



ACT | Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Elected Body

Ms Sandra Lambert AM
Chair
ACT Remuneration Tribunal
PO Box 964
CANBERRA ACT 2608

Dear Ms Lambert

Thank you for your letter of 27 August 2019 regarding the ACT Remuneration Tribunal 2019 Spring Review.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body would like the Remuneration Tribunal to consider the following in review the remuneration for the Elected Body.

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008* was amended in 2017 and commenced in the current term of the Elected Body. Section 10A has been added enshrining the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Public Hearings and strengthening our oversight role that is implicit in the Act under section 8 (f) and (g) where we are required to monitor government service provision to and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body has taken on additional responsibility following the December 2018 COAG meeting that saw a commitment to forming a genuine formal partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to finalise the Closing the Gap Refresh and provide a forum for ongoing engagement throughout implementation of the new agenda.

The Elected Body are able to take on this responsibility under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008*, under section 8 particularly sub sections (b) 'to represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT and to act as an advocate on systemic or whole-of-government issues affecting their interests' as well as (j) 'any other function given to ATSIEB by the Minister'. The Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs has fully supported the Elected Body's participation at the national level.

A formal Partnership Agreement between COAG and the National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks) came into effect in March 2019. The Elected Body, as a peak democratically elected representative body, is a member of the Coalition of Peaks and the ACT jurisdictional representative. A copy of the signed Partnership Agreement can be found online at <https://www.coag.gov.au/about-coag/agreements/closing-gap-partnership-agreement>. This is a ten-year commitment.

ATSIEB Secretariat
Community Services Directorate

A key commitment of the Partnership was the creation of a new Joint Council on Closing the Gap, which includes First Ministers from each jurisdiction, twelve members of the National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations, and one representative of the Local Government Association. Joint Council held its inaugural meeting on 27 March 2019. It is the first COAG Council to include members from outside governments and represents an historic step forward in the working relationship between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

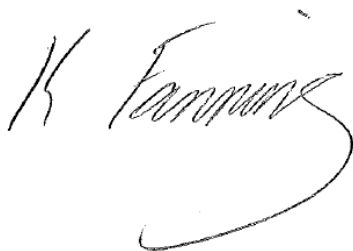
The Elected Body is represented at the Joint Council and its Partnership Working Group by the Chair of the Elected Body. The Chair of the Elected Body has taken on this additional role under *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Regulation 2017* section 7 'The ATSIEB chair has the following functions' '(a) to act as a representative of ATSIEB'. In addition, the Deputy Chair has had to increase their workload as a result of the Chair's involvement at the national level.

As highlighted above, the Elected Body is playing an important and significant representative role in shaping the future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at a national level. As the peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative body in the ACT we would like the Remuneration Tribunal to consider a base rate (annual) that is mid range in comparison to other Part-Time Holders of a public office holders.

The proposed increase in the remuneration base rate (annual) would also acknowledge the additional personal and community responsibilities and accountabilities, and recognises the challenges that come with taking on such a role. A role on the Elected Body requires members to exercise sound judgement, and advocate on behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through effective partnerships and strategic collaborations in a way the delivers positive outcomes.

I hope that the above information assists the Tribunal in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Fanning', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Katrina Fanning PSM
Chairperson
ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
1 November 2019