



No. 13 of 2017

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL
2017 REVIEW OF ACCOMMODATION AND MEAL ALLOWANCES FOR
MINISTERS OF THE CROWN AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. Section 4(1)(c) of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990*, confers jurisdiction on the Remuneration Tribunal to determine electorate allowances and other allowances and expenses for Members of Parliament.
2. Section 3 of the *Remuneration Act 1990*, defines such allowances and expenses as remuneration, and section 8(2) of the Act requires the Tribunal to review previous determinations of remuneration under the Act at least once in each year.
3. The last Determination in relation to accommodation and meal allowances was Determination 12 of 2016.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

4. Section 10(2) of the Act, requires that before the making of a Determination affecting the remuneration of a particular person, or persons of a particular class, the Tribunal must allow that person, or persons of that class, a reasonable opportunity to make submissions.
5. The Tribunal wrote to the Premier, as the Minister responsible for the Act, and the members of the Parliament on 9 October 2017, notifying of the Tribunal's intention to review Determination 12 of 2016, and inviting submissions with a closing date of 31 October 2017. A notice of the review was also placed on the Tribunal's public website. No submissions were received by the Tribunal.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEAL ALLOWANCES FOR MINISTERS OF THE CROWN AND THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

6. The allowances under consideration for Ministers of the Crown and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, are provided for the purpose of accommodation and meal expenses associated with travelling in an official capacity within South Australia and interstate.
7. The Tribunal has had regard to increases in accommodation and meal allowances applicable within the South Australian public sector. The Tribunal has also considered increases in the costs of the relevant goods and services, including movements in the Consumer Price Index¹ for South Australia.

¹ As published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, series 6401.0.

8. The Tribunal is of the view that justification exists to increase these allowances. The Tribunal will issue a Determination accordingly.
9. For greater clarity, the Tribunal has made a minor adjustment to the text of the accompanying Determination at paragraph (2), which establishes the basis of the entitlement.

COUNTRY MEMBERS ACCOMMODATION ALLOWANCE

10. The Country Members Accommodation Allowance is provided to a Member of either House of Parliament whose usual place of residence is more than 75 kilometres by road (by the most direct route) from the Adelaide General Post Office ("GPO"), and who is required to stay in Adelaide overnight in order to attend to either parliamentary duties or the Member's duty to be actively involved in community affairs. A modest level of allowance is also provided to a Member whose permanent residence is outside metropolitan Adelaide but who does not qualify for the existing accommodation allowance because they do not live more than 75 kilometres from the GPO.
11. Having regard to the increased accommodation allowances granted to the South Australian public sector, the Tribunal is of the view that justification exists to increase the allowances for Country Members of Parliament.
12. The Tribunal will therefore issue the accompanying Determination to provide equivalent increases to the accommodation allowances for Country Members of Parliament.



John Lewin
PRESIDENT



Peter Alexander
MEMBER



Pamela Martin
MEMBER

Dated this 22nd day of November 2017