

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EM1198_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

SWA - 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

1. Since Budget Estimates in June 2014, Safe Work Australia Members have met twice - on 6 June 2014 (teleconference) and 18 September 2014.
2. Safe Work Australia Members meet their own travel costs.
3. An average of 15 members or their substitutes have attended Safe Work Australia meetings since Budget Estimates in June 2014 which is 100 per cent attendance.
4. Attendance at meetings is provided below:

Member	6 June 2014 teleconference	18 September 2014
Ann Sherry	Apology	Attended
Kylie Emery (Cwlth)	Attended	Apology (substitute)
John Watson (NSW)	Apology (substitute)	
Peter Dunphy (NSW)		Attended
Denise Cosgrove (Vic)	Apology (substitute)	Attended
Simon Blackwood (Qld)	Attended	Attended
Brian Bradley (WA)	Attended	Attended
Bryan Russell (SA)	Apology (substitute)	Attended
Fiona Barbaro (ACT)	Attended	
John Rees (ACT)		Apology (substitute)
Martin Shirley (Tas)	Apology (substitute)	Attended
Doug Phillips (NT)	Attended	
Stephen Gelding (NT)		Attended
Andrew Dettmer (ACTU)	Apology (substitute)	Attended
Michael Borowick (ACTU)	Attended	Attended
Carolyn Davis (ACCI)	Attended	Attended
Mark Goodsell (Ai Group)	Attended	Attended
Michelle Baxter (SWA)	Attended	Attended

5. 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.
6. No conflicts of interest have been registered since the Budget Estimates hearing in June 2014.
7. The remuneration for the Chair of Safe Work Australia is set by determination in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973. No other members are remunerated.
8. 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.
9. The Minister has not been asked to dismiss any member due to not meeting attendance standards since Budget Estimates in June 2014.
10. No Safe Work Australia Members have attended less than 51 per cent of meetings.
11. Catering costs:
 - a. 6 June 2014 (teleconference) – no costs
 - b. 18 September 2014 - \$801.65 total, GST excl

	Morning tea	Lunch	Afternoon tea
Food	\$135.95	\$452.15	\$99.95
Beverages	\$34.90	\$50.80	\$27.90
Total	\$170.85	\$502.95	\$127.85