

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

### Determination Number 20 of 1998

#### Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973

1. The Remuneration Tribunal is empowered to inquire into and determine allowances to be paid out of public moneys of the Commonwealth to members of the Parliament and to inquire into and determine matters significantly related thereto.
2. This Determination provides for reimbursement and direct payment of expenditure incurred by a member of the House of Representatives (a member) in his or her electorate during the period 1 June 1998 to 18 December 1998 as a direct result of the member's involvement in the Federation Community Projects program (the program). The program is administered by the Minister for Communications, the Information Economy and the Arts.
3. Clause 1 of this Determination provides the maximum amount of reimbursement for the purposes of the program.
4. Clause 2 provides a member with an entitlement to submit a claim for direct payment by the Department of Communications and the Arts (the Department) of an expenditure amounting to more than \$500.00 and, where any amounts are paid in this way, reduces the maximum amount of reimbursement by those amounts.
5. Clause 3 defines eligible expenditure for the purposes of the program.
6. Clause 4 includes promotions jointly funded in a number of electorates as eligible expenditure for the purposes of the program.
7. Clause 5 provides that where a joint promotion is undertaken by a group of members in their electorates, the expenses incurred are to be divided between each of the electorates and each member shall make a claim for his or her own part of the expenditure.
8. Clause 6 specifies the form in which claims must be made to the Department.
9. Clause 7 ceases the entitlement for expenditure purposes from the close of business on the last day of business before the polling day of an election.
10. Clause 8 specifies the date by which claims must be received by the Department.

11. Clause 9 provides the timeframe within which a member must submit an outstanding claim to the Department in the event of an election. Clause 10 enables the Department to make payments against invoices received outside of the timeframe in exceptional circumstances such as where a supplier fails to issue an invoice within the timeframe or where a supplier makes a claim directly to the Department.
12. Clause 11 entitles a newly elected or re-elected member to any unutilised amounts of entitlement for the electorate now held by the member. Clause 12 provides the manner in which the entitlement will be calculated in circumstances where a member is elected to an electorate that has changed its boundaries.
13. Clause 13 prevents a member from making a claim for direct payment, reimbursement or taxation deduction of expenses, against any other source or authority for the same expenses that are claimed under clauses 1, 2 or 4 of this Determination.
14. Clause 14 enables the Minister for Communications, the Information Economy and the Arts to make procedural rules to give full effect to the entitlements set out in clauses 1 to 13 of this Determination.

Authority: Sub-sections 7(1) and  
7(4) of the *Remuneration  
Tribunal Act 1973*.