



No. 7 of 2023

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

2023 Review of Accommodation and Meal Allowances for Ministers of the Crown and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition

INTRODUCTION

1. The Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) has conducted a review of Determination 16 of 2022 which sets accommodation and meal allowances payable to Ministers of the Crown and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
2. As explained in this report, the Tribunal has determined to increase the allowances by 1.5%. The Tribunal has issued an accompanying determination, which applies from 1 January 2024.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

3. On 26 September 2023, in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the *Remuneration Act 1990 (SA)* (**Act**), the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 30 October 2023 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
 - b. members of Parliament
 - c. the Treasurer
 - d. the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (**ICAC**)
4. The Tribunal also advertised its intention to review this, and other determinations applicable to Members of Parliament, on its website from 26 September 2023. Submissions were also invited by 30 October 2023.
5. On 26 September 2023, the ICAC confirmed that no submission would be made.
6. On 26 October 2023, the Premier's representative confirmed that no submission would be made. No other submissions were received in respect of this review.

CONSIDERATIONS

7. The determination under review sets allowances to cover the costs of commercial accommodation and meals associated with official travel by Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
8. In considering this matter, the Tribunal has had regard to the following economic data relevant to the costs of commercial accommodation and meals:
 - a. The Consumer Price Index (All groups Adelaide) shows the following percentage changes from the corresponding quarters of previous years:
 - i. 8.6% for December 2022
 - ii. 7.9% for March 2023
 - iii. 6.9% for June 2023
 - iv. 5.9% for September 2023
 - b. As at August 2023 the Reserve Bank of Australia forecast of the Consumer Price Index was as follows:
 - i. 4 ¼ % for December 2023
 - ii. 3 ½ % for June 2024
 - iii. 3 ¼ % for December 2024
 - iv. 3% for June 2025
 - v. 2 ¾ % for December 2025
 - c. The Australian Taxation Office Taxation Determinations TD 2022/10 and TD2023/3, which respectively set for taxation purposes reasonable accommodation, meal and incidental expenses for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 income years. The Tribunal has noted the following percentage changes between those respective Taxation Determinations, for the highest earners:
 - i. 0% increase to accommodation costs for Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and most country centres
 - ii. 0.96% increase to accommodation costs for Adelaide
 - iii. 19.90% increase to accommodation costs for Tasmania
 - iv. 1.83% increase to breakfast costs
 - v. 1.76% increase to lunch costs
 - vi. 1.78% increase to dinner costs
 - vii. 7.87% increase to incidentals
 - viii. overall 1.16% to 1.81% increase for daily total (which includes accommodation, meals and incidentals), with the exception of Hobart which had an 11.26% increase to the daily total
9. The Tribunal has noted that domestic holiday travel and accommodation, within the CPI data, fell by 2.5%.
10. The Tribunal continues to adopt a cautionary approach to inflationary movements.

11. Having regard to these factors, the Tribunal has decided that these allowances should be increased by 1.5%, with effect from 1 January 2024.



Matthew O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Deborah Black
MEMBER



Peter de Cure AM
MEMBER

Dated: 20 November 2023