

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 171(d)

Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Boards (for Department or agencies with 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 meeting?
11. what have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list.

Answer:

1. For the period 14 September 2015 to 29 January 2016, the Australia Post Board met on two occasions for Board and Board Committee meetings (October, December).
2. Travel expenses for directors are covered by Australia Post, consistent with the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal determinations. Travel expenses paid during the period 14 September to 29 January were approximately \$31,600.00 and related to directors attendance at board meetings (incorporating carry over costs from the August 2015 board meeting and prepaid expenses for board meetings occurring after 29 January 2016) and new directors induction programs.
3. The Board comprises nine directors (including the Managing Director & Group CEO). As at 29 January 2016 there was one vacancy on the Board. All directors were present for these meetings.

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4.

	(a)	(b)
John Stanhope	2	2
Ahmed Fahour	2	2
Brendan Fleiter	2	2
Michael Byrne	1	1
Peter Carne	2	2
Michael D'Ascenzo AO	2	2
Dominique Fisher	2	2
Holly Kramer	1	1
Bruce McIver	-	-

(a) Number of meetings held while a director/committee member

(b) Number of meetings attended

5. Conflicts of interest are managed in accordance with s29 of the Public Governance, Performance & Accountability (PGPA) Act 2013.
6. For the period 14 September 2015 to 29 January 2016, one conflict of interest under s29 of the PGPA Act 2013 was declared by Mr Stanhope.
7. Remuneration for Australia Post's non-executive directors is determined by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal. From 1 January 2016 these rates were:

Chairman	\$182,520
Deputy chairman	\$101,860
Directors	\$91,290
Audit and Risk Committee chairman	\$21,120
Audit and Risk Committee member	\$10,560

8. In accordance with s79 of the Australian Postal Corporation Act 1989, if a director is absent, without the Board's leave and without reasonable excuse, from three consecutive meetings of the Board, the Governor-General shall terminate the director's appointment.
9. No requests have been made to Shareholder Ministers to dismiss board members since 14 September 2015.
10. No directors have attended less than 51 per cent of Board and Board Committee meetings held during 14 September 2015 to 29 January 2016.
11. Australia Post provides refreshments and a light lunch to Directors during each Board Meeting. Alcohol is not served at Board Meetings. On average, the cost of catering expenses for each Board Meeting is approximately \$600.