

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

**Question: AET 900**

**Topic: Boards**

**Written: 5 March 2014**

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

900. For Departments and Agencies with Boards, Since September 7th 2013;
- how often has each board met, break down by board name;
  - what travel expenses are provided;
  - what is the average attendance at board meetings;
  - how does the board deal with conflict of interest;
  - what conflicts of interest have been registered;
  - what remuneration is provided to board members;
  - how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
  - Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members since September 7, 2013?
  - Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
  - what have catering costs been for the board meetings held this year; is alcohol served?

**Answer:**

- 900.
- The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) met once.
  - If travel is required the ABS provides for return airfares and transfers, accommodation (if required), meals, (less any meals that are provided for by the ABS) and incidentals.
  - 18 members present, three members provided apologies.
  - ASAC members who are appointed by the Australian Government must declare any private interests. State and territory representatives are currently all state/territory public servants bound by their respective state/territory government legislation.
  - No conflicts of interest have been registered.
  - ASAC Chair \$30,080, as set by the Remuneration Tribunal Determination, Remuneration and Allowances for holders of part-time public office.
  - Under section 20(2) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the Minister may remove a member from office for misbehaviour or physical or mental incapacity.
  - No.
  - N/A.
  - \$3,013.72 (incl GST) for a working lunch and dinner. Alcohol was served at dinner.