

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 171(a)

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. how often has each board met, break down by board name;
2. what travel expenses have been incurred;
3. what has been the average attendance at board meetings;
4. List each member's attendance at meetings;
5. how does the board deal with conflict of interest;
6. what conflicts of interest have been registered;
7. what remuneration has been provided to board members;
8. how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
9. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members?
10. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
11. what have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list.

Answer:

The Department of Communications and the Arts has oversight of three boards (as prescribed in your written question of 19 February 2016:

- Copyright Tribunal of Australia
- Classification Board
- Classification Review Board

The table below reflects information as at 30 January 2016.

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Question	Copyright Tribunal of Australia	Classification Board	Classification Review Board
1	None	The Board meets weekly.	The Board has met once since 14 September 2015.
2	N/A	All Board members are located in Sydney and no travel expenses are incurred.	The travel expenses incurred for the one meeting held since 14 September 2015 are \$2,923.55 (GST excl.).
3	N/A	All substantive members not on leave and any temporary members appointed on the day of a Board meeting attend meetings.	Three of the members were required to convene for the meeting.
4	N/A	To attempt to provide further detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.	The acting Convenor, Ms Fiona Jolly, and two members, Mr Peter Attard and Mr Richard Williams attended.
5	N/A	The Act requires that a member who has a conflict of interest in relation to a matter being considered or about to be considered by the Board must disclose the matters giving rise to that conflict to the Board as soon as possible after becoming aware of the conflict. All members are made aware of this requirement on appointment and are asked to provide written acknowledgement of this as well as identifying any potential conflicts of interest they may have.	The Act requires that a member who has a conflict of interest in relation to a matter being considered or about to be considered by the Review Board must disclose the matters giving rise to that conflict to the Board as soon as possible after becoming aware of the conflict. All members are made aware of this requirement on appointment.
6	N/A	Potential conflicts of interest that have been registered include current or previous employment by or association with producers or distributors of film, games and publications that may be submitted for classification.	No conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest are registered.
7	\$ 5,724.21 (GST excl.)	Remuneration for Classification Board members is determined by the Remuneration Tribunal. Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2015/21 currently refers.	Remuneration for Classification Review Board members is determined by the Remuneration Tribunal. Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2015/20 currently refers.

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8	None have been dismissed	The Board has no power to dismiss Board members. Section 65 of the Act sets out the grounds on which the Governor-General may or must terminate the appointment of a member.	The Review Board has no power to dismiss Review Board members. Section 83 of the Act sets out the grounds on which the Governor-General may or must terminate the appointment of a Review Board member.
9	No	No.	No.
10	N/A	No substantive members have attended less than 51% of the weekly Classification Board meetings.	There has been one Review Board meeting since 14 September 2015. Only three of the five current members were required to convene on that occasion to consider the application for review
11	N/A	No catering costs are incurred for Classification Board meetings.	Catering costs incurred for the one Review Board meeting held since 14 September 2015 was \$32.73 (GST excl.) (mixed sandwiches, \$23.18; pastries, \$9.55).