



No. 8 of 2025

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

2025 Review of Remuneration of Members of the Judiciary, Presidential Members of the SAET, Presidential Members of the SACAT, the State Coroner, and Commissioners of the Environment, Resources and Development Court

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) has conducted a review of Determination 5 of 2024 which sets salaries payable to the members of the judiciary and office holders listed in section 13 of the *Remuneration Act 1990 (SA) (Act)*, and salaries payable to certain other office holders as conferred under section 14 of the Act. That determination also sets a communication allowance and security allowances which are payable to some of the above-mentioned office holders and judicial members.
2. As explained in this report, the Tribunal has decided to increase salaries by 2.4%. The Tribunal notes that there are minor variations in the percentage amounts as a consequence of its practice of specifying annual salaries in rounded figures.
3. The Tribunal has also determined not to increase the communication allowance and the security allowances.
4. The Tribunal has issued an accompanying determination, which applies from 1 September 2025.

BACKGROUND

5. The *Remuneration Act 1990 (SA) (Act)* provides that the Tribunal has jurisdiction to set the remuneration payable to the members of the judiciary and other office holders listed in section 13 of the Act, and the remuneration payable to other office holders as conferred under section 14 of the Act.
6. The Tribunal has used this jurisdiction to determine the remuneration for:
 - a. Members of the Judiciary;
 - b. Presidential Members of the South Australian Employment Tribunal;
 - c. Presidential Members of the South Australian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal;
 - d. The State Coroner; and
 - e. Commissioners of the Environment, Resources and Development Court.
7. As required by section 8 of the Act, the Tribunal has conducted an annual review of its current Determination regarding remuneration.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

8. On 23 July 2025, in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the Act, the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 20 August 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 in the public interest; and
 - b. The Judicial Remuneration Coordinating Committee (**JRCC**).
9. The Tribunal also placed a notice on its website from 24 July 2025 inviting submissions from affected persons by 20 September 2025.
10. On 30 July, the Premier’s representative confirmed that the Premier did not intend to make a submission.
11. On 20 August the JRCC provided submissions on behalf of:
 - a. The Chief Justice, the President of the Court of Appeal, Judges of Appeal, Judges and Associates Justices of the Supreme Court;
 - b. The Chief Judge, Judges and Associate Judges of the District Court;
 - c. The Chief Magistrate and the Magistrates of the Magistrates Court;
 - d. The State Coroner and Deputy State Coroners;
 - e. The Senior Judge and Commissioners of the Environment, Resources and Development Court;
 - f. The President and Deputy Presidents of the South Australian Employment Tribunal; and
 - g. The Judge of the Youth Court.
12. In summary, the JRCC submitted that:
 - a. The Tribunal should continue to set judicial salaries in accordance with the national framework.
 - b. In conformity with that policy the salary of a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia should be increased to \$530,080 per annum.
 - c. The salary of the other judicial members and officers should be increased by no less than the percentage increase applicable to the salary of a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court.
 - d. The increase should operate from 1 September 2025.
13. The JRCC did not provide submissions on the communications allowance or the security allowance.
14. No further submissions were received.

CONSIDERATION AND CONCLUSION

15. The Tribunal has considered the current judicial salaries across the Commonwealth and States and Territories, as set out below.

Jurisdiction	Supreme Court Judge Salary	Operative Date
Commonwealth (Federal Court Judge used)	\$530,080	1 July 2025
New South Wales	\$517,650	1 July 2025
Northern Territory*	\$530,080	1 July 2025
Australian Capital Territory**	\$530,080	1 July 2025
Victoria**	\$530,080	28 October 2025
Queensland**	\$530,080	1 July 2025
Tasmania***	\$525,280	1 July 2025
Western Australia	\$527,541	1 December 2025
SA (salary prior to this Determination)	\$517,650	1 September 2024

*The salary is set by the Administrator of the Northern Territory under section 41 of the *Supreme Court Act* (NT). The Administrator has not yet set the salary, but the Administrator usually follows the increase for a Federal Judge set by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal and backdates the increase to 1 July.

