

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016
Communications Portfolio
Screen Australia

Question No: 171(l)

Screen Australia

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

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

Answer:

1. Between the dates of 14 September 2015 and 9 February 2016, Screen Australia Board has met once, on 27 November 2015.
2. The total for travel expenses incurred for the November Board meeting is \$1,330.50.
3. Five out of six Board members attended the meeting in November.
4. Board members present at the November 2015 meeting were as follows: Nicholas Moore (Chair), Deanne Weir (Deputy Chair), Al Clark, Rosemary Blight and Joan Peters. Matthew Liebmann was an apology.
5. Screen Australia Board's Conflict of Interest Policy states:

Screen Australia's system for avoiding Board member conflicts of interest operates at two levels.

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At management level, a register of standing interests is maintained and, where management considers that a conflict of interest exists, board papers relating to that matter are withheld from the affected member.

At board level, where any member has a material personal interest in a transaction to be considered at a board meeting, that member will not be present while the transaction is being considered, and will not vote upon the transaction. The board considers that a member has a material personal interest in the following circumstances:

- i. where the member, or the partner or child of the member, has a production role in the film.
- ii. where the member is an officer (a director, secretary, executive officer or employee) of:
 - a. the production company, or the parent of that company; or,
 - b. a company acquiring commercial exploitation rights in the film.
- iii. where the member or the member's firm acts as the solicitor, accountant, auditor or adviser
- iv. for:
 - a. any person with a production role in the film;
 - b. the production company;
 - c. a company acquiring commercial exploitation rights in the film; or
 - d. an investor in the film.
- v. where the member, or a company of which the member is a shareholder or an officer, is entitled to receive a payment from the budgeted cost of the film.
- vi. where the director has an ownership interest either directly or indirectly exceeding 5% in any entity which transacts with Screen Australia.

PROCEDURES

The secretariat will maintain a register of standing interests of Board members. Each member is responsible for notifying the secretariat of any changes required.

In addition to this, *Disclosure of Relevant Interests* will be a standing item on the Board and Audit Committee meeting agendas and all conflicts will be minuted.

6. All Board related party disclosures can be found in Screen Australia's Annual Report.
7. There have been two quarterly payments during the specified period of 14 September 2015 to 9 February 2016; one in September and one in December. Board member remuneration is in accordance with the rate specified for Screen Australia in the Remuneration Tribunal's Determination on Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office.
8. Not applicable.
9. No.

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10. Not applicable.

11. Total catering cost for the November 2015 Board Meeting was \$174.60, of which \$108.60 was for food and \$66.00 was spent on beverages.