



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

Statement 20 of 2007

Master of the Supreme Court

Background

Section 10 of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995* requires the Tribunal to inquire into and determine remuneration, allowances and other entitlements to be paid to the Master of the Supreme Court.

The Tribunal last reviewed remuneration and allowances for the Master in October 2006 and issued Determination 202. Subsequently, the Tribunal issued Statement and Determination 7, dated 8 June 2007 in respect of access to salary packaging.

The latest inquiry was notified in the press on 4 August 2007.

Submissions

Written submissions were received from the Master and from the Government. The submissions were considered by the Tribunal at its meetings on 8 and 17 October 2007.

Tribunal Consideration

The Tribunal made relevant inquiries and considered all the material before it, including but not limited to submissions from interested parties, wage cost and other Australian Bureau of Statistics indices, remuneration increases for the ACT and other employees and comparative data from other jurisdictions.

The Tribunal noted that in 2001, following a major review of entitlements, it determined a remuneration level that was approximately 80% of that of a Federal Court Judge, and that the percentage has decreased considerably since. It also noted that the remuneration difference between the Master and Chief Magistrate had increased during this time.

The Tribunal noted that the role of the Master has the same civil jurisdiction as a judge of the Supreme Court as a result of new court procedures, and that the ACT jurisdiction has unique responsibilities when compared to other jurisdictions.

The Tribunal decided that the Master would receive a 4% increase in base salary and an allowance of \$10,000 to reflect increased responsibilities and the unique nature of the ACT jurisdiction. The Tribunal also decided that the allowance would be included in the total remuneration, rather than identified separately.

The Tribunal will undertake a comprehensive review to compare the roles, responsibilities and remuneration of the Master with other jurisdictions.

The date of effect is on and from 1 November 2007.

ACT Remuneration Tribunal
November 2007



**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

Determination 20 of 2007

Master of the Supreme Court

Section 10 of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995*, the Remuneration Tribunal has inquired into the remuneration, allowances and other entitlements to be paid to the Master of the Supreme Court.

This Determination is effective on and from 1 November 2007.

Alan Kerr AM
Chair

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Roberta McRae OAM
Member

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Jill Greenwell
Member

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Dated: November 2007



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

Determination 20 of 2007

Master of the Supreme Court

Section 10 of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995*, the Remuneration Tribunal has inquired into the remuneration, allowances and other entitlements to be paid to the Master of the Supreme Court and determines as follows: -

1. Determination 7 of 2007, dated 8 June 2007 is revoked.

Remuneration

2. Remuneration at the rate of \$258,700 per annum shall be payable to the Master of the Supreme Court.

Travelling Allowance

3. Travelling Allowance (within Australia)
 - (a) For travel on official business outside Canberra but within Australia the Master of the Supreme Court shall be entitled to \$345 per overnight stay in a capital city or \$290 per overnight stay in other than a capital city.
 - (b) An allowance of \$55 shall be payable where travel involves an absence from home of at least 10 hours, but does not involve an overnight stay.
 - (c) Where the absence specified in sub-paragraph (a) exceeds a multiple of 24 hours by at least 10 hours, an extra \$55 shall be payable in addition to the appropriate overnight stay payments.
 - (d) Where the Government meets the travel cost for the Master's spouse to accompany the Master, the additional cost of a double room over a single room accommodation shall be added to the appropriate overnight stay payment. Such additional cost shall be assessed at \$10 unless vouched.
 - (e) Where the cost of accommodation is met, travelling allowance at the rate of \$85 only shall be payable per overnight stay.
 - (f) Where the costs of accommodation and a meal per day are met, travelling allowance at the rate of \$70 only shall be payable per overnight stay.
 - (g) Where the costs of accommodation and all meals are met, travelling allowance at the rate of \$55 only shall be payable per overnight stay.

4. Travelling Allowance (overseas)

For travel on official business outside Australia the Master of the Supreme Court shall be entitled to be paid travelling allowance, equipment allowance and other overseas allowances on the same terms and conditions as a person who is an executive under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

Salary Packaging

5. (a) Subject to the following conditions, the Master of the Supreme Court may elect to take remuneration as salary or take a combination of salary and other benefits best suited to his or her personal needs and preferences.
- (b) The scheme is to be consistent with taxation laws and guidelines applicable to salary packaging schemes, issued by the Australian Taxation Office.
- (c) The Department of Justice and Community Safety will administer the scheme which is to be based on the ACT Public Service Salary Packaging Policy and Procedures issued by the Commissioner for Public Administration, with up to 100% of the relevant remuneration to be taken as benefits and related costs such as fringe benefits tax.
- (d) The scheme shall be operated and administered so that there will be no additional cost to the ACT Government. In particular, any fringe benefits tax associated with the provision of a benefit is to be included in the salary package.
- (e) The salary for superannuation purposes is unaffected by participation in the salary packaging scheme.

Date of Effect

6. This Determination is effective on and from 1 November 2007.
