

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014
Communications Portfolio
Australia Post

Question No: 345

Program No: Australia Post

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Boards (for Departments or Agencies with boards)

Senator Ludwig asked:

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

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:

1. For the period 1 June 2014 to 31 October 2014, the Australia Post Board met on four occasions for Board and Board Committee meetings (June, July, August, October).
2. Travel expenses for directors are covered by Australia Post, consistent with the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal determinations.
3. The Board comprises nine directors (including the Managing Director & Group CEO). As at 31 October 2014 there were two vacancies on the Board. One Director was absent for the July Board meeting.

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4.

	(a)	(b)
John Stanhope	4	4
Ahmed Fahour	4	4
Brendan Fleiter	4	4
Susan Bitter	4	3
Peter Carne	4	4
Michael D'Ascenzo AO	4	4
The Hon. Trish White	2	2
Talal Yassine	2	2

(a) Number of meetings held while a director/committee member

(b) Number of meetings attended

5. Conflicts of interest are managed in accordance with s29 of the Public Governance, Performance & Accountability (PGPA) Act 2013.
6. For the period 1 June 2014 to 31 October 2014, no conflicts of interest under s29 of the PGPA Act 2013 were declared.
7. Remuneration for Australia Post's non-executive directors is determined by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal. From 1 July 2014 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

8. 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.
9. No requests have been made to Shareholder Ministers to dismiss board members since 1 June 2014.
10. No directors have attended less than 51% of Board and Board Committee meetings held during 1 June 2014 to 31 October 2014.
11. 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.