



REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

Explanatory Statement: Determination 2000/11: Parliamentary allowances for expenses of office

The Remuneration Tribunal has inquired into and determined allowances for expenses of office for parliamentarians, as it is empowered to do by the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973* ("the Act").

Part A – General

Part A specifies the authority for and the date of effect of the determination and administration matters.

Part B – Travelling Allowance and related matters

Part B deals with Travelling Allowance and related matters.

- B1 Clause B1 specifies the Principal Determination (Number 8 of 1998) for the purposes of Part B of the Determination.
- B2 Clause B3 is similar to existing clause 13. It modifies clause 13(c) to link the rate of travelling allowance payable to the other than capital city rate for senators and members, which is determined by the Tribunal from time to time.

It also increases the number of overnight stays for travel for which travelling allowance may be paid for the Electorate of Kalgoorlie, from 66 to 75 nights a year.

Part C – Allowances for other expenses of office and related matters

Part C deals with allowances for expenses of office and related matters other than Travelling Allowance.

- C1 Clause C1 specifies the Principal Determination (Number 26 of 1998) for the purposes of Part C of the Determination.
- C2 Clause C2 modifies existing Clause 3.14 to make clear that dependent children and designated persons may transfer by taxis and hire car to and from any station or terminal when travelling under the family travel provisions.
- C3 Clause C3 entitles members representing electorates of 300,000 or more square kilometres to a four wheel drive vehicle in lieu of the entitlement to an Australian made, private plated standard vehicle. Where a member requests a four wheel drive vehicle in accordance with this entitlement, the Commonwealth will meet any the difference between the lease cost of an Australian made, private plated standard vehicle and a four wheel drive vehicle.
- C4 Clause C4 is similar to existing Clause 6.2 and increases the maximum level of reimbursement a year for members representing electorates of 300,000 or more square kilometres. The increase is equal to the average lease cost of a four wheel drive vehicle and follows review of the Charter Aircraft entitlement.
- C5 Clause C5 extends the carryover period for the Charter Aircraft entitlement, for all categories, from one financial year to the next, from three to 12 months from

1 July 2000.

C6 Clause C6 makes a number of changes to the Information Delivery Services entitlement.

New Clauses 10.1 and 10.2 are identical to existing Clauses 10.1 and 10.2.

The Information Delivery Services entitlement has been renamed Communications Allowance to better reflect that the purpose of the Allowance is to enable senators and members to communicate with their constituents. Consistent with this purpose, new Clause 10.3 has been amended to make clear that the senators and members may use the Allowance to establish and maintain web sites.

New Clause 10.3 also introduces a new category of Communications Allowance of \$28,000 a year for members representing electorates of 50,000 or more square kilometres.

New Clauses 10.4 to 10.9 are identical to existing Clauses 10.4 to 10.9.

C7 Clause C7 enables members representing electorates of 300,000 or more square kilometres to aggregate their Charter Aircraft entitlement and Communications Allowance to meet the costs of either charter transport or information dissemination activities provided for in Clause 10.3. This clause has effect for a trial period commencing from the operative date of this determination. (New Clauses 11.1 and 11.2 refer.)

New Clause 11.3 provides the unused part of the Charter or Communications entitlements to be carried over from one financial year to the next.

New Clause 11.4 specifies the period of operation for Clauses 11.1 to 11.3.

New Clauses 12.1 to 12.3 are identical to Clauses 11.1 to 11.3.

The retrospective application of this determination does not affect the rights of a person (other than the Commonwealth) in a manner prejudicial to that person, nor does it impose any liability on such a person.

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