

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014
Communications Portfolio
Australia Post

Question No: 184

Program No. Australia Post

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Boards for Departments or agencies with boards

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since 7 September 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 7 September 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. For the period 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2014, the Australia Post Board met on two occasions for Board and Board Committee meetings (October & December).
2. Travel expenses for directors are covered by Australia Post, consistent with the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal determinations.
3. The Board comprises of nine directors (including the Managing Director & CEO). At the October 2013 meeting, two of the directors were apologies for the meeting, whilst all directors were in attendance for the December meeting.
4. Conflicts of Interest are managed in accordance with s21 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (CAC) Act and s29 of the Public Governance, Performance & Accountability (PGPA) Act 2013.
5. For the period 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2014, one director declared a potential conflict of interest under s21 of the CAC Act and s29 of the PGPA Act 2013 in relation to a matter, and did not receive the relevant information and did not participate in discussions on that particular matter.
6. Remuneration for Australia Post's non-executive directors is determined by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal. From 1 July 2013 these rates were:

Chairman	\$178,940
Deputy chairman	\$99,860
Directors	\$89,500
Audit and Risk Committee chairman	\$20,700
Audit and Risk Committee member	\$10,360

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7. Termination of appointment of a director is made by the Governor-General in accordance with s79 of the Australian Postal Corporation Act 1989.
8. No requests been made to Shareholder Ministers to dismiss board members since 1 September 2013
9. No directors have attended less than 51% of Board and Board Committee meetings held during 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2013.
10. Australia Post provides refreshments and a light lunch to Directors during each Board Meeting. Alcohol is not served at Board Meetings. On average, the cost of catering expenses for each Board Meeting is approximately \$400.