

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 171(c)

Special Broadcasting Service

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Boards

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

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 SBS board has met 3 times, 28 October 2015, 9 December 2015 and 24 February 2016.
2. The travel expenses are \$28,156.60.
3. 92%
4. The list of Board attendance:

28 October 2015

- Nihal Gupta
- Peeyush Gupta
- Dot West
- Bill Lenehan
- Daryl Karp
- Patricia Azarias
- Jacquie Hey
- Bulent Hass Dellal (attended by telephone)
- Michael Ebeid (attended by telephone)

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9 December 2015

- Nihal Gupta
- Peeyush Gupta
- Dot West
- Bill Lenehan
- Daryl Karp
- Jacquie Hey
- Bulent Hass Dellal
- Michael Ebeid

24 February 2016

- Peeyush Gupta
- Dot West
- Daryl Karp
- Patricia Azarias
- Jacquie Hey
- Bulent Hass Dellal
- Michael Ebeid

5. A register is kept on file and the Board member will leave the meeting should any matters arise regarding the potential conflict of interest.

6. D West, H Dellal, J Hey, M Ebeid, P Gupta, P Azarias, W Lenehan. Refer to page 114 of the *2015 SBS Annual Report*.

7. Remuneration is provided as per the *Remuneration Tribunal Determination* – Chair \$104,450 Deputy \$78,340 and Board member \$41,780.

8. The *Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991* (s.27) sets out the terms for removal of Board members:

S.27 Removal of non-executive Directors from office

- (1) The Governor-General may remove a non-executive Director from office for misbehaviour or physical or mental incapacity.
- (2) If:
 - (a) the Chairperson, or a non-executive Director acting as Chairperson, is absent, except with the leave of the Minister or the Board, from 3 consecutive meetings of the Board; or
 - (b) a non-executive Director (other than the Chairperson or a Director acting as Chairperson) is absent, except with the leave of the Chairperson, from 3 consecutive meetings of the Board; or
 - (c) a non-executive Director:

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(i) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes an assignment of his or her remuneration for their benefit; or

(ii) fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with section 27F or 27J of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997;

the Governor-General may remove the non-executive Director concerned from office.

(3) If:

(a) the Minister is of the opinion that the performance of the Board or the SBS has been unsatisfactory for a significant period of time; and

(b) the Minister proposes that the appointment of all non-executive Directors, or specified non-executive Directors, be terminated; the Governor-General must terminate the appointment of all non-executive Directors or the specified non-executive Directors, as the case may be.

(4) If:

(a) the Minister is of the opinion that the performance of a particular non-executive Director has been unsatisfactory for a significant period of time; and

(b) the Minister proposes that the appointment of the non-executive Director be terminated; the Governor-General must terminate the appointment of the non-executive Director

9. Nil.

10. Not applicable.

11. Catering Cost October Board \$622.11, December Catering Costs \$563 and February Board Catering \$900.