



**Remuneration Tribunal**  
***Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament)***  
***Amendment Determination (No. 2) 2019***

**REASONS FOR DETERMINATION**

**Legislative Framework**

Sub-section 47(6) of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act) requires the Tribunal to notify its reasons for each determination made in relation to members of Parliament to the Minister and to publish those reasons on the Tribunal's website.

***What Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Amendment Determination (No. 2) 2019 Does***

*Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Amendment Determination (No. 2) 2019* amends the principal determination, *Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2019*, with effect from 25 August 2019.

The determination sets out new domestic travel allowances for parliamentarians.

**The Tribunal's Reasons**

The Tribunal reviews and updates the travel and motor vehicle allowance rates for offices within its jurisdiction, including parliamentarians, on an annual basis.

The new travel allowance rates for the various locations specified in the determination reflect those set each year by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as reasonable travel expense amounts, with a small number of exceptions detailed below.

The ATO rates are included in Taxation Determination *TD 2019/11: Income Tax: what are the reasonable travel and overtime meal allowance expense amounts for the 2019–20 income year?*

This year most travel allowance rates have increased slightly while a few have decreased.

The Tribunal sets the Canberra travel allowance rate for parliamentarians at a rate discounted by around one third when compared to the ATO's reasonable daily travel expense rate for Canberra. Nevertheless, the Tribunal takes into account increases in the ATO rates, which reflect increases in costs in Canberra, in determining its own Canberra rate. The rate the Tribunal is determining this year, \$291, represents a small increase from the previous rate of \$288.

Where the Commonwealth pays for the accommodation of a Minister a lesser travel allowance rate applies for meals and incidental costs up to a limit of \$188

per day (a small increase from the previous rate of \$184 per day). This limit is based on the highest ATO rate for meals and incidentals.

The Prime Minister's travel allowance rate for each overnight stay in a place other than an official establishment or the Prime Minister's home base will be set at a limit of \$583. This is a small increase from the previous limit of \$577, which the Tribunal bases on the average adjustments in ATO reasonable expense amounts for the eight capital cities.

The private vehicle allowance rate has been maintained at its present rate of 68 cents per kilometre. This allowance aligns with the rate determined by the Commissioner of Taxation for the cents per kilometre method of calculating income tax deductions for work-related car expenses. The current ATO rate is set out in *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 – Cents per Kilometre Deduction rate for Car Expenses 2018* (MVE 2018). The ATO has not adjusted this rate for 2019.

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

## **Remuneration Tribunal**

**16 August 2019**