



REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

Determination 2004/03: OFFICIAL TRAVEL BY OFFICE HOLDERS

This Determination governs provisions applying to office holders who travel on official business. The Determination applies to the following offices in the Tribunal's jurisdiction:

- Judicial and Related Offices;
- Full-time holders of Public Office;
- Part-time Holders of Public Office; and
- Principal Executive Offices (PEOs).

This Determination should be read in conjunction with the principal determination applying to the office held by the office holder.

Office holders are not expected to gain or lose financially as a result of travelling on official business. Office holders must only incur or commit the Commonwealth to meet expenses where funds are lawfully available to do so. Travel may only be undertaken where its purpose is consistent with the duties of the office holder.

The Determination comprises:

Part 1 – General;

Part 2 – Travel on Official Business;

Part 3 –Travel Expenses;

Part 4 –Official Travel by Motor Vehicle; and

Schedule A – Travelling Allowance Rates.

PART 1 – GENERAL

1.1 Authority: The Remuneration Tribunal has made this Determination in accordance with sub-sections 5(2A), 7(3) and 7(4), of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*.

1.2 Effective Date: This Determination takes effect on and from 28 March 2004.

1.3 Effect on Earlier Determinations: This Determination revokes and supersedes Determination 2000/06 – *Travelling Allowance Rates*.

1.4 Relationship with other Determinations: Other Determinations that set out remuneration for offices covered by this Determination, may contain exclusions or

limitations in the application of this Determination to an office or offices. Where there is an inconsistency, the provisions of this Determination will not apply to the extent of the inconsistency.

1.5 Definitions: The following definitions apply in this Determination.

1.5.1 'agency' means the agency to which the office holder is appointed, or the agency that administers the entitlements of the office holder if the office is not part of an agency;

1.5.2 'employer' means the Commonwealth and includes any person authorised to exercise powers, perform acts, grant approvals or give directions for, or on behalf of, the Commonwealth; in respect of Principal Executive Offices it means the employing body;

1.5.3 'home base' means the town or city in which the office holder's principal place of residence is located;

1.5.4 'office holder' means a holder of a public office covered by a Tribunal Determination or a holder of a Principal Executive Office;

1.5.5 'office locality' means the geographic location of the office holders usual place of work on official business;

1.5.6 'official business' means business pertaining to or required by the duties of the office holder's office;

1.5.7 'partner' means any person who lives with the office holder on a genuine domestic basis as the partner of the office holder;

1.5.8 'SES employee' has the same meaning as under the *Public Service Act 1999* and includes equivalent offices where the agency is staffed outside the Public Service Act; and

1.5.9 'spouse' means husband or wife.

1.6 Official travel: Where an office holder is required to travel for official business away from their office locality, or home base in respect of a part-time office holder, the provisions of this Determination apply.

1.7 No double payment: Where the office holder claims or receives travelling allowance or reimbursement of travelling expenses under any other source or entitlement for the same travel, no payment of travelling allowance or expenses will be made under this Determination.

1.8 Value for money: Office holders are expected to have regard to the principle of value for money when travelling at Commonwealth expense. In making travel arrangements, they are to consider:

- the most cost-effective outcome (the 'best deal' for the taxpayer);
- the total cost of travel, including the opportunity cost associated with travel times; and
- the need to maintain an appropriate balance between work and home responsibilities.

1.9 Agency Guidelines: Office holders should comply with the travel-related administrative guidelines put in place by their agency.

1.10 Accompanied Travel: An office holder may be entitled to be accompanied by his/her spouse or partner for purposes relating to official business at Commonwealth expense when travelling within Australia or overseas in accordance with this Determination.

1.10.1 Accompanied travel may only occur when the office holder's employer certifies in writing that it is demonstrably in the interest of the Commonwealth, given the purpose of the travel, for the office holder to be accompanied by his/her spouse or partner.

1.10.2 Where the office holder's spouse or partner accompanies him/her, the spouse or partner may travel at the same class of travel as the office holder.

PART 2 – TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS

2.1 Class of Travel: Where an office holder travels on official business he or she is entitled to travel at the class of travel set out in Table 2A below, according to the travel Tier specified for the office held by the office holder.

Table 2A – Standard of Travel

Travel Tier of Office	Class of Travel	
	Within Australia	Overseas
Tier 1	Highest available	First class
Tier 2	Business class	Business class
Tier 3	Economy class	Economy class

2.2 Upgrade – Accompanying travel: An office holder may upgrade his or her class of travel in order to accompany a person travelling at a higher class of travel where it is demonstrably in the interest of the Commonwealth to do so.

