

15 June 2016

Mr Jacob Collins
Secretary
ACT Remuneration Tribunal
Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
ACT Government
GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Collins

Review of Remuneration Tribunal Allowances and other Entitlements 2016

Thank you for providing a copy of the discussion paper for my comments. I am the Chair of the ACT Public Cemetery Authority.

The review notes that the cemetery authority has been listed as a Group 4 Level 3 with the associated remuneration of \$495, for the Chair and \$420 or members per diem. It is my view that the level of this board should be rated higher on the basis that it is a governing board not an advisory board with its role being (under the Financial Management ACT 1966). I have listed the responsibilities below.

“Responsibilities of governing boards of territory authorities

(1) This section applies to a territory authority if the authority has a governing board.

Note: A territory authority has a governing board if the establishing Act for the authority establishes a governing board for the authority (see s 76).

(2) The governing board of the territory authority is responsible, under the responsible Minister, for the efficient and effective financial management of the resources for which the authority is responsible.

(3) The governing board of a territory authority must manage the authority in a way that promotes—

- (a) the achievement of the purpose of the authority; and
- (b) the financial sustainability of the authority.

(4) Without limiting subsections (2) and (3), the governing board of the territory authority is responsible, under the responsible Minister, for ensuring the following:

- (a) that expenses incurred by the authority are properly authorised;
- (b) that, if an appropriation is made in relation to the authority, any amount of the appropriation spent by the authority is spent in accordance with the appropriation;
- (c) that, as far as practicable, the operations of the authority during a financial year are consistent with, and comparable to, the estimates in the authority’s statement of intent for the year;
- (d) that payments made by the authority are properly authorised and correctly made.”

It is my view that as a governing board the members are responsible for ensuring the cemetery team meet the obligations of the Financial Management Act 1966, together with the responsibility of ensuring the needs of the clients and families are met and that the authority continues to provide services that are of high quality and safe for all who come to ACT cemeteries.

Ensuring that the authority has a board that meets its obligations under the act requires the appropriate range skills and dedication to do this the board members need to be paid appropriate salary.

I have been a member of the cemetery board since 2003 and as such I have not sought reappointment in the current board round. It has been a pleasure to lead this board for the last 10 years. I am hopeful that the new board will have a salary structure that meets their level of responsibility.

Yours sincerely

D F Kargas

Diane Kargas AM
Chair
ACT Public Cemetery Authority.