



No. 16 of 2025

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

2025 Review of Electorate Allowances for Members of the Parliament of South Australia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) has conducted a review of Determination 17 of 2022 which sets Electorate Allowances for Members of Parliament.
2. As explained in this report, the Tribunal has determined not to increase the Electoral Allowances and Determination 17 of 2022 will continue to apply.

BACKGROUND

3. Sections 3A(2) and 4(1)(c) of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990 (SA)* (**PR Act**) in conjunction with section 14 of the *Remuneration Act 1990 (SA)* (**Act**) provide that the Tribunal has jurisdiction to set Electorate Allowances for Members of Parliament.
4. The Tribunal has used this jurisdiction to set Electorate Allowances for Members of Parliament and last increased the Allowances in Determination 17 of 2022.
5. The Allowances are intended to compensate Members of Parliament for the expenses they necessarily incur in the performance of their duties. However, since at least 2022, the Tribunal has held concerns about the basis of the Electorate Allowances because the Tribunal does not have current data on how members spend the Electorate Allowance. Accordingly, the Tribunal conducted an extensive review into these issues in 2023 (Report 16 of 2023).
6. In that review, the Tribunal noted that, while the cost of motor vehicles now provided to Members of Parliament on a fixed cost basis were met from the Electorate Allowances, these costs had not been reviewed and were not matters within the Tribunal's jurisdiction.
7. In terms of the residual amounts, the Tribunal noted that information to clarify the continuing relevance of the categories of accommodation and travel, donations, subscriptions, telephone, stationery, and postage, which had been considered in the last substantive consideration of this allowance were not available.
8. The Tribunal's survey of Members of Parliament, which sought information about how these allowances were expended did not provide reliable information in this regard.
9. Consequently, in Report 16 of 2023, the Tribunal confirmed its position that the absence of appropriate information about how these allowances were used meant that no basis for an increase to the Electorate Allowances had been established.

10. Similarly, in its 2024 review of the Electorate Allowances, the Tribunal again observed that no information was available to it to warrant a change to the Allowances. On publishing the review, the Tribunal invited Members of Parliament to make submissions on a sustainable basis for the Electorate Allowance.
11. As required by section 8 of the Act the Tribunal has conducted its annual review of the Electorate Allowances.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

12. On 9 October 2025, and in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the Act, the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 30 October 2025 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 on any question relevant to the public interest;
 - b. Members of Parliament;
 - c. The Treasurer; and
 - d. The Independent Commissioner Against Corruption.
13. The Tribunal also placed a notice on its website from 9 October 2025 inviting submissions from affected persons by 30 October 2025.
14. On 10 October 2025, the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption confirmed that no submission would be made.
15. On 20 October 2025, the Premier’s representative confirmed that no submission would be made.
16. No other submissions were received in respect of this review.

CONSIDERATION AND CONCLUSION

17. In reviewing the Electorate Allowances, the Tribunal has had regard to the necessary statutory considerations provided for by section 4(2) of the PR Act which provides as follows:

“The Remuneration Tribunal must, in determining electorate allowances and other remuneration for members of Parliament—

 - (a) have regard not only to their parliamentary duties but also to—
 - (i) their duty to be actively involved in community affairs; and
 - (ii) their duty to represent and assist their constituents in dealings with governmental and other public agencies and authorities; and
 - (b) must not reduce an amount payable merely because there has been a change in basic salary.”
18. Not only was no information provided to the Tribunal which would allow it to determine a sustainable basis for the Electoral Allowances, no submissions were provided at all.
19. As in the past reviews discussed above, there is no information available to the Tribunal to warrant a change to the existing Electorate Allowance amounts. If Members of Parliament consider that there is a sustainable basis for the Tribunal to revise this allowance, the Tribunal is prepared to review this conclusion.

20. During this review, the Tribunal also considered the experience of remuneration tribunals in other Australian jurisdictions with respect to electorate allowances for Members of Parliament. In many of them, the basis and application of the electorate allowances are unclear to that jurisdiction's tribunal.
21. The 2025 Report the New South Wales Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal (**PRT**) provides a robust discussion of these difficulties. The PRT will reconsider the allowance in 2026.
22. In the absence of further information, the Tribunal finds that there is no justification for awarding an increase to the Electorate Allowances.
23. Accordingly, Determination 17 of 2022 will continue in operation.



Matthew O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Donny Walford
MEMBER



Mark Young
MEMBER

Dated: 9 December 2025