

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 233

Program No: Australia Post

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Boards for Departments or Agencies with Boards

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since 25 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 25 February 2014?
- 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:

- a. For the period 1 February 2014 to 31 May 2014, the Australia Post Board met on three occasions for Board and Board Committee meetings (February, March & May).
- b. Travel expenses for directors are covered by Australia Post, consistent with the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal determinations.
- c. The Board comprises nine directors (including the Managing Director & CEO). As at 31 May 2014 there was one vacancy on the Board. At the May 2014 meeting, one director was not in attendance due to being granted a leave of absence. All Directors were present at the February & March Board meetings.
- d. 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.
- e. For the period 1 February 2014 to 31 May 2014, no conflicts of interest under s21 of the CAC Act and s29 of the PGPA Act 2013 were declared.

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- f. 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

- g. In accordance with s79 of the *Australian Postal Corporation Act 1989*, if a director is absent, without the Board's leave and without reasonable excuse, from three consecutive meetings of the Board, the Governor-General shall terminate the director's appointment.
- h. No requests have been made to Shareholder Ministers to dismiss board members since 1 February 2014.
- i. No directors have attended less than 51% of Board and Board Committee meetings held during 1 February 2014 to 31 May 2014.
- j. 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.