



REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

Determination 2000/02: Parliamentary allowances for expenses of office

This Determination governs allowances for expenses of office for parliamentarians. It comprises:

- (a) Part A – General;
- (b) Part B – Travelling allowance and related matters; and
- (c) Part C – Allowances for other expenses of office and related matters.

PART A - GENERAL

- A1 This Determination is issued pursuant to the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*, sections 7(1) and 7(4).
- A2 This Determination amends Determinations 1998/8 and 1998/26 as specified, with effect on and from 1 May 2000 except where specified otherwise.
- A3 Procedural rules to give full effect to all entitlements set out in this Determination shall be such as may be made from time to time by the Special Minister of State.
- A4 Unless the contrary intention appears, annual entitlements provided under Determination 1998/26 that are varied by this Determination will be provided within a financial year on a pro rata basis calculated by the formula set out in section 6 of the *Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990*.

PART B - TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE AND RELATED MATTERS

- B1 In this Part, Determination 1998/08, as amended, is referred to as the Principal Determination.
- B2 Part 2 of the Principal Determination is amended:
 - (a) in Clause 1(e), by deleting the words "in exceptional circumstances"; and
 - (b) by deleting Clauses 10(j) and 10A.

- B3 Part 2 of the Principal Determination is further amended by deleting Clause 13(d) to 13(i) and inserting the following table and footnote, with effect from 1 January 2000:

Chamber	State or Territory / Electorate	Overnight stays a year
Senators	Except from the Northern Territory	6
	from the Northern Territory ^a	66
Members	Electorate of less than 20,000 km ²	12
	Electorate of 20,000 to 99,999 km ²	20
	Electorate of 100,000 to 499,999 km ²	30
	Electorate of 500,000 to 999,999 km ²	45
	Electorate of 1,000,000 km ² or more	66

a. Subject to review if the total representation from the Northern Territory exceeds three.

- B4 Part 2 of the Principal Determination is amended in Clause 14 after the words "A senator or member from the Australian Capital Territory" by inserting "or a member representing an electorate adjacent to the Australian Capital Territory and whose principal place of residence is within a 30 kilometre radius of Parliament House".

PART C – ALLOWANCES FOR OTHER EXPENSES OF OFFICE AND RELATED MATTERS

- C1 In this Part, Determination 1998/26, as amended, is referred to as the Principal Determination.

ELECTORATE ALLOWANCE

- C2 The Principal Determination is amended by deleting Clause 1.1 and inserting:

1.1 The rates of electorate allowance payable to senators and members are as follows:

Chamber	State or Territory / Electorate	Annual rate effective on and from 1 January 2000
Senators	all States and Territories	\$27,300
Members	Electorate of less than 2,000 km ²	\$27,300
	Electorate of 2,000 to 4,999 km ²	\$32,450
	Electorate of 5,000 km ² or more	\$39,600

TRAVEL ENTITLEMENTS – SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT

Senators and Members

- C3 The Principal Determination is amended by deleting Clause 2.2(c) and 2.2A.
- C4 The Principal Determination is further amended by deleting Clause 2.4 and inserting the following:

- 2.4 Additional travel on scheduled commercial/commuter air services at Commonwealth expense shall be authorised in the following circumstances:
- (a) in the case of a senator or member for the Northern Territory, travel to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island on electorate business;
 - (b) in the case of the member for Canberra and senators of the Australian Capital Territory, travel to Norfolk Island on electorate business;
 - (c) in the case of the Leader of a recognised party of at least 5 members in the Parliament, travel within Australia and to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Norfolk Island on functions or duties connected with the office of Leader; and
 - (d) in the case of a senator or member who is a member of a parliamentary committee, travel to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Norfolk Island on committee business.

Family and Spouse travel within Australia

- C5 The Principal Determination is amended by deleting Clauses 2.7 to 2.25 and associated headings and inserting the following, with effect on and from 1 May 2000:

Definitions

- 2.7 For the purposes of clauses 2.7 to 2.25:

"dependent child" means:

- (a) a person under the age of 16 who:
 - (i) is in the custody, care and control of the senator or member, or is a person to whom the senator or member has access; or
 - (ii) where no other person has the custody, care and control of the person - is wholly or substantially in the care and control of the senator or member; or
- (b) a person who is aged at least 16 but is under 25 and is wholly or substantially dependent on the senator or member.

