



Remuneration Tribunal

Parliamentary Remuneration and Expenses

STATEMENT

The remuneration and work expenses framework for parliamentarians, established by the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act), sets out a number of inquiry, reporting and determinative obligations on the Tribunal, to be completed at least once each year.

As detailed in its statement of 17 June 2024, the Tribunal has completed its inquiry into remuneration for public offices, including parliamentary base salary and related matters.

On 21 June 2024, the Tribunal also completed its inquiries in relation to the remaining remuneration matters and the remuneration and allowances for former parliamentarians set out in its members of Parliament determination.

Conscious that the rates of electorate allowance have not been adjusted since 2009, and having regard to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which has increased by more than 40% during that period, the Tribunal has decided to increase the rates.

The value of the allowance is now significantly less, in real terms, than it was in 2009, and the Tribunal has no doubt the costs of meeting the commitments to which members direct their allowance have increased over the same period. Accordingly, the Tribunal has decided to increase electorate allowance by 24% (rounded). The base rate of electorate allowance will be \$39,700. Members of the House of Representatives for an electoral division the area of which is at least 2,000km² and less than 5,000km² will receive an additional \$7,500. Members whose electorates have an area of over 5,000km² will receive an additional \$17,400.

The Tribunal has continued to consider recommendation 25 of the Independent Review of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* and the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* (the Review) in respect to the provision of additional support for parliamentarians with exceptional physical requirements. The Tribunal has decided to amend its determination to allow for a parliamentarian's travel allowance to be adjusted to take into account additional expenses where they are incurred as a result of requiring accessible accommodation.

The Tribunal notes recent amendments to the PBR Act introduced the new requirement for the Tribunal to inquire into allowances to be paid to the estates of persons who die while a member. Mindful of giving this matter appropriate consideration, the Tribunal has decided not to determine an estate allowance at this point in time.

The Tribunal will issue a new determination reflecting these decisions with effect from **1 July 2024**.

The Tribunal also inquired into the domestic travel-related matters prescribed in the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017, and resolved a number of changes to the provisions for which it has responsibility should be made.

Recommendation 1 – Travel for support person

Having regard to recommendation 25 of the Review, the Tribunal will recommend the introduction of a new regulation to prescribe transport costs and reasonable travel expenses for a support person who accompanies a parliamentarian with impaired or reduced mobility, for the purpose of providing physical aid, when the parliamentarian is travelling on parliamentary business.

Recommendation 2 – Unscheduled commercial Transport in large electorates

As in the case of electorate allowance, the Tribunal is conscious that the limits on unscheduled transport in large electorates have not been increased since 2014, and at that time only for members representing the largest electorates. Having regard to movements in inflation, the Tribunal will recommend the limits in the regulations be increased by 13.75%. This amount reflects 50% of the cumulative increase in transport CPI since the Tribunal's last comprehensive review of these arrangements in 2017.

Remuneration Tribunal

25 June 2024

Enquiries may be directed to the Tribunal at enquiry@remtribunal.gov.au