



No. 13 of 2023

## REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

### 2023 Review of Accommodation and Meal Allowances – Judges, Court Officers and Statutory Officers

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#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) has conducted a review of Determination 8 of 2022 which sets accommodation and meal allowances payable to the members of the judiciary and office holders listed in section 13 of the *Remuneration Act 1990* (SA) (**Act**), and certain other office holders as conferred under section 14 of the Act.
2. As explained in this report, the Tribunal has decided to increase the rate of the allowances by 1.5%. The Tribunal has issued an accompanying determination. The increased allowances apply from 1 January 2024.

#### THE REVIEW PROCESS

3. On 31 August 2023, in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the Act, the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 15 September 2023 in respect of this review from:
  - a. the Honourable Premier of South Australia – as the Minister responsible for the Act who may make submissions or introduce evidence in the public interest
  - b. the Judicial Remuneration Coordinating Committee (**JRCC**)
  - c. members of the judiciary and relevant office holders
4. On 5 September 2023, the Electoral Commissioner confirmed that he would not be making a submission on this occasion.
5. On 6 September 2023, the Deputy Auditor-General confirmed that the Auditor-General would not be making a submission in relation to this review.
6. The JRCC provided a written submission on 14 September 2023, on behalf of:
  - a. the Chief Justice, Judges and Masters of the Supreme Court;
  - b. the Chief Judge, Judges and Masters of the District Court;
  - c. the Judges and Magistrates of the South Australian Employment Tribunal;
  - d. the Chief Magistrate and the Magistrates of the Magistrates Court;
  - e. the State Coroner and Deputy Coroner;
  - f. the Commissioners of the Environment, Resources and Development Court; and

- g. the President and Deputy Presidents of the South Australian Employment Tribunal.
- 7. The JRCC submitted that the Tribunal should review the amount of the accommodation and meal allowance in the usual way.
- 8. On 25 September 2023, after an extension was granted, the Premier's representative confirmed that the Premier did not intend to make a submission.
- 9. No other submissions were received.

## **CONSIDERATION AND CONCLUSION**

- 10. The determination under review sets allowances to cover the costs of commercial accommodation and meals associated with official travel by members of the judiciary and other relevant office holders.
- 11. In considering this matter, the Tribunal has had regard to the following economic data relevant to the costs of commercial accommodation and meals:
  - a. The Consumer Price Index (All groups Adelaide) shows the following percentage changes from the corresponding quarters of previous years:
    - i. 8.6% for December 2022
    - ii. 7.9% for March 2023
    - iii. 6.9% for June 2023
    - iv. 5.9% for September 2023
  - b. As at August 2023 the Reserve Bank of Australia forecast of the Consumer Price Index was as follows:
    - i. 4 ¼ % for December 2023
    - ii. 3 ½ % for June 2024
    - iii. 3 ¼ % for December 2024
    - iv. 3% for June 2025
    - v. 2 ¾ % for December 2025
  - c. The Australian Taxation Office Taxation Determinations TD2022/10 and TD2023/3, which respectively set for taxation purposes reasonable accommodation, meal and incidental expenses for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 income years. The Tribunal has noted the following percentage changes between those respective Taxation Determinations, for the highest earners:
    - i. 0% increase to accommodation costs for Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and most country centres
    - ii. 0.96% increase to accommodation costs for Adelaide
    - iii. 19.90% increase to accommodation costs for Tasmania
    - iv. 1.83% increase to breakfast costs
    - v. 1.76% increase to lunch costs
    - vi. 1.78% increase to dinner costs
    - vii. 7.87% increase to incidentals
    - viii. overall 1.16% to 1.81% increase for daily total (which includes accommodation, meals and incidentals), with the exception of Hobart which had an 11.26% increase to the daily total

12. The Tribunal continues to adopt a cautionary approach to inflationary movements.
13. Having regard to these factors, the Tribunal has decided that these allowances should be increased by 1.5%, with effect from 1 January 2024.



Matthew O'Callaghan  
**PRESIDENT**



Deborah Black  
**MEMBER**



Peter de Cure AM  
**MEMBER**

Dated: 5 December 2023