



Andrew Barr MLA

Chief Minister

Treasurer

Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality

Minister for Tertiary Education

Minister for Tourism and Special Events

Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment

Member for Kurrajong

Sandra Lambert
Chair
ACT Remuneration Tribunal
PO Box 964
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608
Email: remtrib@act.gov.au

Dear Ms Lambert

I write to strongly request the ACT Remuneration Tribunal's 2020 Autumn Review of remuneration, allowances and entitlements for Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly, ACT Public Service Executives, Full-time Statutory Office Holders, determine to pause any proposed pay rises during the COVID -19 pandemic, and for the period of immediate economic and community recovery following.

As you are aware, on 16 March 2020 the Minister for Health declared a public health emergency under section 119 of the Public Health Act 1997. This is the first time a public health emergency has been declared in the ACT.

The ACT Government has announced a comprehensive economic survival package to support the ACT community through the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures seek to protect as many jobs as possible, support Canberra households and help our most vulnerable. The ACT Government has been clear that we must work together as a community to share the burden of the economic damage wrought by this crisis.

Many Canberrans have been made suddenly unemployed; others' businesses have been forced to close or have lost a significant portion of their revenue.

The ACT Government's focus is also on providing all appropriate resources to support ACT public health services to continue providing essential health services to the community and to respond to the additional demands of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACT Legislative Assembly

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In this context, I strongly recommend that the ACT Remuneration Tribunal reconsider its Autumn determination to reflect the government's commitment to supporting the ACT community during the current health emergency. I have consulted with my Labor colleagues, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Leader of the Greens Party, all of whom support this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Barr', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Barr MLA

Chief Minister