



## **Remuneration Tribunal**

### ***Determination 2017/16*** ***Members of Parliament – Travelling Allowance***

#### **REASONS FOR DETERMINATION**

##### **Legislative Framework**

Section 7A of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973* (the 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 *Determination 2017/16* Does**

*Determination 2017/16* replaces previous Principal *Determination 2016/08: Members of Parliament – Travelling Allowance* with effect on and from 27 August 2017.

The *Determination* sets out domestic travelling allowances payable to members of parliament and Ministers of State. It also sets out conditions of payment and other related matters.

##### **The Tribunal's Reasons**

The Tribunal updates the travelling allowance rates for offices within its jurisdiction, including parliamentarians, on an annual basis. The new 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 2017/19: Income Tax: what are the reasonable travel and overtime meal allowance expense amounts for the 2017-18 income year?*

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

The Tribunal sets the Canberra travelling allowance rate for parliamentarians at a rate that is discounted by over a third when compared to the ATO's reasonable daily travel allowance expenses 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, \$285, represents a small increase from the previous rate of \$276.

The Tribunal has also adjusted the daily expense allowance for parliamentarians from the Australian Capital Territory (and those from adjoining electorates who live within 30 kilometres of Parliament House). This has been increased, by the same percentage as the increase to the Canberra travelling allowance rate, from \$87 to \$90.

Ministers and specified Parliamentary office holders (other than the Prime Minister) may receive, in exceptional circumstances where the Commonwealth has paid the accommodation costs, an allowance for meals and incidental costs up to a limit of \$181 per day (a small increase from the previous rate of \$177 per day). This limit is based on the highest ATO rate for meals and incidentals.

The Prime Minister's rate for accommodation and sustenance 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 \$571. This is a small increase from the previous limit of \$565, which the Tribunal bases on the average adjustments in ATO reasonable expense amounts for the eight capital cities.

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

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11 August 2017