2.3 Upgrade – lengthy flight: An office holder who is entitled to travel Economy Class may upgrade to Business Class (for domestic and international travel) where the duration of the flight exceeds five hours.

2.4 Frequent flyer points: Frequent flyer points accrued at the Commonwealth's expense should not be used for private purposes.

2.5 Agency travel provider: Office holders are to use their agency's travel-related preferred provider arrangements where they exist.

PART 3 - TRAVEL EXPENSES

- 3.1 Payment of travel expenses:** Where an office holder travels on official business (refer clause 1.6) which requires an overnight absence, travelling expenses will be met in accordance with the provisions in this Part.
- 3.2 Accompanied accommodation costs:** Where the Commonwealth meets the travel costs of the office holder's spouse or partner accompanying him/her in accordance with clause 1.10 (Accompanied Travel), an additional amount as is vouched as the difference between the cost of a single and double room shall be paid.
- 3.3 Day travel:** Where travel on official business does not require an overnight absence, no travelling allowance is payable.

Travel within Australia - Allowance

- 3.4 Travelling Allowance:** Office holders will be eligible to receive a travelling allowance for each overnight absence while travelling on official business within Australia, based on the rates in Table A1.A of Schedule A to this Determination, subject to the following provisions.
- 3.5 Non-commercial accommodation:** Where an office holder is accommodated in private, non-commercial accommodation, such as the home of a family member or friend, a rate of one third of the specified travelling allowance is payable (rounded upwards to the nearest dollar).
- 3.6 Part Payment of Travelling Allowance:** These provisions apply when an entity other than the office holder meets the cost of accommodation and/or meals and the office holder is otherwise eligible for an accommodation and/or meals allowance under clause 3.4 (*Travelling Allowance*).
- 3.6.1 Accommodation paid for:** Where the cost of accommodation is met by an entity other than the office holder, travelling allowance payable is the relevant 'Total' amount shown in Table A2.A of Schedule A for the travel Tier applying to the office.
- 3.6.2 Meals paid for:** Where the cost of a meal or meals is met by an entity other than the office holder, the amount of travelling allowance should be reduced by the relevant meal amount(s) referred to in Table A2.A of Schedule A.
- 3.7 Unavoidable higher accommodation cost:** Where an employer certifies that an office holder is required to obtain high cost accommodation, an additional payment may be made to the office holder in accordance with the following.
- (a) The requirement must be due to the unavailability of accommodation of a reasonable standard at a locality, which would have avoided this additional payment.
- (b) The additional payment will be based on the excess cost of accommodation over the travel allowance rate, after deducting the relevant 'Total' amount shown in Table A2.A of Schedule A (*meals and incidentals*).
- (c) The additional payment will be calculated on accommodation expenses and travel allowance for the entire trip.

- 3.8 Additional meals:** Where an office holder is absent for a greater number of meal periods than that covered by the travelling allowance payment (the rate covers 3 meals per day) and provides evidence that actual meal costs exceeded the meal component for the absence, payment at the rates set out in Table A2.A of Schedule A may be made for the additional meal(s).

Travel Overseas

- 3.9 Accommodation:** When travelling overseas on official business, an office holder is entitled to accommodation at Commonwealth expense. Accommodation should be at a standard reasonably equivalent to that provided for the office holder in Australia.
- 3.10 Meals and Incidentals:** Rates for meals and incidentals are to be paid in accordance with the overseas meals and incidentals rates published annually by the Australian Taxation Office in its taxation ruling dealing with reasonable travelling allowances amounts (the ATO Ruling).
- 3.10.1** For the purposes of this clause, Tiers 1, 2 and 3 will correspond to the highest, middle and lowest salary levels respectively, specified in the ATO Ruling table that deals with the matter.

PART 4 – OFFICIAL TRAVEL BY MOTOR VEHICLE

- 4.1 Vehicle travel:** The following arrangements apply to the use of vehicles where the office holder is not supplied with a vehicle by the agency that can be used for the purposes of travel on official business.
- 4.2 Use of vehicle:** An office holder may choose to hire a vehicle or use his or her own vehicle to travel on official business where it is demonstrably in the interest of the Commonwealth to do so. In such circumstances the Commonwealth will:
- a) meet the cost of a rental vehicle; or
 - b) pay the private vehicle costs calculated in accordance with Table 4A where a private vehicle is used for the journey.

Table 4A – Motor Vehicle Allowance

Engine Capacity (non-rotary)	Engine Capacity (rotary)	Rate Cents per kilometre
Above 2,600 cc	Above 1,300 cc	61
1,601 to 2,600 cc	801 to 1,300 cc	60
1,600 cc or less	800 cc or less	50

- 4.3 Agency vehicle:** These provisions do not apply to any journey commenced from the home base of an office holder where he or she is provided with an agency vehicle at that home base.

