



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 came into effect in March 2019. The Elected Body is a member of the National Coalition 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.

A key commitment of the Partnership was the creation of a new Joint Council on Closing the Gap, which met for the first time on 27 March 2019 marking an historic step

ATSIEB Secretariat
Community Services Directorate

forward in the working relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and governments. 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'. To date this has involved weekly/fortnightly teleconferences of the coalition members, two Joint Council meetings to date with another planned before the end of the year, 3 Partnership Working Group meetings and strategic workshops and several National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisation meetings , ongoing meetings with Minister Stephen-Smith and ACT Government officials.

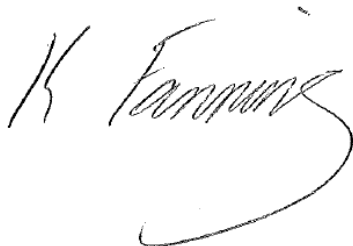
The Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs agreed in June 2019 to additional remuneration for the Chair to cover the extensive work undertaken by the Chair.

In addition, the Deputy Chair has had to increase her workload as a result of the Chair's involvement at the national level.

We are seeking a *per diem* rate for the Chair and Deputy Chair in line with like roles with national involvement and workload in addition to their normal role and responsibilities under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008*; and a review of the members remuneration in line with the increased oversight role.

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
17 September 2019