

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 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: 199

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 6

Question:

Since September 7th 2013;

1. how often has each board met, break down by board name;
2. what travel expenses are provided;
3. what is the average attendance at board meetings;
4. how does the board deal with conflict of interest;
5. what conflicts of interest have been registered;
6. what remuneration is provided to board members;
7. how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
8. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members since September 7, 2013?
9. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
10. 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 18 September 2013 to 24 February 2014.

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Board	1. No. of meeting/s	2. Travel expenses provided	3. Average attendance	4. Conflict of interest	5. Conflicts of interest registered	6. Remuneration	7. Dismissal of members not meeting standards	8. Requests to dismiss members	9. Attendance less than 51%	10.(a) Catering costs	10.(b) Alcohol served
Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee (ABAAC)	2	Accommodation; transport (airfare,bus); meal allowance and motor vehicle allowance, where applicable.	87%	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.	\$578 per day, Chair; \$429 per day, Member	N/A	No	Mr Tony Wurramarrba	\$1811.64	No
Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal	6	Travel allowance if overnight as per Remuneration Tribunal Determination; 2013/16; air fares; ComCar.	100%	Members are expected to declare any conflict of interest and not participate in decision making when a conflict may exist.	Nil	President, part- time, nil as per <i>Defence Act 1903</i> Section 58F to 58Y. The person appointed as President shall be a Deputy President of FWA; \$871.00 per day, Member.	N/A	No	N/A	Nil	No

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National Australia Day Council (NADC)	2	Taxi; flights; accommodation.	90%	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	\$252.00	No
Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council	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.	86%	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 organisations, private holdings and public institutions.	Nil	Membership arrangements are at the discretion of the Prime Minister.	Nil	Nil	\$409.00	No

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Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council	2	For the meetings held to date, the travel expenses available for Council members to attend Council meetings have been in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2004/03.	92%	All members completed a Personal Interests Declaration and a Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest prior to their appointment being formalised. Members' Code of Conduct includes -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 be thought to conflict with their public duty. At the commencement of each meeting, after viewing the meeting agenda, members are asked if there are any potential conflicts of interest.	On appointment to the Council the declarations made by some members included: details of Boards/Committees that members are on; details of organisations that members are Ambassadors for; funding received from government for organisation that member is CEO for.	For meetings to date, the remuneration has been as per the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/11.	No	Nil	Nil	\$358.02	No

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Remuneration Tribunal	4	Travel Allowance if overnight as per Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16; Air Fares Taxi costs.	100%	On the 9 th December 2013 the Tribunal agreed to incorporate a new standing agenda item on disclosure of members' interests.	President declared a potential conflict of interest for an agenda item in 30.10.2013.	President, Part-time \$87,343 per year Members, Part-time \$42,250 per year	Nil	Nil	Nil	\$123.00	No
Renewable Energy Target (RET) Review Expert Panel	No meetings prior to 24 Feb 2014.	N/A	N/A	The Panel members signed a personal interests declaration prior to their appointment. Members are asked if there are any conflicts at the commencement of Panel meetings.	The Department was satisfied that the proposed handling strategies for identified conflicts of interest were appropriate.	\$1500 per diem to the Chair of the panel; \$1400 per diem to panel members.	No	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Australian Business 20 Leadership Group *	5	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Civil Society 20 Steering Committee *	6	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Labour 20 Steering Group *	1	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Youth 20 Planning Group *	3	Flights, accommodation, meals as per the Department of Education Non-SES Travel Rates.	6 members	Members assessed by Parliamentary Secretary for Youth before appointment.	Nil	Nil	Members are appointed and may be dismissed by the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth in consultation with the Prime Minister.	Nil	Nil	\$2701.00	No

* These groups 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.