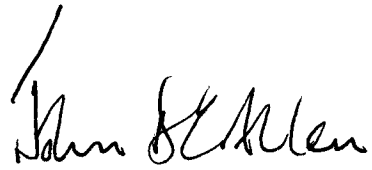
Signed this 8th of March 2004



John C Conde AO
PRESIDENT



Janet Grieve
MEMBER



John D C Allen
MEMBER

SCHEDULE A

REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE RATES

A1. Travelling Allowance Rates: The Travelling Allowance rates set out in Table A1.A will apply from 28 March 2004, in accordance with the provisions of Part 3 (*Travel Expenses*) of this Determination.

Table A1.A – Rates of Travelling Allowance (Accommodation, meals and incidentals) per overnight absence.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
	TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
CAPITAL CITIES			
Adelaide	\$300	\$249	\$208
Brisbane	\$370	\$242	\$202
Canberra	\$300	\$227	\$186
Darwin	\$300	\$245	\$203
Hobart	\$300	\$217	\$190
Melbourne	\$370	\$274	\$236
Perth	\$370	\$230	\$203
Sydney	\$370	\$278	\$239
COUNTRY CENTRES			
Non- Specified Country Centres (ie not specified below)	\$196	\$171	\$146
NORTHERN TERRITORY			
Alice Springs	\$210	\$190	\$171
Jabiru	\$275	\$275	\$256
Nhulunbuy	\$226	\$226	\$207
Yulara	\$466	\$466	\$447
QUEENSLAND			
Cairns	\$196	\$186	\$158
Gold Coast	\$210	\$207	\$188
Horn Island (QLD)	\$213	\$213	\$194
Thursday Island (QLD)	\$235	\$235	\$216
Weipa	\$220	\$220	\$201
NEW SOUTH WALES			
Bathurst	\$196	\$186	\$158
Gosford	\$196	\$186	\$158
Maitland	\$196	\$186	\$158

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
	TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
Newcastle	\$290	\$192	\$173
Orange	\$196	\$186	\$158
Wagga Wagga	\$196	\$186	\$158
Wollongong	\$210	\$190	\$171
VICTORIA			
Bendigo	\$196	\$186	\$158
SOUTH AUSTRALIA			
Marla	\$196	\$186	\$158
Wilpena	\$210	\$200	\$181
WESTERN AUSTRALIA			
Broome	\$221	\$221	\$202
Dampier	\$210	\$196	\$177
Exmouth	\$210	\$197	\$178
Geraldton	\$196	\$186	\$158
Halls Creek	\$196	\$186	\$158
Kalgoorlie	\$210	\$191	\$172
Karratha	\$251	\$251	\$232
Kununurra	\$210	\$203	\$184
Newman	\$218	\$218	\$199
Northam	\$210	\$190	\$171
Paraburdoo	\$222	\$222	\$203
Pt Hedland	\$214	\$214	\$195
Tom Price	\$210	\$195	\$176
Wyndham	\$196	\$186	\$158
TASMANIA			
Burnie	\$196	\$186	\$158
Devonport	\$210	\$193	\$174
Launceston	\$210	\$189	\$170
EXTERNAL TERRITORIES			
Christmas Island	\$210	\$205	\$186
Cocos (Keeling) Island	\$210	\$205	\$186
Norfolk Island	\$210	\$204	\$185

A2. Meal and Incidental Components: The rates set out in Table A2.A provide the relevant meal and incidental components of the Travelling Allowance rates set out in Table A1.A. These rates are specified for the purposes of clauses 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.

A2.1 The rates in Columns 3 and 5 of Table A2.A apply to Non-specified country centres and the centres listed in Table A2.B below.

Table A2.A – Meals and Incidentals Components

Column 1	Col. 2	Col. 3	Col. 4	Col. 5
	(refer to clause A2.1)		(refer to clause A2.1)	
	Tiers 1 and 2		Tier 3	
Breakfast	\$20	\$18	\$18	\$16
Lunch	\$27	\$18	\$20	\$18
Dinner	\$38	\$35	\$34	\$31
Incidentals	\$20	\$20	\$14	\$14
Total	\$105	\$91	\$86	\$79

Table A2. B –Country Centres (refer clause A2.1)

Country Centre	Country Centre
Bathurst (NSW)	Halls Creek (WA)
Bendigo (Vic)	Maitland (NSW)
Burnie (Tas)	Marla (SA)
Cairns (Qld)	Orange (NSW)
Gosford (NSW)	Wagga Wagga (NSW)
Geraldton (WA)	Wyndham (WA)