

# REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

Determination Number 20 of 1998

MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT – REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

– FEDERATION COMMUNITY PROJECTS PROGRAM

Pursuant to sub-sections 7(1) and 7(4) of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*, the Remuneration Tribunal, having inquired into the allowances to be paid out of the public moneys of the Commonwealth to members of the Parliament by reason of their membership of the Parliament or by reason of their holding particular offices, or performing particular functions, in, or in relation to, the Parliament or either House of the Parliament, has inquired into certain entitlements, being matters significantly related thereto, and, notwithstanding Clause 2 of Schedule 3 of the *Remuneration and Allowances Act 1990*, determines as set out hereunder:

1. In addition to the rates of electorate allowance payable in Clause 1.1 of Determination Number 1 of 1998, a Member of the House of Representatives (a member) shall be entitled to be reimbursed up to a maximum amount of \$6,000 for eligible expenditure directly incurred within an electorate during the period 1 June 1998 to 18 December 1998 in the promotion and administration of the Federation Community Projects Program (the program).
2. Where an eligible expense is for an amount of more than \$500.00, a member shall be entitled to submit a claim for direct payment to the supplier of the goods or services by the Department of Communications and the Arts and the maximum amount of reimbursement in clause 1 shall be reduced by the amount of the claim for direct payment.
3. For the purposes of clauses 1 and 2, eligible expenditure is defined as expenditure incurred in:
  - (i) advertising the program, including the design, typesetting, printing, broadcasting and distribution of material that explains the purpose of the program and the process for submitting and assessing projects under the program;
  - (ii) hiring facilities for public meetings or meetings of an Electorate Selection Committee for the purposes of the program;
  - (iii) providing reasonable travel and accommodation for the Chair and Members of an Electorate Selection Committee when engaged on Committee business;
  - (iv) purchasing stationery and postal services for the distribution of information directly attributable to the program; and

- (v) purchasing other services directly attributable to the delivery of the program as approved by the Minister for Communications, the Information Economy and the Arts.
4. Eligible expenditure may include expenditure incurred in the joint promotion of the program in a number of electorates.
  5. Where expenditure is incurred in accordance with clause 4, the members shall apportion a part of the expenditure to each electorate and each member shall seek reimbursement or claim direct payment for the part of the expenditure apportioned to his or her electorate.
  6. A claim seeking reimbursement or claiming direct payment shall be made to the Department of Communications and the Arts in an authorised form and
    - (i) where reimbursement is sought under clause 1, shall be accompanied by an original receipt; or
    - (ii) where direct payment is sought under clause 2, shall be accompanied by an original invoice; or
    - (iii) where reimbursement or direct payment is sought under clause 4, shall be accompanied by either an original receipt or an original invoice for that part of the expenditure apportioned to the member's electorate or a copy of a receipt or invoice and a statement indicating the amount of expenditure apportioned to the member's electorate and the name of the member holding, or claiming against, the original receipt or invoice.
  7. At the close of business on the last day of business on or before the polling day of a double dissolution, general or by-election the unutilised entitlements in accordance with clause 1 shall cease to be available for expenditure by a member.
  8. Subject to clause 9, claims for reimbursement or direct payment in accordance with clauses 1, 2 and 4 must be received by the Department of Communications and the Arts on or before the close of business on the sixth day of January 1999.
  9. Any outstanding claims for expenditure under clauses 1, 2 and 4 incurred prior to the last day of business on or before the polling day of a double dissolution, general or by-election shall be submitted to the Department of Communications and the Arts within ten business days from the polling day of the election.
  10. In exceptional circumstances, such as where a supplier fails to issue an invoice within ten days or where a supplier makes a claim directly to the Department, the Department of Communications and the Arts may make payments against invoices received outside of the timeframe.


11. At the day of election, following the polling day of a double dissolution, general or by-election, a member shall be entitled to that part of the amount specified in clause 1 that has not been utilised for the electorate held by the newly elected or re-elected member.
12. Where a member is elected to an electorate that has changed its boundaries since the first day of June 1998, the amount available under clause 1 for that member shall be calculated taking into account the basis for the redistribution and any unutilised amounts from previous electorates that are now covered by the member's electorate.
13. Where a claim for expenditure is made under clause 1, 2 or 4 of this Determination, a member is not entitled to make a claim for direct payment, reimbursement or taxation deduction under another source or authority for the same expenditure.
14. Procedural rules to give full effect to entitlements set out in clauses 1 to 13 of this Determination shall be such as may be made from time to time by the Minister for Communications, the Information Economy and the Arts."

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July one thousand nine hundred and ninety eight.

Richard G Humphry AO  
President



John C Conde AO  
Member



Trevor Kennedy AM  
Member

