



Remuneration Tribunal

Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2026

REASONS FOR DETERMINATION

Legislative Framework

Subsection 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) Determination 2026 does

Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2026 supersedes and revokes in full Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2024, which sets out remuneration and allowance provisions for members of Parliament, allowance and expense provisions for former members of Parliament and allowance provisions for the estates of persons who die while a member of Parliament.

The determination has been redrafted to improve clarity and readability and to reflect standard Commonwealth drafting practices. This has included changes to the structure and formatting of the determination, as well as the reorganisation and rewording of certain provisions. The determination replicates the effect of the provisions of the previous principal determination, and also:

- establishes office holder's salary for the office of Manager of minority party Business in the Senate
- updates the name of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade
- provides for the cost of an additional fixed internet and telephone service at the private residence in Canberra of the leader of the third largest party in the House of Representatives
- sets out updated domestic travel allowance rates for parliamentarians.

Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2026 commences on 30 August 2026.

The Tribunal's reasons

The Tribunal is required to make determinations in respect of remuneration for members of Parliament at least once each year. The Tribunal last issued a determination adjusting parliamentary remuneration on 18 June 2025.

Office holder's salary

In June 2026, the Special Minister of State amended the Parliamentary Business Resources (Office Holder) Determination 2017 to include the office of Manager of minority party Business in the Senate, where the party has at least 10 members in the Senate, with effect from 26 June 2026.

On 13 July 2026, the Tribunal agreed to determine office holder's salary of 12% of parliamentary base salary for the office with effect from 26 June 2026. In making this decision, the Tribunal took into account information received from the Special Minister of State on the role and responsibilities of the office.

Committee name

On 2 July 2026, the resolution of appointment of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade was updated. The determination reflects the amended committee name, the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, in the table of offices for which office holder's salary is payable.

Internet and telephone services

On 4 August 2026, the Tribunal agreed to extend eligibility for the cost of an additional fixed internet and telephone service to the office holder's private residence in Canberra to the Leader of the third largest party in the House of Representatives. This is consistent with the Tribunal's recent decision on office holder's salary and travel allowance for the office, and with arrangements for comparable offices.

Domestic travel allowances

The Tribunal reviews the travel and motor vehicle allowance rates for parliamentarians on an annual basis. The travel allowance rates for the various locations specified in the determination reflect those set by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as reasonable travel expense amounts for 2026–27, with a small number of exceptions.

Traditionally, the Tribunal sets the allowance rate for parliamentarians for overnight stays in Canberra at a lower rate than that received by other office holders. In 2026, the Tribunal has decided to align the parliamentarians' Canberra rate with the rate determined for office holders with Tier 3 travel entitlements. From 30 August 2026, this rate will be \$349 per night.

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 \$652. This is based on the average increase in ATO reasonable expense amounts for the 8 capital cities since last year. It was previously \$641.

Where the Commonwealth pays for the accommodation of a Minister, travel allowance for meals and incidentals of up to a limit of \$228 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 travel allowance payable where a parliamentarian is required to pay unavoidably higher accommodation

expenses due to accessibility requirements. The rates are based on the 2 highest ATO rates for meals and incidentals, of \$228 per day and \$209 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. From 30 August 2026, the private vehicle allowance rate is 91 cents per kilometre.

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

Remuneration Tribunal

22 August 2026