

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
9 February 2016

Department/Agency: All
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)

Senator: Ludwig
Question reference number: F59
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 1 April 2016

Number of pages: 4

Question:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September 2015:

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:

For the period 14 September 2015 to 9 February 2016:

Department/ Agency	Response
Finance	<p>Finance has responsibility for one board – ASC Pty Ltd (ASC).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Board attendance details for ASC Pty Ltd (ASC) will be detailed in its annual report.2. Travel expenses are specified by the Remuneration Tribunal, which states that directors of ASC receive Tier 1 travel allowance. The Determination that sets out the provisions that apply are outlined at: http://remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2016/2015-determinations/2015-11-determination-official-travel-by-office-holders/2015-11-Official-Travel-by-Office-Holders-30-August-2015.pdf3. Board attendance details for ASC will be detailed in its annual report.4. Refer to question 3 above.5. Dealing with potential conflicts of interest is a matter for the Board. However, <i>Resource Management Guide No. 126, Commonwealth Government Business Enterprise Governance and Oversight Guidelines</i> (GBE Guidelines) require GBE boards to regularly monitor the ongoing independence of each director and the board generally to ensure that they continue to exercise unfettered and independent judgement. GBE Boards also need to ensure that a director does not have any interests that interfere with carrying out the role intended with diligence and care. The Government expects GBE boards to establish and maintain a code of conduct for directors, employees and contractors and ensure that GBEs, in undertaking their business, avoid activities that could give rise to questions about their political impartiality. The code of conduct may cover, among other things, conflict of interest. Consistent with the GBE Guidelines, appointment letters for all directors and Chief Executive Officers generally include reference to conflict of interest matters and directors are to formally respond to the letter of appointment within 30 days of receipt and provide an undertaking to advise the Shareholder Minister(s) if there is any change in circumstances that might impact on their ability to be a director.6. This is a matter for the Chair of each entity to manage.7. Remuneration for the directors of ASC is determined by the Remuneration Tribunal. The current rates effective from 1 January 2016 are \$156,680 per annum for the Chair and \$73,120 per annum for Members, with additional fees available in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal's determination.8. The Shareholder Minister(s) may, at their discretion, remove directors at any time prior to the completion of their term of appointment. Dismissal of the directors could be considered in any case of failure to keep Ministers adequately informed, and in situations of ongoing under-performance in respect of financial or other aspects of the operations of the business.9. No for ASC.

Department/ Agency	Response																																																
	<p>10. Board attendance details for ASC will be detailed in its annual report.</p> <p>11. This is an internal matter for ASC. Catering costs for the GBE are not funded by Finance.</p>																																																
Australian Electoral Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Australian Electoral Commission has met once. 2. Travel to and from the airport and flights. 3. 100 per cent. 4. All three members of the Commission attended a meeting on 12 October 2015. 5. As per section 11 of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> (Electoral Act) 6. Nil. 7. As per subsection 14A of the Electoral Act. 8. As per subsections 12 and 25 of the Electoral Act. 9. No. 10. Nil. 11. Nil. 																																																
Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation has met three times. 2. Travel allowance in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination. 3. 1.5 days duration, all directors attend. 4. <table border="1" data-bbox="461 1234 1414 1839"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>29 September 2015</th> <th>22 October 2015</th> <th>1 December 2015</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mrs Patricia Cross</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr Tony Cole</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Hon. Christopher Ellison</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr Peter Feltham</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms Nadine Flood</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms Lyn Gearing</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms Winsome Hall</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr John McCullagh</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms Peggy O’Neal</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Air Vice Marshal Margaret Staib</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr Michael Vertigan</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> <td>Attended</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 5. In accordance with CSC’s conflicts management framework and conflicts management policy. A summary of CSC’s conflicts management policies/processes is available on the CSC website at www.csc.gov.au/about-us/governance/. 		29 September 2015	22 October 2015	1 December 2015	Mrs Patricia Cross	Attended	Attended	Attended	Mr Tony Cole	Attended	Attended	Attended	The Hon. Christopher Ellison	Attended	Attended	Attended	Mr Peter Feltham	Attended	Attended	Attended	Ms Nadine Flood	Attended	Attended	Attended	Ms Lyn Gearing	Attended	Attended	Attended	Ms Winsome Hall	Attended	Attended	Attended	Mr John McCullagh	Attended	Attended	Attended	Ms Peggy O’Neal	Attended	Attended	Attended	Air Vice Marshal Margaret Staib	Attended	Attended	Attended	Dr Michael Vertigan	Attended	Attended	Attended
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	<p>6. Nil.</p> <p>7. In accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination.</p> <p>8. In accordance with legislative provisions.</p> <p>9. No.</p> <p>10. Nil.</p> <p>11. \$1,228.30.</p>
Future Fund Management Agency	<p>1. Details of Board meetings are provided annually through the annual report.</p> <p>2. Total travel costs of \$34,955 (flights \$21,551, accommodation \$7,765 and transfers \$5,639).</p> <p>3. Details of Board meetings are provided annually through the annual report.</p> <p>4. Details of Board meetings are provided annually through the annual report.</p> <p>5. The Board applies its procedures in accordance with the arrangements set out in Division 8 of Part 4 of the <i>Future Fund Act 2006</i>.</p> <p>6. Declarations of conflicts of interest are made on a confidential basis by Board members. Declarations made by Board members to the Board are considered by the Board in accordance with the requirements of Division 8 of Part 4 of the <i>Future Fund Act 2006</i>.</p> <p>7. Remuneration arrangements for Board members are set by the applicable Remuneration Tribunal Determinations.</p> <p>8. The Board does not have the power to dismiss its own members.</p> <p>9. No.</p> <p>10. Details of Board meetings are provided annually through the annual report.</p> <p>11. \$3,106.</p>