

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Boards

Question reference number: HS 99

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014 for each board in the portfolio or agencies:

- a) how often has each board met, break down by board name;
- b) what travel expenses have been incurred;
- c) what has been the average attendance at board meetings;
- d) list each member's attendance at meetings;
- e) how does the board deal with conflict of interest;
- f) what conflicts of interest have been registered;
- g) what remuneration has been provided to board members;
- h) how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
- i) have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members?
- j) please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings; and
- k) what have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list.

Answer:

The Department of Human Services has oversight of only one board, the Board of Australian Hearing Services (the Board).

- a) Between 5 June 2014 and 20 October 2014, the Board has met four times.
- 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 from 5 June 2014 to 20 October 2014.

d) d) Table of attendance at Board Meetings

Board Members		Board Meeting Date			
Name	Position	27 Jun	23 Jul	29 Aug	20 Oct
Associate Professor Rachel Cooper	Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Hon Michael Knight AO	Director	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mrs Swati Dave	Director	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mrs Glenise Coulthard	Director	✓by Phone	✓	✓	✓
Mrs Sam Andersen	Director	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr Bill Davidson	Managing Director	✓	✓	✓	✓

- e) Any potential conflict of interest is managed through a standing agenda item at each Board meeting and noted in the Board minutes.
- f) There have been no conflicts of interest noted between 5 June 2014 and 20 October 2014.
- g) Board members are remunerated as per the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/03 (5 June to 30 June 2014) and Determination 2014/08 effective on and from 1 July 2014.
- h) The Board does not have the authority to dismiss members. Board members are appointed and terminated by the Minister in accordance with the *Australian Hearing Services Act 1991*.
- i) There have been no requests by Australian Hearing to the Minister to dismiss Board members.
- j) All Board members have attended 100 per cent of Board meetings between the period of 5 June 2014 and 20 October 2014.
- k) Catering costs for Board meetings held between 5 June 2014 and 20 October 2014:

Board Catering Costs		
Meeting Date	Item	Cost
27 June 2014	Catered for Board and Australian Hearing Executives	\$128
23 July 2014	Full day catered for Board, Australian Hearing Executives and Senior Managers	\$1,027
29 August 2014	Catered for Board and Australian Hearing Executives	\$190
20 October 2014	Catered for Board and Australian Hearing Executives	\$144
TOTAL		\$1,489