

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Boards

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 341

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 7

Question:

Since September Additional Estimates in February, 2014;

- a. how often has each board met, break down by board name;
- b. what travel expenses are provided;
- c. what is the average attendance at board meetings;
- d. how does the board deal with conflict of interest;
- e. what conflicts of interest have been registered;
- f. what remuneration is provided to board members;
- g. how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
- h. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
- i. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
- j. what have catering costs been for the board meetings held this year; is alcohol served;

Answer:

The attached table sets out the information from board meetings for the period 24 February 2014 to 26 May 2014.

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Board	No. of meeting/s	Travel expenses provided	Average attendance	Conflict of interest	Conflicts of interest registered	Remuneration	Dismissal of members not meeting standards	Requests to dismiss members	Attendance less than 51%	Catering costs	Alcohol served
Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee (ABAAC)	2	Accommodation; transport (airfare, bus); meal allowance and motor vehicle allowance, where applicable.	90%	Disclosure of pecuniary/non-pecuniary interest is made prior to a matter being considered by the ABAAC. The ABAAC Member must not be present during any deliberation by the ABAAC; and must not vote or take part in any decision of the ABAAC.	Pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests	\$615 per day – Chair; \$462 per day – Member	N/A	No	None	\$1522.50	No
Land Account Consultative Forum	2	No	90%	Conflict of interest are requested and declared when applicable	Yes	No	N/A	No	None	Approx. \$10 per meeting	No
National Australia Day Council (NADC)	1	Taxi; flights; accommodation.	60%	Board members declare any conflict of interest at the beginning of the meeting.	Nil	Board members are given the opportunity to receive a sitting fee in line with the Remuneration Tribunal's Determination 2014/03.	The NADC Constitution does not provide the Board with the power to dismiss Board members.	No	Mr Adam Gilchrist AM Ms Carol Schwartz AM Ms Elizabeth Kelly Mr Jason Glanville	\$219.00	No

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Northern Australia Advisory Group	1	Members are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses including flights, vehicle travel, accommodation, meals and incidentals, consistent with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 for official travel by part-time office holders.	N/A	Members have been asked to provide a signed 'Disclosure of Conflict of Interests', 'Private Interests Declaration' and 'code of conduct' documentation.	Members have identified actual or potential conflicts of interest relating to their personal or professional interests in companies, not-for-profit organisations, private holdings and public institutions.	Nil	Membership arrangements are at the discretion of the Prime Minister.	No	N/A	\$568.50	No
Official Establishments Trust	1	Yes – flights and taxi fares as specified by the Remuneration Tribunal	80%	Members sign a declaration about conflicts of interest prior to appointment	N/A	Sittings fees determined by the Remuneration Tribunal Chair: \$1,076 Members: \$807	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$176	No

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Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council	2	Members are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses including flights, vehicle travel, accommodation, meals and incidentals, consistent with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 for official travel by the part-time office holders.	12 out of 14 attended the February meeting. 10 out of 14 attended the March meeting.	A condition of membership is the provision of signed 'Disclosure of Conflict of Interests', 'Private Interests Declaration' and 'code of conduct' documents.	Members have identified actual or potential conflicts of interest relating to their personal or professional interests in companies, not-for-profit organisation, private holdings and public institutions.	Nil	Membership arrangements are at the discretion of the Prime Minister.	Nil	Nil	\$ 905.45 for both meetings.	No
Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council	4	For the meetings held to date, the travel expenses available for Council members to attend Council meetings have	92%	Members should avoid any situation in which the private interests of themselves or of their immediate family, whether pecuniary or otherwise, conflict or might reasonably	5 December 2013 – nil recorded in Minutes. 13 February 2014 i. Members with programmes being funded currently and	For meetings to date, the remuneration has been as per the Remuneration Tribunal	Membership arrangements are at the discretion of the Prime Minister	Nil	Mrs Gail Kelly	\$2036.84 for all meetings to date is	No

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		been in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2004/03 and the current Determination 2014/08		be thought to conflict with their public duty.	<p>considered through the Review of Indigenous Programmes declared their interests.</p> <p>ii. PM&C confirmed that, while the discussion remains at a general level, members do not need to excuse themselves from this session.</p> <p>2 April 2014 - nil recorded in Minutes.</p> <p>29 May 2014</p> <p>i A member declared their interest in Constitution Recognition.</p> <p>ii. A member declared their interest in Empowered Communities.</p>	Determination 2013/11 and the current Determination 2013/16.					

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Renewable Energy Target (RET) Review Expert Panel	3	Panel members have travel entitlements consistent with SES officers at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. This comprises: Domestic class travel between Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne; Business class on other domestic flights; and, Panel members are entitled to accommodation and meals consistent with the Remuneration Determination 2013:16 Official Travel by Office Holders.	100%	The Panel members signed a personal interests declaration prior to their appointment. Members are asked if there are any conflicts at the commencement of every Panel meeting.	One member declared their conflict of interest at the time of appointment.	\$1500 per diem to the Chair of the Panel; \$1400 per diem to the Panel Members.	No	Nil	N/A	The first meeting was charged as a package, including room hire and catering, totalling \$805. Catering costs for remaining meetings totalled \$798.	No

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Note: The Australian Business 20 Leadership Group, the Civil Society 20 Steering Committee, the Labour 20 Steering Group and the Youth 20 Planning Group are no longer included as they are advisory bodies to the G20 and are run independently of the Government. The administrative, governance and funding arrangements for the groups and their meetings are determined by the groups themselves, with the exception of the Youth 20 Planning Group, which receives secretariat support from the Department of Education.