

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EM0389_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Comcare - 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. 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.

- (a) Since additional estimates the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC) has met once in March 2014;

Since additional estimates the Seafarers, Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority (Seacare Authority) has met three times; once on 27 February, one at the end of April via email, and once on 22 May.

- (b) Travel expenses are provided as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal – *Official Travel by Office Holders Determination 2013/16*;
- (c) The average attendance at SRCC meetings is 10 members;
The average attendance at Seacare Authority meetings is seven members.
- (d) Members complete a yearly declaration of interests form. In addition, conflicts of interest is a standing item on the agenda and members declare an interest if one arises;

For the Seacare Authority, conflicts of interest is a standing item on the agenda and members declare an interest if one arises.

- (e) None;
- (f) Members are remunerated as per the Remuneration Tribunal - *Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office* – Determination 2014/03;
- (g) Section 89P of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*, provides for the termination of appointment by the Governor-General; Section 118(2) of the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992* provides for the termination of appointment by the Minister.
- (h) No
- (i) None
- (j) The cost of catering for the March SRCC meeting was \$552.60. No alcohol was served.
The cost of catering for the three Seacare Authority meetings was \$193.80. No alcohol was served.