



No. 14 of 2025

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

2025 Review of Accommodation Reimbursement and Allowances for Country Members of Parliament

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) has reviewed Determination 16 of 2024, which provides for eligible members of Parliament to claim allowances or reimbursements for accommodation costs from commercial accommodation, a second residence accommodation payment or non-commercial accommodation in Metropolitan Adelaide (together, the **Country Members' Accommodation Reimbursable Allowance**).
2. As explained in this report, the Tribunal has determined to apply increases of 1.17% to the commercial accommodation and non-commercial accommodation components of the Country Members' Reimbursable Allowance and 2.4% to the second residence accommodation payment.
3. The Tribunal has amended Determination 16 of 2024 to make clear that the actual amount spent on accommodation by the Member of Parliament is reimbursed, including those applied because of the method of payment selected.
4. Accordingly, the Tribunal has issued a new Determination which supersedes Determination 16 of 2024 and applies from 1 January 2026.

BACKGROUND

5. Sections 3A(2), 3A(3) and 4(2)(a) 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 different or unique allowances for Members of Parliament based upon their electorate. These provisions have been used previously by the Tribunal to establish the Country Members' Accommodation Reimbursable Allowance.
6. The Tribunal's Report 9 of 2020 contains extensive information about the history of the Country Members' Accommodation Reimbursable Allowance.
7. This reimbursable allowance exists to facilitate journeys of an official nature from a country member's principal place of residence to Adelaide. The determination operates such that country members are not disadvantaged for fully and properly carrying out their official parliamentary, electoral, community or ministerial duties in Adelaide.
8. In its December 2023 Report, the Tribunal detailed amendments to the reimbursements and allowances to simplify and expedite the payment process. It changed the distance allowance calculation, introduced a streamlined reporting arrangement and introduced a

new category of accommodation reimbursement relating to non-commercial accommodation. Other reimbursement rates were increased to recognise inflationary pressures.

9. As required by section 8 of the Act, the Tribunal has conducted its annual review of the Country Members' Accommodation Reimbursable Allowance.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

10. On 9 October 2025, 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.
11. The Tribunal also placed a notice on its website from 9 October 2025 inviting submissions from affected persons by 30 October 2025.
12. On 10 October 2025, the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption confirmed that no submission would be made.
13. On 20 October 2025, the Premier's representative confirmed that no submission would be made.
14. No further submissions were received.

CONSIDERATION AND CONCLUSION

15. The Tribunal remains committed to a system that has a significant level of accountability. There have been no submissions during this review which have advocated for any changes to the approach taken by the Tribunal in 2022.
16. The Tribunal reinforces its comments in Report 16 of 2024, that the Determination requires the actual amount spent on accommodation, within the various categories, up to the prescribed amount to be reimbursed, which includes any charges applied because of the method of payment selected by the Member of Parliament and/or any other accommodation associated expenses.
17. The Tribunal has reviewed the determination amounts in the context of the following data on cost increases.
18. 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
19. The Tribunal has also had regard to the Australian Taxation Office Taxation Determinations TD2024/3 and TD2025/4, which respectively set for taxation purposes reasonable accommodation, meal and incidental expenses for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 income years. The Tribunal has noted there was an overall increase of 1.07% to 1.28% for the daily total (which includes accommodation, meals, and incidentals), with the

exception of Sydney which has experienced a 7.81% increase over the period. The Tribunal has also taken note of interest rate movements.

20. Having regard to these factors, the Tribunal has decided to increase the component parts of the Country Members' Accommodation Reimbursable Allowance by the following amounts, commercial accommodation reimbursement amount by 1.17%, the non-commercial rate by 1.17% and the second residence accommodation payment by 2.4% to be \$255 per night, \$93 per night and \$214 per night respectively.

21. The Determination giving effect to this Report will come into effect on 1 January 2026.



Matthew O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Donny Walford
MEMBER



Mark Young
MEMBER

Dated: 9 December 2025