Sandra Lambert  
Chair  
ACT Remuneration Tribunal

Dear Ms Lambert

I am writing as the Chair of the Ministerial Council on Aging and refer to your request for submissions to the ACT Remuneration Tribunal annual review into remuneration and allowances.

I am strongly advocating for payment of all members of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing (MACA), who are responsible for providing high level strategic advice to the ACT Government on the complete range of issues affecting older people in the ACT. The payment should appropriately reflect the significant level of work and responsibility Council members are charged with.

A primary responsibility is participation in bimonthly meetings. However, this meeting attendance is the tip of the iceberg. In the intervening period, MACA members are expected to provide advice when required and be involved, via participation in Working Groups, in progressing the Workplan (attached).

Examples of this involvement are:

* rapid advice and feedback during critical periods, such as COVID-19 lockdowns;
* responsiveness to requests for feedback and input from a range of ACT Government agencies;
* community engagement including outreach and relationship development with key stakeholders, attendance and involvement in community organisations and networks, staffing stalls at the Seniors Expo, organising an annual community engagement forum etc; and
* responsiveness to requests for information and participation (such as grants assessment panels)to the Secretariat.

In addition, the Deputy Chair accompanies the Chair at quarterly meetings with the Minister for Veterans and Seniors and, also, attends regular meetings with the Minister’s adviser.

Council members are obliged to adhere to [MACA’s terms of reference](https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/seniors/advisory_council_on_ageing/terms_of_reference) and exercise sound judgement in discharging duties. In this way, there are many aspects of the role that are similar to that of a board member.

For all this work, members can only claim a $50 community participation payment.

With an ageing population (Canberra experienced a 34% increase in people aged 70+ from 2016 to 2021), the importance of the government’s connection to and engagement with ACT’s older community is paramount and rests heavily on members of the MACA. Recognition and valuing of this role and its responsibilities is critical.

I call on you to consider aligning MACA council member payments that are commensurate with the responsibilities the role and better align with higher rates afforded to other Councils.

Yours sincerely

Prue Power AM



Chair  
ACT Ministerial Council on Ageing

30 September 2022