

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

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

**Agency - Comcare**

**Department of Employment Question No. EM1194\_15**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Comcare - Boards**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014 for each board in the portfolio or agencies:  
1. how often has each board met, break down by board name; 2. what travel expenses have been incurred; 3. what has been the average attendance at board meetings; 4. List each member's attendance at meetings; 5. how does the board deal with conflict of interest; 6. what conflicts of interest have been registered; 7. what remuneration has been provided to board members; 8. how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards? 9. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members? 10. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings 11. what have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list.

**Answer**

Since Budget Estimates in June 2014, for each board in the portfolio or agencies:

1. *How often has each board met, break down by board name*
  - i) The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC) has met once, on 12 September 2014;
  - ii) The Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority (Seacare Authority) has met twice; on 7 August and 18 September 2014.
2. *What travel expenses have been incurred*
  - i) SRCC travel expenses are provided as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal – *Official Travel by Office Holders Determination 2013/16*. Travel expenses incurred total \$9,535;
  - ii) Travel expenses incurred for Seacare Members total \$1,873.
3. *What has been the average attendance at board meetings*
  - i) The average attendance at SRCC meetings is 11 members;
  - ii) The average attendance at Seacare Authority meetings is six members.
4. *List each member's attendance at meetings*

i) SRCC members that attended the 12 September 2014 meeting were:

	<b>12 September 2014</b>
<b>Members</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Mr Barry Sherriff	Yes
Mr Dominic Andreatchio	Yes
Ms Michelle Baxter	Yes
Mr Michael Borowick	Yes
Mr Trevor Gauld	Yes
Ms Cathy Hudson	Yes
Ms Lisa Newman	Yes
Ms Andrea Shaw	Yes
Mr Steve Somogyi	Yes
CDF Mark Binskin	No
<b>Deputy Members</b>	
Mr Steve Kibble	Yes

ii) Seacare Authority members that attended the two meetings were:

	<b>7 August 2014</b>	<b>18 September 2014</b>
<b>Members</b>		
Mr David Sterrett	Yes	Yes
Mr Paul O'Connor	Yes	NA
Mr Dale Emmerton	Yes	Yes
Mr Mal Hearnden	Yes	Apology
Mr John Wydell	Yes	Yes
Mr Martin Byrne	Apology	Yes
Mr Mick Kinley (Acting)	Apology	Apology
<b>Deputy Members</b>		
Mr Richard Berriman (Deputy to Mal Hearnden)	NA	Yes
Mr Allan Schwartz (Deputy to Mr Mick Kinley)	NA	Yes

5. *How does the board deal with conflict of interest*
  - i) SRCC 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;
  - ii) For the Seacare Authority, conflicts of interest is a standing item on the agenda and members declare an interest if one arises.
6. *What conflicts of interest have been registered*
  - i) At the 12 September 2014 SRCC meeting, Commissioner Hudson (member representing the interests of the ACT public sector employees) registered a conflict of interest;
  - ii) No conflicts of interest have been registered for the Seacare Authority.
7. *What remuneration has been provided to board members*
  - i) Members are remunerated as per the Remuneration Tribunal - *Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office – Determination 2014/03*;
  - ii) Only the Chairperson of the Seacare Authority is remunerated. He is remunerated in line with the Remuneration Tribunal - *Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office – Determination 2014/03*.
8. *How does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards*
  - i) Section 89P of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*, provides for the termination of appointments to the SRCC by the Governor-General;
  - ii) Section 118(2) of the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992* provides for the termination of appointment by the Minister.
9. *Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members*
  - i) SRCC – No;
  - ii) Seacare Authority – No.
10. *Please list board members who have attended less than 51 per cent of meetings*
  - i) SRCC - None
  - ii) Seacare Authority - None.
11. *What have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period. Please break down the cost list*
  - i) The cost of full day catering for the September SRCC meeting was \$576.

- ii) The cost of catering for the two Seacare Authority meetings was: August - \$0 and September: \$226.