

Yvette Berry MLA
Deputy Chief Minister



Member for Ginninderra

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
Minister for Women
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Chair

ACT Remuneration Tribunal
PO Box 964
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608
Email: remtrib@act.gov.au

Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter dated 28 September 2017 to the Chief Minister about the opportunity to make a submission to the ACT Remuneration Tribunal's 2017 Spring Review of remuneration, allowances and entitlements for members of the judiciary and part-time office holders.

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Acting Chief Minister. The Chief Minister is currently travelling overseas on a trade and investment mission.

I have attached the Government's Submission to the 2017 Spring Review. In providing this Submission, it is not the Government's intention to diminish or undervalue the important work that the judiciary and other public officials undertake. On the contrary, the Government would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that holders of public office provide to the Government and the wider Canberra community.

The Chief Minister is looking forward to discussing this submission further with the Tribunal at your upcoming hearing.

Once again, thank you for providing the Government the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely

Yvette Berry MLA
Acting Chief Minister

20 OCT 2017

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Submission into the ACT Remuneration Tribunal 2017 Spring Review

October 2017

Background

The ACT Remuneration Tribunal have advertised for the 2017 Spring Review on 23 September 2017. This review is looking into the remuneration and allowances to be paid, and other entitlements to be granted to:

- ACT Magistrates Court Judicial members;
- ACT Supreme Court Judicial members;
- ACT Civil Administrative Tribunal members;
- the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Part-time Holders of Public Office on boards, tribunals and committees, referred under section 10(1) of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995*; and
- any other positions that have been referred to the ACT Remuneration Tribunal for consideration.

This is the Government Submission into the 2017 Spring Review and is made without prejudice.

Context

Following a series of significant economic and fiscal shocks, the Government has managed the public finances prudently to move to a position where it is forecasting a balanced budget for 2018-19 onwards. However, this financially sound position will not eventuate without ongoing effort. To deliver on these forecasts, while maintaining necessary investment in health, education, transport, and other community priorities, the Government will need to carefully balance future spending and revenue.

In this context, any decision by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal to vary remuneration, allowances and entitlements as part of its 2017 Spring Review should be undertaken with a view to ensuring the resulting impact is consistent with the expectations of the Territory's community, and recognises the effect the variations will have on the Territory's budget.

The majority of Enterprise Agreements across the ACT Public Sector have a notional expiry date of 30 June 2017. The Government remains committed to a pay outcome across the ACT Public Sector which maintains real wages over the life of the agreement and to a consultative and inclusive approach to industrial relations. The Government's pay offer was made in December 2016 and reflects the election commitment to maintain real wages at a rate equivalent to the consumer price index currently assessed for the year ending June 2017 to be 2.1% per annum, which is in-line with the Australian Public Service Bargaining Policy parameters.

Enterprise Agreement negotiations with unions and bargaining agents are continuing. As negotiations are still active, the Government's position may change. Further information will be provided to the ACT Remuneration Tribunal when available. The Government remains committed to ensuring that the new Enterprise Agreements are finalised as soon as possible.

The last pay rise under the current Enterprise Agreements was made in April 2017, at 1.5% for the Administrative and Related Classifications Enterprise Agreement.

It continues to be the Government's view that any increases in remuneration, allowances and entitlements for the judiciary and other public officer holders issued by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal should be consistent with, and not exceed, the proposed wage offer that is under consideration across the ACT Public Sector.