetings since her appointment on 30 August 2013.
- j) For the two Board meetings held so far in 2014, the total combined cost of catering was \$229.00. No alcohol is provided.