

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016
Communications Portfolio
Australian Communications and Media Authority

Question No: 171(e)

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/2/2016

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 Authority has met 10 times since 14 September 2015.
2. Travel expenses are paid to Full-time Members and part-time Members in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2015/11: Official Travel by Office Holders.
3. In the period since 14 September 2015 the average attendance at each meeting is 96%.
4. In the period since 14 September 2015:
 - o Chris Chapman – attended 9 out of 10 meetings
 - o Richard Bean – attended 10 out of 10 meetings
 - o James Cameron – attended 10 out of 10 meetings
 - o Anita Jacoby – attended 7 out of 10 meetings
 - o Rosemary Sinclair – attended 6 out of 10 meetings
 - o Louise Benjamin – attended 2 out of 10 meetings. *Note: Ms Benjamin's appointment to the Authority expired in October.

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5. The Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005 (the ACMA Act) imposes a standing requirement on members of the Authority to disclose interests to the Minister if those interests could conflict with the proper performance of the functions of their office. The ACMA Act also obliges members to make a disclosure to their fellow members where such an interest applies in a particular matter for decision. Members are also bound by the APS Code of Conduct as set out in Division 2.1 of the Public Service Regulations 1999.
6. None
7. The Chairman, Deputy Chair and the Full-time Member are paid an annual salary in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2015/21: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Full-time Public Office. Part-time Members are paid a daily sitting fee in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2015/21: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-time Public Office.
8. No such power is vested in the members of the Authority. A power of this type is vested in the Governor-General with respect to full-time and part-time members of the Authority: see s.34 (5) (a) and s.34 (6) of the ACMA Act.
9. No.
10. None.
11. The total catering costs for board meetings during the period is \$3,769. See breakdown of costs listed below:

| | | |
|------------|-----------|-------|
| 18/09/2015 | Canberra | \$448 |
| 01/10/2015 | Melbourne | \$855 |
| 07/10/2015 | Sydney | \$615 |
| 15/10.2015 | Sydney | \$249 |
| 28/10/2015 | Sydney | \$375 |
| 17/12/2015 | Sydney | \$904 |
| 8/2/2016 | Canberra | \$323 |