

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Question No: 155

Program No. Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since 25 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 25 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:

- a. The Authority has met 4 times from 25 February to 31 May 2014.
- b. The Authority deals with conflict of interest in accordance with s. 29 and s. 30 of the ACMA Act.
- c. Average attendance at board meetings is 98 per cent.
- d. The ACMA Act imposes a standing requirement to disclose interests to the Minister and to other members where those interests could conflict with the proper performance of their duties. Members may not perform their role in deciding a matter where there is a conflict of interest, unless they have disclosed that interest to each of the other members and all consent to that member performing that role. The Chair must advise the Minister of each occasion that a member discloses an interest in this way. (s. 29 and s. 30 of the ACMA Act).
- e. No conflicts registered.
- f. Board Members remuneration is provided in accordance with the appropriate Remuneration Tribunal determination. For Full Time Members the determination is 2014/12 and for Part Time Members the determination is 2014/ 08.
- g. Authority Members may be dismissed in accordance with s.34(5) of the *Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005*.
- h. None.
- i. None.
- j. The total for catering costs for the board meetings held since 25 February 2014 is less than \$2,000. Alcohol is not served.