

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency

Department of Employment Question No. EM1193_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

ASEA - 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

1. The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council has met three times since the Budget Estimates in June 2014.
2. The total cost of travel expenses since Budgets Estimates in June 2014 for the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council is \$20,308.02.
3. The average attendance is 100 per cent.
4. Council Member's attendance at the three meetings since Budget Estimates in June, 2014 is listed in the table below.

Council Member	Meeting 7 – 13 June 2014	Meeting 8 – 19 August 2014	Meeting 9 – 21 October 2014
Mr Geoff Fary (Chair)	✓	✓	✓
Dr Ian Gardner	✓	✗	✓
Mr Mark McCabe	✓	✓	✓
Dr Robert Walters	✓	✓	✓
Ms Tanya Segelov	✓	✓	✓
Mr Peter Dunphy PSM	✓	✓	✓
Mr Lex McCulloch	✓	✓	✓

Mr Barry Robson	✓	✓	✓
Mr Michael Borowick	✓	✓	✓
Ms Tracey Browne	✓	✓	✓

5. Council Members complete a *Declaration of Interests* form to declare any private interests or relationships which could or could be seen to influence the decisions they are taking or the advice they have given. At the start of each council meeting the Chairman asks members to declare any conflict of interests that are relevant to the agenda of the meeting.
6. As at 23 October, 2014, no conflicts of interest have been raised in relation to any decisions made by the council.
7. Members are remunerated in line with Federal Government policy and as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal. Where Council members are eligible to receive sitting fees, the rates specified in *Determination 2013/15: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Public Office including Judicial and Related Offices* will apply.
8. A Council Member's appointment may be terminated by the Minister under Section 40 of the *Asbestos Safety and Eradication Act, 2013* for any of the following reasons:
 - (a) for misbehaviour; or
 - (b) if the member is incapable of performing the duties of his or her office; or
 - (c) if the member:
 - i. becomes bankrupt; or
 - ii. applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors; or
 - iii. compounds with his or her creditors; or
 - iv. makes an assignment of his or her remuneration for the benefit of his or her creditors; or
 - (d) if the member is absent, except on leave of absence, from 3 consecutive meetings of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council; or
 - (e) if the member fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with section 37 (which deals with the disclosure of interests).
9. The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency has not made any requests to the Minister to dismiss a board member.
10. Nil.
11. The total catering cost for the three meetings is \$1346.40. Please refer to EM1425_15 for a costs break down.