Remuneration Tribunal

Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Amendment Determination (No. 3) 2025

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. 3) 2025 does

Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Amendment Determination (No. 3) 2025 amends the principal determination, Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2024.

Schedule 1 sets out new domestic travel allowances for parliamentarians.

The determination takes effect from 7 September 2025.

The Tribunal's Reasons

Domestic Travel Allowances

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

The 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 set out in Taxation Determination TD 2025/4: Income Tax: what are the reasonable travel and overtime meal allowance expense amounts for the 2025–26 income year?

The Tribunal sets the Canberra travel allowance rate for parliamentarians at a discounted rate when compared to the ATO's reasonable daily travel expense rate for Canberra. Consistent with the methodology applied for other office holders in its jurisdiction, the Tribunal agreed the existing rate for the Canberra travel allowance should be adjusted by the average percentage increase in the relevant ATO rates from the year of the last increase (2024) to the current year. The rate the Tribunal is determining this year, $322, represents a modest increase from the 2024 rate of $318.

Similarly, the Tribunal agreed the existing rate of the Prime Minister's travel allowance should be adjusted by the average percentage increase in the relevant ATO rates from the year of the last increase to the current year. 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 $641. This is based on the average adjustments in ATO reasonable expense amounts for the eight capital cities since it last adjusted this rate. The previous limit was $627.

Where the Commonwealth pays for the accommodation of a Minister, travel allowance for meals and incidental costs up to a limit of $223 per day will be available. This limit is based on the highest ATO rate for meals and incidentals.

The Tribunal adjusted the rates used to calculate the higher rate of travel allowance to be paid where a parliamentarian is required to pay unavoidably higher accommodation expenses due to accessibility requirements. The rates used are based on the 2 highest ATO rates for meals and incidentals, of $223 per day and $203 per day, respectively.

The Tribunal generally aligns its private vehicle allowance rate 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 – Cents per Kilometre Deduction Rate for Car Expenses Determination 2024. The private vehicle allowance rate for 2025–26 remains 88 cents per kilometre.

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

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16 August 2025