

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 894

Topic: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

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:

Responses for boards in the Social Services portfolio for which the Commonwealth appoints all or the majority of members are as follows:

National Disability Insurance Agency Board

- a. The Board has met six times since 27 February 2014.
- b. Travel expenses are provided to Board members in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16.
- c. Since 27 February 2014, the average attendance at Board meetings has been 94 per cent.
- d. The Board handles conflicts of interest in accordance with the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act) and the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (NDIS Act).
- e. In accordance with the CAC Act, Board members have provided standing notice of all interests, including those which are not a material personal interest. Current registered interests include other directorships, employment and potential participant status.
- f. Board members are paid in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/03 (Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/08 from 1 July 2014).
- g. Section 134(2) of the NDIS Act provides that a Board member can be terminated if they are absent for three consecutive meetings, without an approved leave of absence.
- h. No.
- i. Nil.
- j. Catering costs from 27 February 2014 are \$4,397.70 (GST exclusive). Alcohol is not served at Board meetings.