

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10
10 February 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Dr Switkowski- Remuneration

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 10 February 2010, E39)

QUESTION No.: AI-94

Senator LUDLAM—I have got a couple of questions. I would like to refer you to page 75 of your most recent annual report. Can you indicate for us how much Zigmund Switkowski was paid for his work as the chairman of the ANSTO board for this period? It is a bit ambiguous in the annual report as to which remuneration refers to him?

Dr Paterson—We will take that on notice.

Senator LUDLAM—There is one notation in the remuneration bracket between \$375,000 and \$389,000. You have got one person in that bracket. Can you confirm for us whether that is Mr Switkowski.

Mr Cubbin—No it is not.

Senator LUDLAM—If you could come back to us on notice that would be great. You may not have this information with you at the table, but I am requesting from you a list of the speaking engagements accepted or undertaken by Dr Switkowski in 2009 and the cost of travel and accommodation to facilitate these. If ANSTO did not pay for it, who did? Recognising that this gentleman can do whatever he likes on his own time—I have had correspondence with the minister on this issue as well—and that he is free to express his mind in his own time. What I am specifically looking for are speaking engagements in which he is speaking about nuclear power.

Senator Carr—It is not competent for these officers to go to the issue of who paid for any expenses that Mr Switkowski entertained if it was not from this agency. So all they can do is provide you with advice on matters that go to payments made by ANSTO and other advice that relates to government activity. I do not believe there are any payments that could be made. They simply cannot comment on anything outside the purview of ANSTO's payments.

Senator LUDLAM—I accept that. Any details that you can provide for us that go directly to the budget of ANSTO would be greatly appreciated—for travel and speaking engagements.

ANSWER

As provided for in the Remuneration Tribunal's *Determination 2009/14: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office* (<http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/determinationsReports/byYear/2008/2008-07Determination.pdf>), Dr Switkowski was paid \$54,280 (GST exclusive) in the 2008-09 financial year for his work as Chairman of the ANSTO Board.

Dr Switkowski receives invitations to attend or participate in many events, given his academic and professional background and his position as Chairman of the ANSTO Board.

The subject matters of Dr Switkowski's speaking engagements address a range of issues, including nuclear science and technology, climate change, uranium, nuclear medicine, the management of nuclear waste, energy security, the nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear energy.

Any statements by the Chairman of the ANSTO Board are made in his professional capacity as an expert about nuclear matters and are consistent with ANSTO's charter to encourage a greater level of understanding of nuclear science, its applications and benefits.

In 2008-09 Dr Switkowski made twenty-three presentations on matters related to the nuclear fuel cycle and ANSTO to external audiences. He did not receive payments for these presentations, other than contributions to cover travel and accommodation costs in some cases.

There were eight speaking engagements (refer below) for which ANSTO made contributions to cover Dr Switkowski's travel and accommodation costs. This amounted to \$11,046 (GST inclusive) for travel and \$3,926 (GST exempt) for accommodation.

Two of these trips were required for meetings related to the recruitment process for the new ANSTO CEO. In participating in events as ANSTO Chairman, Dr Switkowski engages in meetings with key stakeholders about ANSTO's activities and promotes ANSTO's role and achievements.

Date:	Details:
17 and 18 September 2008	Address to: 1. Watermark Search Luncheon Sydney 2. ANSTO staff and Young President's Association at Lucas Heights
30 October 2008	Presentation at the Business Council of Australia meeting, Sydney
13 November 2008	34th Annual Essington Lewis Memorial Lecture, Adelaide
18 November 2008	Address to At the Edge, Science Lecture Series at the University of NSW and attendance at the Ethnic Business Awards, Sydney
17 March 2009	Address to Paydirt's 2009 Uranium Conference, Adelaide
21 April 2009	Presentation at World Nuclear Fuel Cycle 2009 Conference, Sydney

10 and 11 May 2009	Address to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) Uranium and Nuclear Power Conference, Perth2. University of Western Australia Engineering students3. Western Australia Women's Forum, Perth
20 and 21 May 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Address to Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering Clunies Ross dinner, Sydney2. Attendance at Extreme Science Experience, Sydney