

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

#### **Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy**

#### **Department of Employment Question No. EM1192\_15**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **Boards**

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**

There are seven boards in the Employment Portfolio. Responses for each board are below.

1. Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council – refer to EM1193\_15
2. Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation – see Attachment A
3. Fair Work Building Industry Advisory Board – see Attachment B
4. National Workplace Relations Consultative Council – see Attachment C
5. Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission – refer to EM1194\_15
6. Safe Work Australia – refer to EM1198\_15
7. Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority – refer to EM1194\_15.

# Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation

Question Number	Response*
1. How often has each board met, break down by board name?	The board of the Corporation has met three times - 12 June 2014 (in Sydney) 7 August 2014 (in Collie WA) 16 October 2014 (in Sydney)
2. What travel expenses have been incurred?	\$31,959
3. What has been the average attendance at board meetings?	94.4 per cent
4. List each member's attendance at meetings.	<p><u>12 June 2014</u> Mr Arthur Weston (Chair) Mr Andrew Vickers Mr Steve Reynolds Mr Kieren Turner Mr Grahame Kelly Mr Glenn Hall</p> <p><u>7 August 2014</u> Mr Arthur Weston (Chair) Mr Steve Reynolds Mr Kieren Turner Mr Grahame Kelly Mr Glenn Hall Apology – Mr Andrew Vickers</p> <p><u>16 October 2014</u> Mr Arthur Weston (Chair) Mr Andrew Vickers Mr Steve Reynolds Mr Kieren Turner Mr Grahame Kelly Mr Glenn Hall</p>
5. How does the board deal with conflict of interest?	<p>Declarations relating to potential conflicts of interest are disclosed prior to commencement of each Board Meeting.</p> <p>The Corporation's code of conduct requires Directors to provide conflicts of interest declarations when they are appointed, at Board and Committee meetings and then on an ongoing basis as conflicts arise. The Secretariat also maintains standing conflicts of interest declarations for each Director.</p> <p>Recent board minutes include the following declaration:</p> <p>a. All Directors confirmed that they have not participated in any activities that would render them disqualified and declared any interest they have in the business to be conducted during the meeting.</p>

Question Number	Response*
	<p>b. No Directors participating declared that any of them, or member of their immediate family, had a related party dealings or any conflicts of interest of a financial or non-financial nature (whether actual, potential or apparent) in relation to the Corporation.</p> <p>c. No Director participating declared that he had been in receipt of any gifts or hospitality since the previous meeting of the Board in breach of the Corporation's Code of Conduct or that could be seen to influence a decision during today' meeting.</p>
6. What conflicts of interest have been registered?	None
7. What remuneration has been provided to board members?	As determined by the Remuneration Tribunal
8. How does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?	Directors are appointed by the Minister for a term of up to four years. Directors can offer their resignation during their term. The <i>Public Governance Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> provides for replacement of appointments (see section 30 of the Act).
9. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members?	No
10. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings.	None
11. What have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list.	<p><u>12 June 2014</u> - \$96.00 Mixed sandwiches and wraps, assorted cakes and juices.</p> <p><u>7 August 2014</u> - Invoice not provided by time of reporting Mixed sandwiches and wraps, assorted cakes and juices.</p> <p><u>16 October 2014</u> - \$126.40 Mixed sandwiches and wraps, assorted cakes and juices.</p>

\*Responses relate to board meetings between 1 June and 31 October 2014.

## Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate Advisory Board

Question Number	Response**
1. How often has each board met, break down by board name?	The Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate Advisory Board has not met since Budget Estimates on 2 June 2014.
2. What travel expenses have been incurred?	N/A
3. What has been the average attendance at board meetings?	N/A
4. List each member's attendance at meetings.	N/A
5. How does the board deal with conflict of interest?	Members are asked to declare any conflicts of interest at the beginning of each meeting. If a conflict was raised, that member would be asked to leave the room for the discussion.
6. What conflicts of interest have been registered?	None
7. What remuneration has been provided to board members?	Section 26B of the <i>Fair Work (Building Industry) Act 2009</i> provides that remuneration of members is determined by the Remuneration Tribunal. No meetings took place between 2 June and 23 October 2014.
8. How does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?	Section 26E of the <i>Fair Work (Building Industry) Act 2009</i> provides for termination of appointment and includes circumstances such as misbehaviour or physical or mental incapacity, bankruptcy and absence of a member for more than three consecutive meetings.
9. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members?	No
10. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings.	N/A
11. What have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list.	N/A

\*\* Responses relate to board meetings between 2 June and 23 October 2014.

## National Workplace Relations Consultative Council

Question Number	Response***
1. How often has each board met, break down by board name?	The National Workplace Relations Consultative Council has met twice - 11 July 2014 31 October 2014.
2. What travel expenses have been incurred?	The below secretariat travel expenses includes flights, accommodation, ground transportation and other ancillary expenses. <u>Friday 11 July 2014</u> \$1429.33  <u>Friday 31 October 2014</u> \$1401.94
3. What has been the average attendance at board meetings?	The majority of members attend Council meetings. Where members are unable to attend, they may participate via teleconference or nominate a representative to attend on their behalf.
4. List each member's attendance at meetings.	<u>Friday 11 July 2014</u> Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz (Chair) Mr Michael Borowick Mr Joe de Bruyn Mr Richard Calver Mr Richard Clancy Mr Dick Grozier Ms Susan Hopgood Ms Ged Kearney Mr Steve Knott Mr Mark Lennon Mr Tim Lyons Ms Sarah McKinnon Mr Dave Oliver Mr Innes Willox Mr Stephen Smith (observer)  <u>Friday 31 October 2014</u> Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz (Chair) Mr Michael Borowick Mr Joe de Bruyn Mr Richard Calver Mr Richard Clancy Mr Dick Grozier Ms Susan Hopgood Ms Sarah McKinnon Mr Dave Oliver Mr Innes Willox Ms Megan Kirchner (observer) Mr Stephen Smith (observer)
5. How does the board deal with conflict of interest?	The Council is a consultative forum – it is not a decision making body. Members are appointed to represent their constituent interests. Under the <i>National Workplace</i>

Question Number	Response***
	<p><i>Relations Consultative Council Act 2002</i>, the Council comprises 15 members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Minister as chairperson</li> <li>• seven members nominated by the Australian Council of Trade Unions</li> <li>• three members nominated by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry</li> <li>• one member nominated by the Business Council of Australia</li> <li>• one member nominated by the Australian Industry Group</li> <li>• one member nominated by the National Farmers' Federation</li> <li>• one member nominated by Master Builders Australia.</li> </ul>
6. What conflicts of interest have been registered?	N/A
7. What remuneration has been provided to board members?	No remuneration has been provided to members.
8. How does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?	<p>The <i>National Workplace Relations Consultative Council Act 2002</i> does not contain provisions on attendance standards. The Act allows a member's organisation to nominate another person to attend a meeting, if a member is unable to do so.</p> <p>Members may also participate via teleconference.</p>
9. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members?	No
10. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings.	Since Senate Estimates held on 2 June 2014, no members have attended less than 51 per cent of meetings.
11. What have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list.	<p><u>Friday 11 July 2014</u> - \$326.80 Mixed Sandwiches and wraps, orange juice, water, crockery cutlery and glass hire.</p> <p><u>Friday 31 October 2014</u> - \$217.00 Mixed Sandwiches and wraps, orange juice, water, crockery cutlery and glass hire.</p>

\*\*\* Responses relate to board meetings between 2 June and 23 October 2014.