

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 2112

Topic: Boards (ACNC)

Written: 5 March 2014

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For Departments and Agencies with Boards, Since September 7th 2013;

- 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 September 7, 2013?
- 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 ACNC has one Advisory Board. Since 7 September 2013, the ACNC Advisory Board has met twice on:

- 18 October 2013
- 31 January 2014

b. Travel expenses:

- Economy airfare for flights of 4 hours or less.
- Hotel accommodation
- Tier 2 Travel Allowance in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16: Official Travel by Office Holders.

c. Average attendance:

- 7 hours - 8.30am to 3.30pm including 1 hour break for morning tea and lunch.

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- The average number of attendees across the two ACNC Board meetings during this period was 10.5 out of 12.

d. Conflict of interest:

- A member of the ACNC Advisory Board has a standing obligation to disclose interests that could conflict with the performance of the ACNC Advisory Board's function. This must be in writing to the Minister as soon as practical after the board member becomes aware of the potential for such conflict of interest.
- ACNC Advisory Board members are also asked at the beginning of each meeting of the ACNC Advisory Board to declare any potential or actual conflicts of interest that may apply to specific matters due to be considered at that meeting. Unless otherwise agreed by the Chair, the member will be excused from the meeting or from the ACNC Advisory Board's consideration of the relevant agenda item(s). If the member is the Chair, the ACNC Commissioner must agree.
- Details of potential or actual conflicts of interest declared by ACNC Advisory Board members, and action taken in respect of those conflicts, will be appropriately recorded.

e. Registered conflicts of interest:

- No conflicts have been disclosed.

f. Board member remuneration:

- Remuneration is provided in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/11 – Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office.

g. Dismissing board members who do not meet attendance standards:

- This is not covered by the ACNC Board Charter however the ACNC Act states 'The Minister may terminate a general member's appointment at any time.' Pursuant to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the Minister may terminate a general member's appointment at any time.

h. Requests made to Ministers to dismiss board members since 7 September 2013:

- None

i. List of board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings:

- None

j. Board meeting catering costs this year; and is alcohol served;

- ACNC Advisory Board catering costs for this financial year (1 July 2013 to 5 March 2014) are: \$1,011.15.
- Alcohol is not paid for by the ACNC.