



No. 16 of 2022

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

2022 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 9 of 2021¹ 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 2.5%. The Tribunal has issued an accompanying determination, which applies from 1 January 2023.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

3. On 22 June 2022, in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the *Remuneration Act 1990 (Act)*, the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 19 August 2022 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
4. The Tribunal also advertised its intention to review this, and other determinations applicable to members of Parliament, on its website from 22 June 2022. Submissions were also invited by 19 August 2022.
5. On 16 August 2022, the Premier's representative confirmed that no submission would be made. No other submissions were received in respect of this review.

¹ Per Diem Accommodation and Meal Allowances for Ministers of the Crown and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

CONSIDERATIONS

6. 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.
7. 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. 3.3% for December 2021
 - ii. 4.7% for March 2022
 - iii. 6.4% for June 2022
 - iv. 8.4% for September 2022.
 - b. As at November 2022 the Reserve Bank of Australia forecast of the Consumer Price Index is:
 - i. 8% for December 2022 quarter
 - ii. 6.3% for June 2023
 - iii. 4.7% for December 2023
 - iv. 4.2% for June 2024
 - v. 3.2% for December 2024.
8. The Tribunal has noted the steps being taken to reduce the current inflationary trend and has adopted a cautionary approach to recognition of inflationary movements.
9. The Tribunal has also had regard to the Australian Taxation Office Taxation Determinations 2021/6 and 2022/10, which respectively set for taxation purposes reasonable accommodation, meal and incidental expenses for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 income years. The Tribunal has noted the following percentage changes between those respective Taxation Determinations, for the highest earners:
 - a. 0% increase to accommodation costs for all capital cities, and most country centres
 - b. 1.9% increase to breakfast costs
 - c. 1.8% increase to lunch and dinner costs
 - d. 3.6% increase to incidentals
 - e. overall 0.8% to 1% increase for daily total (which includes accommodation, meals and incidentals)
10. Having regard to these factors, the Tribunal has decided that these allowances should be increased by 2.5%, with effect from 1 January 2023.



Matthew O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Deborah Black
MEMBER



Peter de Cure AM
MEMBER

Dated: 14 December 2022