



REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

Determination 2015/06

Members of Parliament – Base Salary, Additional Salary for Parliamentary Office Holders, and Related Matters

REASONS FOR DETERMINATION

Legislative Framework

Section 7A of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973* (the Act) requires the Tribunal to notify its reasons for each determination made in relation to members of the Parliament of Australia to the Minister and to publish those reasons on the Tribunal's website.

What Determination 2015/06 Does

Determination 2015/06: Members of Parliament – Base Salary, Additional Salary for Parliamentary Office Holders, and Related Matters replaces Determination 2014/10 with effect from 11 May 2015.

The new determination:

1. fulfils the Remuneration Tribunal's legislated requirement under section 8(1) of the Act to determine salary for members of the Australian Parliament at periods of not more than one year;
2. determines salary at the same level as in the superseded determination – that is to say, remuneration figures have not been adjusted from 11 May 2015; and
3. removes a redundant phrase from clause 3.4.

There have been no other changes to provisions in the determination.

The Tribunal's Reasons

The Tribunal has a legal requirement to reconsider, and determine, remuneration at periods of not more than one year. There is no obligation, either explicit or implied, for the Tribunal to adjust the amount of remuneration in fulfilling this requirement.

The Tribunal has decided to defer until the second half of the 2015 calendar year its consideration of whether any increases to remuneration for offices in its jurisdiction, including members of Parliament, should be determined. The Tribunal's reasons for its decision are contained in a statement issued on 31 March 2015. To quote from that statement:

"This [deferral] will allow the Tribunal to consider, as it is required to do under its legislation, the outcome of the 2014-15 Annual Wage Review of the Fair Work Commission, due for release in June 2015.

It will also allow the Tribunal to consider the Federal Government's Budget outlook, a range of additional indicators including further Wage Price Index releases from the ABS and data on movements in both private and public sector executive remuneration which are produced annually. Updated economic data from the National Accounts will also be available."

The Tribunal's statements, determinations and reports are available on its website - <http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/>.