



No. 5 of 2026

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance Annual Meeting of the International Association of Judges – President Dolphin

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) has made a determination providing for an Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance for the Honourable Justice Steven Dolphin, President of the South Australian Employment Tribunal (**President Dolphin**) to attend the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Judges in Lisbon, Portugal.
2. The Determination allows President Dolphin to be paid a reasonable daily allowance for meals and incidentals, as well as to be reimbursed for reasonable accommodation expenses (**Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance**).
3. The Tribunal has issued an accompanying determination granting an Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance for President Dolphin, which applies from 13 August 2026.

BACKGROUND

4. The *Remuneration Act 1990* (SA) (**Act**) provides that the Tribunal has jurisdiction to set the remuneration payable to the members of the judiciary.
5. The Tribunal has used this jurisdiction to provide for Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowances for Members of the Judiciary for travel in the course of their official duties.
6. For the reasons set out in Report 9 of 2025, the Tribunal has continued to consider each application for an Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance on a case-by-case basis.
7. On 13 August 2026 the Tribunal received an application from President Dolphin for an Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance to attend the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Judges in Lisbon, Portugal (**Conference**) in October 2026. President Dolphin is seeking the Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance for the duration of the Conference.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

8. On 25 August 2026, in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the Act, the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 15 September 2026 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; and

- b. The Judicial Remuneration Coordinating Committee (**JRCC**).
- 9. The Tribunal also placed a notice on its website on 25 August 2026 inviting submissions from affected persons by 26 September 2026.
- 10. On 25 August, the Premier's representative confirmed that no submission would be made.
- 11. On 25 August the JRCC confirmed that it supports the application.
- 12. On 31 August the Tribunal wrote to President Dolphin to confirm the dates he was seeking an Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance.
- 13. On 1 September 2026 President Dolphin confirmed that his application was seeking an Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance for the dates of the Conference, being 15 – 21 October 2026.
- 14. No further submissions were received.

CONSIDERATION AND CONCLUSION

- 15. The application can be summarised as follows:
 - a. President Dolphin will be attending the Conference as a delegate of the Australian Judicial Officer's Association; and
 - b. President Dolphin has requested a reasonable Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance for the duration of the Conference from 15 October to 21 October 2026 inclusive.
- 16. The Tribunal recognises the necessity for judicial officers to travel internationally in the course of their official duties, noting that such travel has been infrequent. Consistent with past practice, the Tribunal has handled this application individually instead of determining a standing arrangement for overseas travel.
- 17. Having regard to the application and the submissions in response, the Tribunal has determined to approve the application on the terms set out in the accompanying Determination.
- 18. In determining President Dolphin's entitlement to and the allowance amounts for each of the components of Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance for this overseas travel, the Tribunal has followed the same approach as the *Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal (Official Travel) Determination 2026*.
- 19. The Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal has updated the Official Travel Determination since this Tribunal last considered an application for an Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance, however the applicable principles and approach remain the same.
- 20. The Tribunal notes that President Dolphin has only claimed an Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance not in excess of the conference days. This is consistent with the Tribunal's previous observations that the Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance is not appropriate for days a judicial officer is travelling and has access to airport lounges or is provided with meals as part of a long-haul flight.
- 21. Accordingly, a Daily Allowance of \$340 (for meals and incidentals in Portugal) has been determined using tables 8 and 9 in the most recent Australian Taxation Office Determination (TD 2026/4) concerning reasonable amounts for overseas travel expenses on meals and incidentals.

22. Again, consistent with the approach in the *Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal (Official Travel) Determination 2026*, the Tribunal has also determined to approve President Dolphin being reimbursed for the overseas accommodation directly associated with his attendance at the Conference, provided the reimbursement does not exceed the costs of accommodation of a standard reasonably equivalent to that which would be provided to His Honour in Australia for official duties.

OPERATIVE DATE

23. The accompanying Determination will operate from 13 August 2026, being the date the application was received.



Matthew O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Donny Walford
MEMBER



Mark Young
MEMBER

Dated: 16 September 2026