

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency

Department of Employment Question No. EM0388_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

ASEA - Boards

1. Since September Additional Estimates in 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 Additional Estimates in 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

1.
 - a) The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council have met twice since the Additional Estimates in February 2014.
 - b) The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency covers all travel expenses for a Council Member to attend the meeting. This may include airfares, accommodation, taxi and other ground transport.
 - c) The Council meetings are always well attended by Members. The average attendance is 100 per cent. This includes attendance in person or by teleconference.
 - d) Council Members have been asked to complete a *Declaration of Interests* form to declare any private interests or relationships which could or could be seen to influence the decisions they are taking or the advice they have given. At the start of each council meeting the Chairman asks members to declare any conflict of interests.
 - e) As at 13 June, 2014, no conflicts of interest have been raised.
 - f) Council Members are remunerated in line with Federal Government policy and as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal. Where Council members are eligible to receive sitting fees, the rates specified in *Determination 2013/15: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Public Office including Judicial and Related Offices* will apply as listed below.

Position	Fee per sitting day
Chair	\$922
Eligible member	\$615

- g) A Council Member's appointment may be terminated by the Minister under Section 40 of the *Asbestos Safety and Eradication Act, 2013* for any of the following reasons:
- (a) for misbehaviour; or
 - (b) if the member is incapable of performing the duties of his or her office; or
 - (c) if the member:
 - (i) becomes bankrupt; or
 - (ii) applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors; or
 - (iii) compounds with his or her creditors; or
 - (iv) makes an assignment of his or her remuneration for the benefit of his or her creditors; or
 - (d) if the member is absent, except on leave of absence, from 3 consecutive meetings of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council; or
 - (e) if the member fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with section 37 (which deals with the disclosure of interests).
- h) The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency has not made any requests to the Minister to dismiss a board member.
- i) Nil.
- j) The total catering cost for the two meetings is \$344.85. No alcohol is served at the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council meetings.