

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EM0393_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

SWA - Boards

1. Since 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

Safe Work Australia

- a) Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, Safe Work Australia Members have met twice on 3 April 2014 and 22 May 2014.
- b) Safe Work Australia Members meet their own travel expenses.
- c) An average of 15 members or their substitutes have attended Safe Work Australia meetings since Additional Estimates in February 2014 which is 100 per cent attendance.
- d) The disclosure of conflict of interests by members of Safe Work Australia to the Minister are provided for in Section 18 of the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008* (the Act) which states that a voting member must give written notice to the Minister of all interests that conflict or could conflict with the proper performance of the member's functions, and in Section 40 of the Act which deals with disclosure of interests relevant to a matter being considered or about to be considered by Safe Work Australia.
- e) No conflicts of interest have been registered since the Additional Estimates hearing in February 2014.
- f) The remuneration for the Chair of Safe Work Australia is set by determination in accordance with the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*. The current rate is \$56 320 per annum. No other members are remunerated.

- g) Section 20 of the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008* states that the Minister may terminate the appointment of a voting member if the member is absent from three consecutive meetings of Safe Work Australia.
- h) The Minister has not been asked to dismiss any member due to not meeting attendance standards since Additional Estimates in February 2014.
- i) No Safe Work Australia Members have attended less than 51 per cent of meetings.
- j) 3 April 2014 – \$1243
22 May 2014 – \$897
No alcohol was served at either meeting.