

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: AITSL

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000446

Senator Ludwig, Joe provided in writing.

AITSL: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)

Question

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 Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) has provided the following response for the period 14 September 2015 to 10 February 2016:

1. The AITSL Board has met 3 times
2. Travel expenses incurred within the specified period = \$21,629.85
3. The average attendance at Board meetings held within the specified period = 9/11 or 82 per cent
4. Board Director's attendance at meetings held within the specified period:

Member	In Attendance (Y/N)		
	30 October 2015	26 November 2015	4 February 2016
John Hattie (Chair)	Y	Y	Y
John Fleming (Deputy Chair)	Y	Y	N
Tania Aspland	Y	Y	Y
Michele Bruniges	Y	Y	N
Jennifer Buckingham	Y	Y	Y
Tony Cook	Y	Y	N
Stephen Elder	Y	Y	Y
Trevor Fletcher	Y	N	Y
Rob Nairn	Y	Y	Y
Geoff Newcombe	Y	Y	Y
Melanie Saba	Y	Y	Y

5. As required by its Constitution, AITSL has a Conflict of Interest Policy which is set out in its Board Charter.
6. One new conflict of interest has been registered since 14 September 2015. Dr Michele Bruniges advised AITSL of a potential conflict on 23 September 2015, following her appointment to the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER) Council as a member.
7. Remuneration provided to Board members within the specified period = \$73,999.80 (in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination for part time officers)
8. Board members who do not meet attendance standards may be dismissed as per the AITSL Constitution. For example, failure to attend board meetings for a continuous 3 month period without a leave of absence. The Commonwealth (represented by the Minister) may also remove a member as its sole discretion.
9. One request has been made within the specified period to the Minister to accept the resignation of a Board member – Mr John Fleming
10. No Board members have attended less than 51 per cent of meetings held within the specified period
11. Catering costs for the Board meetings held within the specified period = \$3,411.90.
Break down as follows:

Meeting	Catering costs (incl GST)		
	Board Dinner	Board Meeting	Total
30 October 2015	\$1,012.00	\$1,077.40	\$2,089.40
26 November 2015	Nil	Nil	\$0.00
4 February 2016	\$652.10	\$670.40	\$1,322.50
Total	\$1,664.10	\$1,747.80	\$3,411.90