

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2010

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 2, Program 2.3

Topic: Remuneration of the Independent Communications Committee

Question reference number: F53

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Senator Ronaldson asked:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Before we move on, is striking differential rates common practice with boards?

Mr Tune—Yes, it can be. I do not know how common it is.

Senator RONALDSON—What is another example of it?

Mr Tune—I am not sure. I cannot think of one off the top of my head, but I will take it on notice. I am sure there would be others. Certainly chairs often get paid more than others.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—That is not the question. Amongst members, how common is that practice?

Mr Tune—I do not know. I had better not speculate too far. We will check.

Senator RONALDSON—But you did just speculate.

Mr Tune—I will retract my speculation and check.

Answer:

A review of the Remuneration Tribunal determinations indicates that it is not uncommon for members of Government boards, councils and committees to receive different levels of remuneration, particularly between Chair and member positions.

Independent Communications Committee (ICC) members have been appointed under contract. One of the member's contracts incorporates a provision for them to act as the Chair from time to time.