"designated person" means a person or persons (not being a dependent child, spouse or nominee or a member of the staff of the senator or member) nominated by the senator or member who:

- (a) is substantially dependent on the senator or member; or
- (b) has significant caring responsibilities for:
 - (i) a person substantially dependent on the senator or member; or
 - (ii) the senator's or member's spouse, nominee, or dependent child; or
- (c) is any other member of the senator's or member's family.

"year" means a period commencing 1 July and ending on the following 30 June.

"interstate trip" means a trip:

- (a) from one state to another state or territory; or
- (b) from a territory to a state or territory.

"nominee" means a person (other than a member of the staff of the senator or member) nominated by the senator or member and approved at the discretion of the Special Minister of State; a senator or member may only have one nominee at any time.

Entitlement

- 2.8 Subject to clauses 2.9 to 2.25, a senator or member is entitled to be accompanied or joined at Commonwealth expense by any one or more of the following:
- (a) a spouse or a nominee;
 - (b) any dependent child;
 - (c) any designated person.

Conditions and Limits on Commonwealth Expense of Travel

- 2.9 On scheduled commercial transport, a spouse or nominee may travel at Commonwealth expense at the same class of travel as a senator or member.
- 2.10 On scheduled commercial transport, a dependent child may only travel at Commonwealth expense at economy class, but may travel at the same class of travel as their parent if they are under the age of 12 and travelling with their parent. Such travel may be commenced and/or terminated at the nearest terminal to a child's school rather than the nearest terminal to a child's home if the cost is no more than the cost of travel between the home and Canberra.
- 2.11 On scheduled commercial transport, a designated person may only travel at Commonwealth expense at economy class, but may travel at the same class of travel as the senator or member if:
- (a) they are under the age of 12 or accompanying a dependent child under the age of 12; and
 - (b) they are travelling with the senator or member or his or her spouse or nominee.
- 2.12 Where the spouse or nominee of, or designated person in relation to, a senator or member from:
- (a) Western Australia;
 - (b) the Northern Territory; or
 - (c) Queensland at least 1,100 kms flight distance from Brisbane
- travels to or from Canberra with a dependent child or dependent children, the journey may be broken by one stop-over of one night in a capital city, provided the journey to or from Canberra is completed.
- 2.13 The entitlement under clause 2.8 is limited to travel by:
- (a) scheduled commercial services by any mode of transport; or
 - (b) special purpose (Defence) aircraft the use of which has been approved by the Minister for Defence before the particular travel.
- 2.14 Other than for travel within clause 2.12 and 2.13(b), the Commonwealth expense of travel, by air or surface transport, by the spouse or nominee, dependent child or designated person is limited to the cost of the most direct route to the intended destination for the mode of transport used.
- 2.15 A trip is deemed to be a trip in a year only if commenced in that year. If the maximum number of trips in each year is not taken, the untaken trips will not be added to the maximum number of trips in any later year.

Travel by Spouse or Nominee

- 2.16 Apart from additional trips which may be gained through the pooling arrangements in clause 2.22, the spouse or nominee of a senator or member other than a senator or member from the Australian Capital Territory may travel on a maximum of 12 trips in each year at Commonwealth expense as follows:-
- (a) on a maximum of 9 return trips each year:
 - (i) to Canberra; or
 - (ii) from Canberra to the senator's or member's electorate; or
 - (iii) from the spouse's principal place of residence to the senator's or member's electorate; and
 - (b) on 3 return interstate trips each year.
- 2.17 The spouse or nominee of a senator or member from the Australian Capital Territory may travel at Commonwealth expense on 3 return interstate trips each year.

Travel by Dependent Children

- 2.18 Apart from additional trips which may be gained through the pooling and substitution arrangements in clauses 2.21, 2.22 and 2.23, each dependent child of a senator or member may travel at Commonwealth expense on a maximum of three return trips to Canberra each year.

