



Remuneration Tribunal

Remuneration of Federal Parliamentarians

Statement

The Tribunal notes that the *Remuneration and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2011* came into operation on 5 August 2011. The Act enables the Tribunal to determine the base salary of parliamentarians amongst other matters.

The Tribunal appreciates the significance and importance of these new responsibilities.

With the agreement of the Special Minister of State, the Hon Gary Gray AO MP, the Tribunal is also to consider the recommendations of the Report of the Committee for the Review of Parliamentary Entitlements ("the Committee").

The Tribunal has stated previously that it considers that existing parliamentary entitlements should be rationalised and separated, as far as applicable, into two distinct streams:

- remuneration (those entitlements which provide a personal financial benefit); and
- business expenses (the costs incurred in undertaking their duties and responsibilities as a parliamentarian).

This will require a comprehensive review; such a review will take some time.

As a first step, consistent with the Committee's recommendations, the Tribunal is conducting, with the assistance of a consultant, an assessment of the work of federal parliamentary backbenchers so as to establish, first, a defensible basis for assessing appropriate remuneration and, secondly, a benchmark for future assessments.

On present indications, the Tribunal expects to make an initial report on parliamentary remuneration towards the end of 2011.

Remuneration Tribunal
30 September 2011

Enquiries

Enquiries may be directed to enquiry@remtribunal.gov.au