

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014
Communications Portfolio
Australian Communications and Media Authority

Question No: 421

Program No. ACMA

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. The Authority has met 7 times since Budget Estimates in June 2014.
2. Travel expenses are paid to Full time Members and part-time Members in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16: Official Travel by Office Holders.
3. In the period since Budget Estimates in June 2014 the average attendance at each meeting is 96%.
4. Chris Chapman – attended 7 out of 7 meetings.
Richard Bean – attended 7 out of 7 meetings.
Chris Cheah – attended 7 out of 7 meetings.
James Cameron – attended 7 out of 7 meetings.
Louise Benjamin – attended 7 out of 7 meetings.
Rosemary Sinclair – attended 6 out of 7 meetings.
Anita Jacoby – attended 6 out of 7 meetings.
5. The Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005 (the ACMA Act) imposes a standing requirement on members of the Authority to disclose interests to the Minister if those interests could conflict with the proper performance of the functions of their office. The ACMA Act also obliges members to make a disclosure to their fellow members where such an interest applies in a particular matter for decision. Members are also bound by the APS Code of Conduct as set out in Division 2.1 of the Public Service Regulations 1999.
6. None.
7. The Chairman, Deputy Chair and the Full-time Member are paid an annual salary in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/10. Part-time Members are paid a daily sitting fee in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/01.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014

Communications Portfolio

Australian Communications and Media Authority

8. No such power is vested in the members of the Authority. A power of this type is vested in the Governor-General with respect to full-time and part-time members of the Authority: see s.34 (5) (a) and s.34 (6) of the ACMA Act.
9. No.
10. None.
11. The total catering costs for board meetings during the period is \$2,100. No alcohol is served.