Travel by Designated Persons

- 2.19 A designated person may travel at Commonwealth expense pursuant to the pooling and substitution arrangements in clauses 2.21, 2.22 and 2.23.

Pooling and Conversion of Entitlement

- 2.20 A spouse or nominee may convert all of the Canberra trips and the interstate trips to intrastate trips; the basis of conversion being one trip for one trip.
- 2.21 A trip available for a spouse or nominee may be used instead for a dependent child or designated person. Such a trip shall be counted as one of the trips contemplated in clauses 2.16 and 2.17 but shall be at Commonwealth expense only to the extent of the cost of the trip if it had been taken by the spouse or nominee.
- 2.22 For the purposes of this clause the cost to the Commonwealth of trips to Canberra in respect of a spouse or a nominee and a dependent child or dependent children will be the cost of business class travel. The cost to the Commonwealth of trips to Canberra in respect of a spouse or a nominee and a dependent child or dependent children may be "pooled" and used at the discretion of a senator or member for additional trips to Canberra for any one or more of the following:
- (a) a spouse or a nominee;
 - (b) a dependent child;
 - (c) a designated person.
- 2.23 A senator or member may convert all of the Canberra trips and the interstate trips for a spouse or a nominee from business class to economy class travel so as to use the savings to provide additional trips to Canberra for dependent children or designated persons.

Representational Travel

2.24 Where a senator or member has an entitlement to travel under the provisions of this Determination and is prevented by illness or parliamentary or family reasons from attending one of the functions set out below, then the senator or member may be represented by his or her spouse or nominee at:

- (a) a funeral;
- (b) a function where the spouse or nominee accepts an award or honour on behalf of the senator or member;
- (c) a function within the electorate to which the senator or member has been invited; or
- (d) any other function as approved by the Special Minister of State.

Such a trip shall be counted as one of the trips contemplated in clauses 2.16 and 2.17.

Additional Travel

2.25 In addition to the entitlement of a senator or member under clause 2.8, the following travel shall be at Commonwealth expense:

- (a) travel by the senator's or member's spouse or nominee in order to attend an official government, parliamentary or vice-regal function as an invitee; and
- (b) travel to Canberra by the spouse of a sitting senator or member who has satisfied the qualifying periods for the issue of a Life Gold Pass, where the travel is to accompany or join the senator or member.

CAR TRANSPORT

Senators and Members

C6 The Principal Determination is amended by deleting Clause 3.5 and inserting the following:

3.5 If, pursuant to clause 3.3, a senator or member is provided with a short-term self-drive car in Canberra on the weekend, he or she may use the car for private purposes but will meet fuel costs of such usage. The car may not be used for commercial purposes.

C7 The Principal Determination is amended by inserting the following after Clause 3.13:

Dependent Children and Designated Persons

3.14 Dependent children and designated persons may use taxis or hire cars to or from any station or terminal for the purposes of departing on travel at Commonwealth expense under Clauses 2.18 and 2.19 provided that if the dependent child or designated person is under the age of 16 they must be accompanied by a person over the age of 18.

PRIVATE PLATED VEHICLE

C8 The Principal Determination is amended by deleting Clause 5.7 to 5.11 and inserting the following:

5.7 A senator or member provided with a private-plated vehicle may use the vehicle for parliamentary, electorate or official business, family travel and private purposes, but not for commercial purposes.

- 5.8 Effective from 4 December 1999, where a senator or member is provided with a vehicle under clause 5.1 or 5.2 he or she shall meet the personal cost contribution and other provisions in the Executive Vehicle Scheme guidelines for the Senior Executive Service of the Australian Public Service as at 4 December 1999. The provisions of the Executive Vehicle Scheme relating to periods of approved leave, shall not apply.
- 5.9 Where a senator or member is provided with a private-plated vehicle, the Commonwealth shall meet all costs of operating and maintaining that vehicle. Accordingly, when that vehicle is used:
- (a) for travel to which a senator or member (or eligible family member, nominee or designated person) is otherwise entitled by the provisions of this Determination, such as under clauses 2.1, 2.8, 3.1, 3.8, 3.9, 3.12 to 3.14) the other entitlements are voided; and
 - (b) likewise no private vehicle allowance is payable.
- 5.10 When used for private purposes, the vehicle is to be driven only by the senator or member, or a person or persons nominated by the senator or member.