**These salaries are directly linked by legislation to the salary of a Federal Court Judge, under section 37U of the *Supreme Court Act 1933* (ACT), section 5 of the *Judicial Entitlements Act 2015* (Vic) and section 5 of the *Judicial Remuneration Act 2007* (Qld).

***This salary is set by a statutory formula under section 7 of the *Supreme Court Act 1887* (Tas), being 90% of the average of the salaries of the Chief Justices of South Australia and Western Australia.

16. The Tribunal has considered the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal Determination issued on 18 June 2025 which applied a 2.4% increase to Judicial remuneration with effect from 1 July 2025.
17. The Tribunal has had regard to the principles, guidelines, conditions, practices and procedures adopted by the South Australian Employment Tribunal under Part 4 of the *Fair Work Act 1994* (SA), as required by section 101 of that Act.
18. The Tribunal has also taken the following economic data into account:
 - a. The Consumer Price Index (All groups Adelaide) shows the following percentage changes from the corresponding quarters of previous years:
 - i. 2.5% for December 2024
 - ii. 2.2% for March 2025
 - iii. 1.8% for June 2025
 - iv. 2.4% for September 2025
 - b. The Australian Bureau of Statistics Wage Price Index (Public Sector in South Australia) shows the following percentage changes from the corresponding quarters of previous years:
 - i. 3.5% September 2024
 - ii. 3.2% December 2024
 - iii. 3.3% March 2025
 - iv. 2.6% June 2025
 - v. 2.7% September 2025
 - c. As of November 2025, the Reserve Bank of Australia forecast of the Consumer Price Index was as follows:
 - i. 2.1% for June 2025
 - ii. 3.3% for December 2025
 - iii. 3.7% for June 2026
 - iv. 3.2% for December 2026
19. Inflationary movements remain matters of concern to the Tribunal.
20. The Tribunal has decided on this occasion, to preserve its long-standing practice of aligning judicial remuneration in South Australia with the national framework. As with previous determinations, the Tribunal preserves the discretion to adopt an independent position and recognises that there may be circumstances where national and South Australian circumstances differ in the future.
21. Notwithstanding the determination of salaries within the national framework, the Tribunal has considered the different factors impacting on the roles of different jurisdictions in South Australia. Consistent with its previous approach the Tribunal has confined its considerations to salary alone and has, consistent with previous years, determined that it

is appropriate to increase the salary of a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court from \$517,650 to \$530,080 which reflects the salary of a Judge of the Federal Court. Other judicial officers covered by this review will receive the same rate of increase. While this reflects the 2.4% increase applied by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal, there are minor variations when salaries are rounded to \$10 amounts.

Communication Allowance

- 22. The JRCC did not request a change to the current communication allowance.
- 23. The Tribunal has noted that the increase of 1.8% in the Consumer Price Index (Communications) since the last determination but given that communication costs remain at historic lows, the Tribunal does not consider that a change to the current communication allowance is warranted on this occasion.

Judicial Security

- 24. In Determination 5 of 2024 the Tribunal provided for an optional once off Security Installation Reimbursement to operate in conjunction with the Security Allowance.
- 25. The Tribunal notes that the JRCC and affected persons have not asked for a change in the rate of the allowance or reimbursement.
- 26. As there is no evidence before the Tribunal that these rates are insufficient, the Tribunal has determined not to modify the rates or terms. However, the Tribunal has clarified the naming of the reimbursement and allowance in the Determination.
- 27. The Tribunal remains open to considering increases to the Security Installation Reimbursement and Security Allowance in the future if there is evidence that increases are warranted. It is also prepared to consider expanding their application to other officers covered by this Determination if there is evidence that it is appropriate.
- 28. The Tribunal notes that a judicial officer can only claim the Security Establishment Installation Reimbursement once during their term of office unless they are required to relocate their principal place of residence for work purposes.

OPERATIVE DATE

- 29. The Tribunal has determined that this increase will be applied from 1 September 2025, consistent with the approach adopted over the last three years.



Matthew O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Donny Walford
MEMBER



Mark Young
MEMBER

Dated: 2 December 2025