



Appendix one - Response from Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal



Parliamentary
Remuneration Tribunal

Ref:A4086211

Ms Margaret Crawford
Auditor-General
The Audit Office of NSW
GPO Box 12
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Crawford

I write with regard to the request for comments on the draft Auditor-General's report to Parliament on Members Additional Entitlements for 2016-17.

I have reviewed the information made available to me and find that the content is factual and appropriate.

I note the following proposed comments relating to the public reporting of Members entitlements:

Enhanced public reporting of Members' expenditure claims is expected

In 2016, the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament recommended the Tribunal consider, as a part of the Determination review process, requiring the Department to regularly publish full details of Members' expenditure claims on its website in an accessible and searchable format.

The Tribunal expects greater public reporting of Members' additional expenditure to commence from 1 July 2019. This reporting is planned to be through an online reporting platform. Information will be made available for the following additional entitlements expenditure:

- *Communications Allowance*
- *General Travel Allowance*
- *Electorate to Sydney Allowance*
- *Sydney Allowance.*

Details will be shown as aggregates of actual expenditure versus annual budget allocations for each Member. Broader allowance types, such as, the Communications Allowance and General Travel Allowance will also include subcategories for more detail. Information on Members' expenditure will likely be updated March and October each year.

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As outlined in the Report of the Tribunal's 2018 Annual Determination, the public reporting of Members' expenditure claims will require appropriate funding for the development of an integrated online Members' Entitlement Reporting system. Before making the 2018 determination the Tribunal wrote to the Secretary of The Treasury and requested that the Parliament received appropriate funding to provide for the development the reporting system, and other additional entitlements.

In providing his statement to the Tribunal on the financial implications of the determination (as required under section 12A of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989*) the Secretary of NSW Treasury advised that:

"...the financial implications of the proposed variation in entitlements in the 2018 Determination is not provided for within the Legislature's existing budget controls and escalation arrangements."

I intend to write to the Treasurer to request favourable consideration of the provision of additional funding to ensure that the Members' Entitlements Reporting system can be built.

If the necessary funding is not provided, or is not provided in time to develop the reporting system before 1 July 2019, it may be necessary for the Tribunal to determine a later commencement date for the public reporting of Members' expenditure claims.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Justice C G Staff
Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal
10 September 2018