



REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

Explanatory Memorandum: Determination 2003/14

1. The Remuneration Tribunal has inquired into the allowances and matters significantly related thereto for 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 Parliament, as it is empowered to do by the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*.
2. 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.
3. The Determination replaces in full Determination Number 26 of 1998 as amended (the previous determination) following a review of parliamentary allowances for expenses of office.

ELECTORATE ALLOWANCE

4. Clause 1.1 specifies the rates of electorate allowance payable to senators and members and is unchanged from the previous determination.

TRAVEL ENTITLEMENTS – SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT

5. Clauses 2.1 to 2.26 set out the provisions for travel on scheduled commercial services.
6. The previous determination has been amended in the following manner:
 - the clause regarding the use of charter transport in circumstances where scheduled services would lead to delays has been moved from clause 6.9 (Charter Aircraft) to clause 2.4 (Scheduled Commercial Transport);
 - reference to dependent children travelling in their own right has been included in clause 2.13; and
 - reference to frequent flyer points has been moved to clauses 12.1 and 12.2.

CAR TRANSPORT

7. Clauses 3.1 to 3.16 set out the provisions for the use of car transport at government expense.
8. The previous determination has been amended in the following manner:
 - the provision for senators and members to carry passengers has been included in clauses 3.4 and 3.5; and
 - reference to the Executive Vehicle scheme has been replaced by reference to guidelines developed by the Special Minister of State in clause 3.9.

PRIVATE VEHICLE ALLOWANCE

9. Clauses 4.1 to 4.5 set out the provisions for private vehicle allowance for travel to and from Canberra and are unchanged from the previous determination.

PROVISION OF VEHICLE

10. Clauses 5.1 to 5.10 set out the provisions for private plated vehicles for senators and members.
11. The previous determination has been amended in the following manner:
 - reference to the Executive Vehicle scheme has been replaced by reference to guidelines developed by the Special Minister of State in clause 5.8.

CHARTER AIRCRAFT / DRIVE YOURSELF VEHICLES

12. Clauses 6.1 to 6.8 set out the provisions for charter transport by senators and members and are unchanged from the previous determination.

LIFE GOLD PASS

13. Clauses 7.1 to 7.5 set out the provisions relating to access to the Life Gold Pass provided to former senators and members.
14. The previous determination has been amended in the following manner:
 - aspects of the entitlement that are now prescribed in the *Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) Act 2002* have been removed; and
 - clauses 7.4 and 7.5 have been amended to include reference to the *Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) Act 2002*.

SEVERANCE TRAVEL

15. Clauses 8.1 to 8.4 set out the provisions relating to severance travel by former senators and members.
16. The previous determination has been amended in the following manner:
 - reference to frequent flyer points has been moved to clauses 12.1 and 12.2.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

17. Clauses 9.1 to 9.12 set out the provisions relating to overseas travel by senators and members.
18. The previous determination has been amended in the following manner:
 - additional items that may be claimed for reimbursement under the overseas study travel entitlement have been included in clause 9.1(d);
 - the provision for senators and members to be joined by their spouse has been included in clause 9.1(d);
 - the provision for senators and members to submit their travel statements as soon as is practicable after travel has commenced has been included in clause 9.3;
 - a requirement to submit claims for reimbursement within 90 days of the

completion of the overseas trip has been included in clause 9.6; and

- reference to frequent flyer points has been moved to clauses 12.1 and 12.2.

OFFICE FACILITIES

19. Clauses 10.1 to 10.13 set out the provisions relating to office facilities for senators and members.
20. The previous determination has been amended in the following manner:
 - the provision for a dedicated data line in lieu of a second telephone line has been included at clause 10.2; and
 - the table in new clause 10.4 has been amended to reflect a 10% increase in the Communications Allowance.

AGGREGATING ENTITLEMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF LARGE ELECTORATES

21. Clauses 11.1 to 11.3 set out the framework for the trial of aggregated entitlements and are unchanged from the previous determination.

FREQUENT FLYER POINTS

22. Clauses 12.1 and 12.2 set out the provisions regarding frequent flyer points.
23. The previous determination has been amended in the following manner:
 - the provisions relating to the use of frequent flyer points (clauses 2.26-2.27, 8.5-8.6, and 9.5-9.6 of the previous determination) have been consolidated into clauses 12.1 and 12.2; and
 - frequent flyer points may now be used to offset Commonwealth expenditure under any of the travel clauses in the determination.

GENERAL

24. Clauses 13.1 to 13.3 set out general matters relating to the determination and are the same as clauses 12.1 to 12.3 of the previous determination.

CENTENARY OF FEDERATION PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS

25. The clauses relating to the Centenary of Federation Parliamentary Sittings (clauses 13.1 to 13.13 of the previous determination) have been deleted.

Authority: Sub-sections 7(1), 7(2) and 7(4)
of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*