

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 11 FEBRUARY 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Boards

Question reference number: HS 58

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 April 2016

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September 2015:

- a) how often has each board met, break down by board name;
- b) what travel expenses have been incurred;
- c) what has been the average attendance at board meetings;
- d) list each member's attendance at meetings;
- e) how does the board deal with conflict of interest;
- f) what conflicts of interest have been registered;
- g) what remuneration has been provided to board members;
- h) how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards;
- i) have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members;
- j) please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings; and
- k) what have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list.

Answer:

In relation to the Welfare Payment Infrastructure Transformation Programme Expert Advisory Group (the Advisory Group):

- a) Since 14 September 2015, the Advisory Group has met two times.
- b) In the period 14 September 2015 to 29 February 2016, the total travel expenses incurred by the Advisory Group has been \$158.99 (includes GST).
- c) There has been 100 per cent attendance by all members at the two Advisory Group meetings.
- d) All members attended the two Advisory Group meetings.

- e) At engagement, members were asked to provide information regarding any potential conflicts of interest and the ongoing identification of conflicts of interest is managed at the Advisory Group meetings.
- f) Since 14 September 2015, no conflicts of interest have been registered.
- g) In the period 14 September 2015 to 29 February 2016, the remuneration provided to members has been:

Members	\$
Mr Martin Stewart-Weeks	\$8,715.71
Mr David Pitchford	0
Mr David Curran	0
Ms Akiko Jackson	\$4,500.00

- h) The Advisory Group does not have the authority to dismiss members.
- i) Since 14 September 2015, there have been no requests made to the Minister to dismiss any Advisory Group members.
- j) Since 14 September 2015, there has been no member with an attendance record of less than 51 per cent.
- k) In the period 14 September 2015 to 29 February 2016, the total invoiced cost for catering is \$265.65 (includes GST). No alcohol has been provided.

In relation to the Australian Hearing Services Board (the Board):

- a) Since 14 September 2015, the Board has met three times.
- b) In the period 14 September 2015 to 26 February 2016, the total travel expenses incurred by the Board has been \$26,343.43 (includes GST).
- c) Since 14 September 2015, there has been 100 per cent attendance by all Directors at two of the Board meetings and the absence of one Director from one Board meeting.
- d) Since 14 September 2015, there has been 100 per cent attendance by all Directors at two of the Board meetings and the absence of one Director, Ms Glenise Coulthard, from one Board meeting.
- e) Any potential conflict of interest is managed through a standing agenda item at each Board meeting and noted in the Board minutes.
- f) Since 14 September 2015, no conflicts of interest have been registered.
- g) Board members are remunerated as per the Remuneration Tribunal Determinations. In the period 14 September 2015 to 26 February 2016, the remuneration provided to Directors has been:

Members	\$
Dr Peta Seaton (Chair)	\$23,156.30
The Hon Michael Knight AO	\$16,891.00
Ms Sam Andersen	\$18,121.04
Ms Swati Dave	\$21,550.96
Mrs Glenise Coulthard	\$14,691.52

- h) The Board does not have the authority to dismiss members.
- i) Since 14 September 2015, there have been no requests made to the Minister to dismiss any Board members.

- j) Since 14 September 2015, there has been no Director with an attendance record of less than 51 per cent.
- k) In the period 14 September 2015 to 26 February 2016, the total invoiced cost for catering is \$1,063.66 (includes GST). No alcohol has been provided.