CHARTER AIRCRAFT/DRIVE YOURSELF VEHICLES

C9 The Principal Determination is amended by deleting clause 6.2 and inserting the following:

6.2 Subject to clause 6.3,

- (i) a senator to whom one of the following criteria applies shall be entitled, at Commonwealth expense, to use charter transport within and for the service of his or her State or Territory to the limits specified; or
- (j) a member of an electorate to whom one of the following criteria applies shall be entitled, at Commonwealth expense, to use charter transport within and for the service of his or her electorate to the limits specified;

effective on and from 1 January 2000

Chamber	State or Territory / Electorate	Maximum Annual Reimbursement
Senators	Northern Territory ^a	\$54,250
	Queensland or Western Australia	\$21,850
	New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia or Tasmania	\$12,250
Members	300,000 km ² or more	\$54,250
	125,000 to 299,999 km ²	\$34,650
	100,000 to 124,999 km ²	\$29,550
	25,000 to 99,999 km ²	\$19,200
	10,000 to 24,999 km ²	\$9,450

a. Subject to review if the total representation from the Northern Territory exceeds three.

C10 The Principal Determination is further amended deleting clause 6.8(c) and inserting the following:

- (c) for public interest reasons, and/or
- (d) to enable a senator or member to be accompanied by a dependent child or dependent children under 25.

C11 The Principal Determination is further amended by deleting clause 6.9 with effect from 1 July 2000 and renumbering Clause 6.10 to 6.9.

LIFE GOLD PASS

C12 The Principal Determination is further amended by deleting clause 7.2(i) and inserting the following:

7.2(i)

Office	Qualifying Period
Prime Minister	One year
Ministers (other than Parliamentary Secretaries)	Six years
President of the Senate	Six years
Speaker of the House of Representatives	Six years
Leader of the Opposition	Six years
Parliamentary Secretaries and Senators and Members	Twenty years or the life of seven Parliaments

C13 The Principal Determination is further amended by deleting Clause 7.4 and inserting the following:

7.4 A Life Gold Pass holder shall be entitled to be accompanied or joined by his or her spouse at Commonwealth expense at the same class of travel as for a sitting senator or member. This provision does not apply to metropolitan rail, bus and tram services.

OFFICE FACILITIES

C14 The Principal Determination is amended by deleting clauses 10.1 to 10.4 and inserting the following, with effect from the next billing period:

Telephones in private residence(s)

10.1 A senator or member shall be entitled have access to the following at Commonwealth expense:

- (a) two telephone lines, including rental, transfer and call costs in their private residence(s); and
- (b) installation, maintenance and rental of an answering service or equipment of a type specified by the Special Minister of State.

Telephone Services Charge Card

C15 The Principal Determination is further amended by deleting clauses 10.5 and inserting the following:

10.2 A senator or member shall be issued with a Telephone Services Charge Card at Commonwealth expense. The card may only be used by the senator or member personally to make telephone calls on parliamentary or electorate business.

Information Delivery Services

C16 The Principal Determination is further amended by deleting clauses 10.6 to 10.7 and inserting the following, with effect from 1 January 2000:

10.3 Subject to clauses 10.4 to 10.9, a senator or member shall be entitled to use commercial services for the distribution of letters, newsletters and parcels and electronic services at Commonwealth expense in relation to parliamentary or electorate (but not party) business, up to a maximum of \$25,000 each financial year.

C17 The Principal Determination is further amended by deleting clauses 10.12 to 10.13 and renumbering clauses 10.8 to 10.15.

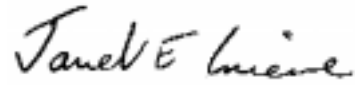
Signed this ~~4th~~ day of May 2000



Richard Humphry
PRESIDENT



John C Conde
MEMBER



Janet Grieve
MEMBER

