



Australian Capital Territory Remuneration Tribunal

ACT Magistrates Court Judicial Positions

Determination 9 of 2015 (Amended)

made under the
Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995

ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT

Background

Under section 10 of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995* (the Act), the Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) must inquire into and determine the remuneration, allowances and other entitlements to be paid to the holders of Judicial positions mentioned in Schedule 1 of the Act, including the Chief Magistrate, Magistrates and Special Magistrates.

Previous determination: Determination 9 of 2014 (commenced 1 November 2014)

It was determined that there would be no increase in remuneration for ACT Magistrates Court Judicial positions in 2014.

Considerations for the 2015 review

The Tribunal's 2015 review of remuneration and entitlements for ACT Magistrates Court Judicial positions was advertised in August 2015. All relevant stakeholders, including occupants of each position under review, received advice about the Tribunal's review.

Meetings of the Tribunal were held during September 2015 and this determination sets out the Tribunal's decisions following that review.

In conducting its review, the Tribunal considered an oral and written submission from the Chief Magistrate on behalf of all Magistrates. The Tribunal was mindful of the economic and financial considerations facing the ACT and as outlined by the Chief Minister in his government submission. ACT Treasury provided a comprehensive briefing to the Tribunal on the prevailing economic circumstances for 2015 and forecasts for the coming years. In addition, the Tribunal received advice from officials representing the Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

The Tribunal also noted:

- that Determination 2014/18 of the Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal for Judicial and Related Offices provided no increase in remuneration for those positions;
- an increased jurisdiction of the work undertaken by Magistrates in the Children's Court and the Industrial Court;

- jurisdictional comparisons of financial disputes that can be considered by Magistrates in Civil cases; and
- jurisdictional comparisons of imprisonment terms that can be enforced in Criminal cases.

Decision

The Tribunal decided that a 3% increase in remuneration will be granted to ACT Magistrates Court Judicial positions in this review.

This amended Determination replaces an earlier version, which included incorrect salary amounts for Magistrates.

ACT Remuneration Tribunal

October 2015



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1. Commencement

This instrument commences on 1 November 2015.

2. Remuneration

2.1 Chief Magistrate

The Chief Magistrate is entitled to remuneration of \$382,338 per annum.

2.2 Magistrates

A Magistrate is entitled to remuneration of \$335,692 per annum.

2.3 Special Magistrates

- a) If a Special Magistrate sits for 3 hours or more on any given day, they are entitled to daily remuneration calculated at the rate of 1/230 of the remuneration paid to a Magistrate. When determining whether the Special Magistrate has been engaged for 3 hours or more the Chief Magistrate may include reasonable travelling time.
- b) Where a Special Magistrate sits for less than 3 hours, they are entitled to three fifths of the daily remuneration rate.

2.4 Special Magistrate - Northern Territory

- a) No remuneration is payable to a Special Magistrate if they are a Magistrate under the *Magistrates Act* (NT) and they are already entitled to remuneration determined under the laws of the Northern Territory.

3. Other Entitlements

Travel Allowance

- 3.1 For travel on official business the Chief Magistrate or a Magistrate is entitled to the reasonable amounts for daily travel allowance expenses according to salary levels and destinations specified in Taxation Determination 2014/19 '**What are the reasonable travel and overtime meal allowance expense amounts for the 2014-15 income year?**' issued by the Australian Taxation Office and any determination that supersedes *Taxation Determination 2014/19*. (Current taxation determinations can be viewed under the Law, rulings and policy directory at <http://ato.gov.au>)
- 3.2 Where the cost of accommodation is met, the rate for accommodation in the Taxation Determination is not payable. Where the cost of accommodation and any meal is met, the rates for accommodation and that meal in the Taxation Determination are not payable. Where the cost of accommodation and all meals are met, only the rate for incidentals in the Taxation Determination is payable.

Salary Packaging

- 3.3 The Chief Magistrate or a Magistrate may elect to take their remuneration mentioned as:
- a) salary; or
 - b) a combination of salary and other benefits (a **salary package**).
- 3.4 Salary packaging must be consistent with:
- c) taxation laws and guidelines issued by the Australian Taxation Office; and
 - d) any salary packaging policy and/or procedures issued for the ACT Public Service, with up to 100% of the remuneration able to be taken as benefits and related costs such as fringe benefits tax.
- 3.5 Salary packaging must be administered without additional cost to the employer and any fringe benefits tax associated with the provision of a benefit must be included in the salary package.
- 3.6 Salary for superannuation purposes is not affected by salary packaging.

4. Definitions

- 4.1 In this Determination:

employer means the Australian Capital Territory and includes any person authorised to act on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory.

fringe benefits tax means the tax assessed under the *Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986*.

5. Revocation of previous determinations

Determination 9 of 2014 is revoked.

Anne Cahill Lambert AM
Chair



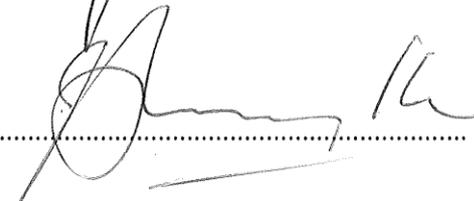
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Dr Colin Adrian
Member



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James Smythe PSM
Member



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October 2015