



Remuneration Tribunal

Determination 2012/04 – Members of Parliament - Entitlements

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 2012/04 Does

Determination 2012/04 supersedes Determination 2006/18 (as amended). Many of the provisions in 2012/04 have been carried over in their entirety from 2006/18, although 2012/04 is restructured somewhat from 2006/18 to make it more reader friendly.

However, in 2012/04 the Tribunal has abolished the requirement for a member to make minor personal contributions towards a private-plated vehicle and has determined substantial changes to:

- the provision named 'severance travel' in 2006/18, which is now named post-retirement travel in 2012/04; and
- the provision commonly known as overseas study travel; .

The Tribunal's Reasons

At the end of 2011 the Tribunal reviewed a number of issues relating to members of the Parliament of Australia, culminating in the Tribunal, on 15 December 2011, publishing its *Review of the Remuneration of Members of Parliament – Initial Report* (the Report), which is available at:

<http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/statementsreports/MPs%20Report%2015.12.2011.pdf>

In the Report the Tribunal noted that it would review certain issues in future, particularly travel issues that related to parliamentarians. Thus a large number of provisions that existed in 2006/18, including the travel provisions, have been carried forward in their entirety to 2012/04, and will be reviewed by the Tribunal in the future. That is not to assume that the provisions will necessarily be changed at that time.

In the Report the Tribunal foreshadowed that it would cancel the provision requiring a member to make a token personal contribution towards the cost of a private plated vehicle (at paragraph 7.23) and also foreshadowed

specific decisions in relation to severance travel (as it was called in 2006/18) and overseas study travel. The Tribunal set out its reasons for those decisions in paragraphs 7.24 to 7.35 (Severance Travel) and in paragraphs 7.37 to 7.48 (Overseas Study Travel).

The new provisions now determined in 2012/04 in relation to those items are consistent with the decisions foreshadowed in the Report, and the paragraphs specified above provide full reasons.

It is noted that paragraph 7.36 of the Report stated that the Resettlement Allowance provisions would not be further changed as a result of that Report.

Although in 2012/04 the Resettlement Allowance provisions have been rewritten to present the provisions in clearer language, there has been no change to the substantive entitlement.

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

Remuneration Tribunal
13 March 2012