



No. 6 of 2025

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance

International Association for Court Administration Conference – Chief Justice Kourakis

INTRODUCTION

1. On 6 August 2025, the Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) received an application and submission on behalf of the Honourable Chris Kourakis, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia (**the Chief Justice**).
2. The Chief Justice has requested the Tribunal make a Determination setting an overseas accommodation and daily allowance for his attendance at the International Association for Court Administration Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 17 to 19 November 2025.
3. This specific Determination has been sought, as the Tribunal's existing Determination for the payment of accommodation and meal allowances does not cover international travel. In recent years, the Tribunal's practice has been to instead make specific Determinations for international travel.
4. As explained in this report, the Tribunal has made a determination allowing the Chief Justice to be paid a reasonable daily allowance for meals and incidentals, as well as to be reimbursed for reasonable accommodation expenses.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

5. On 8 August 2025, in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the *Remuneration Act 1990 (SA)* (**Act**), the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 12 September 2025 in respect of this review from:
 - 5.1. the Honourable Premier of South Australia, as the Minister responsible for the Act who may make submissions or introduce evidence in the public interest.
 - 5.2. the Judicial Remuneration Coordinating Committee (**JRCC**).
6. The Tribunal also placed a notice on its website from 8 August 2025 inviting submissions from affected persons by 12 September 2025.
7. On 11 August 2025, the Premier's representative confirmed that the Premier did not intend to provide any submissions in respect of the applications.
8. On 12 August 2025, the JRCC confirmed that it supports the application.
9. No other submissions were received.

CONSIDERATION AND CONCLUSION

10. The application can be summarised as follows:

- The Chief Justice will be attending the International Association for Court Administration Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- The conference is held over 4 days from 16 to 19 November 2025, however the Chief Justice has requested an appropriate daily allowance for 2 days of the conference from 17 to 18 November 2025.
- Consistent with the *Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal (Official Travel) Determination*, the Chief Justice wishes to claim an appropriate daily allowance for meals and incidentals (for 2 conference days) and reimbursement for accommodation at a reasonable cost at a hotel near the conference.
- The Chief Justice has directed the Tribunal to the conference program.

11. 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.

12. Having regard to the application and submission in response, the Tribunal has determined to approve the application on the terms set out in the accompanying Determination.

13. In determining the relevant allowance and entitlement to accommodation for this trip, the Tribunal has followed the same approach as the *Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal (Official Travel) Determination 2025*. The Tribunal notes that the Chief Justice has only claimed a daily allowance for conference days, which is consistent with the Tribunal's previous observations that a 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.

14. Accordingly, a daily allowance of \$475 (for meals and incidentals in the United Arab Emirates) has been determined using tables 7 and 8 in the most recent Australian Taxation Office Determination (TD 2025/4) concerning reasonable amounts for overseas travel expenses on meals and incidentals.

15. Consistent with the approach in the *Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal (Official Travel) Determination 2025*, the Tribunal has also determined to approve the Chief Justice being reimbursed for 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 provided to the Chief Justice in Australia for official duties.

OPERATIVE DATE

16. The accompanying Determination will operate from 6 August 2025, being the date the application was received.



Matthew O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Donny Walford
MEMBER



Mark Young
MEMBER

Dated: 8 October 2025