



## Katy Gallagher MLA

**CHIEF MINISTER**

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Ms Anne Cahill Lambert  
Chair  
ACT Remuneration Tribunal  
PO Box 964  
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Dear Ms Cahill Lambert

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Remuneration Tribunal's annual review of remuneration, entitlements and allowances for members of the judiciary and part-time holders of public office.

In making its determinations this year, I kindly request that the Tribunal keep in mind the significant cuts in general Commonwealth Government spending and payments made to the ACT. These cuts have and will continue to cause job losses and create challenging economic circumstances for the Territory and its residents.

In our most recent budget, the ACT Government made a strong commitment to invest in our economy and jobs. We are investing in Canberra to support the economy, to create and secure jobs and support our most vulnerable.

The Territory's budget is in deficit, however, we plan to achieve a modest surplus in 2017-18, by being frugal in our spending, ensuring that our services are delivered as efficiently as possible, and meeting the expectations of our community.

We do not want to undertake cuts and impose further pain on our community, and risk the growth of our economy or the standard of living of our community for a budget bottom line. We have increased funding for priority areas, notably health, education, community and justice services, emergency services, municipal services and roads and transport. We recognise that in difficult economic times, this is when local government services are sought more often by a greater number of people.

In providing this submission, I do not wish to diminish or undervalue the important work that our judiciary and other officials undertake, often in difficult circumstances. Indeed, the Remuneration Tribunal will need to carefully consider the increased work value of these positions. Any adjustments to the remuneration, allowances and entitlements should be consistent with community expectations and community standards and the impact that they may have on the Territory's budget.

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### ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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I would also like the Tribunal to note the generous increases in remuneration that have been provided to the judiciary over the last few years, which have been over and above the annual rate of inflation and significantly higher than ACT Public Sector employees.

It is the government's view that any increase in remuneration for the judiciary and other officials should be consistent with the increases for staff in the public service over the last few years.

Yours sincerely

Katy Gallagher MLA  
Chief Minister