

REPORT OF THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL

**REMUNERATION OF JUDGES, DISTRICT COURT JUDGES,
MASTERS OF THE SUPREME COURT, MAGISTRATES AND
THE PARLIAMENTARY INSPECTOR OF THE
CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION**

1. Section 7 of the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975* ('the Act') requires the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal ('the Tribunal') to inquire into and report to the responsible Minister in relation to possible changes in the remuneration paid or provided to:
 - Judges;
 - District Court Judges;
 - Masters of the Supreme Court;
 - Magistrates; and
 - the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission.
2. The Act states that the Tribunal must recommend the nature and extent of any changes to remuneration, if considered necessary.
3. Since February 2018, section 10E of the Act has prevented the Tribunal from making a report recommending that higher remuneration should be provided to judicial officeholders before 1 July 2021.
4. This Report is intended to be a point of reference for remuneration provided for members of the judiciary at the expiry of these legislative restrictions. From 1 July 2021, the Tribunal will resume much of its usual discretion to set remuneration for members of the judiciary under section 7.
5. However, the Tribunal's decisions in relation to judicial officeholders remain subject to section 10G, which prevents the Tribunal from making a report that:
 - a. has the effect of providing for the payment or provisions of remuneration on the basis that the remuneration was not paid or provided before 1 July 2021 by reason of the operation of section 10E; or
 - b. takes into account any increase in the cost of living that occurred between commencement day and 1 July 2021.
6. For the duration of the section 10E restrictions, an amendment to section 8 removed the requirement for the Tribunal to report annually on remuneration provided to judicial officeholders, as would usually be the case. The annual reporting requirement will resume on 1 July 2021. As such, the Tribunal will conduct an annual inquiry and issue its next report no later than 1 July 2022.

7. The Tribunal notes that remuneration provided to judicial officeholders has not increased for some time, which has caused increasing inconsistencies in remuneration provided in Western Australia and other Australian jurisdictions. There is also divergence in remuneration provided to officeholders in the Federal jurisdiction working in Western Australia and those in the State jurisdiction.
8. The Tribunal has noted advice received from the Under Treasurer, who stated that while the Western Australian economy appears to be recovering from the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the outlook is difficult to predict and significant risks remain. The State's revenue estimates are currently highly sensitive to changes in key economic parameters.
9. The Tribunal concludes that uncertainty over the economic climate remains the prevailing consideration at this time. As such, the Tribunal recommends a general \$1,000 increase in remuneration provided to judicial officeholders. This accords with increases provided to other office holders in the Tribunal's jurisdiction and the wider public service.
10. Remuneration for judicial offices is set at rates in the attached Schedule.

TABLING OF REPORT

11. The Act requires this report to be tabled in each House of Parliament within five sitting days of the Minister receiving it. Either House of Parliament, within 15 sitting days of the report being tabled in that House, may pass a resolution disapproving the Tribunal's recommendation.

The report will now issue.

SCHEDULE

REPORT ON THE REMUNERATION OF JUDGES, DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, MASTERS OF THE SUPREME COURT, MAGISTRATES, AND THE PARLIAMENTARY INSPECTOR OF THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

REMUNERATION ARRANGEMENTS

PART 1: REMUNERATION

- 1.1 Remuneration shall be payable at the following rates to Judges, Masters and Magistrates with effect from 1 July 2021.
- 1.2 The annual salary specified in this Part is inclusive of leave loading.

POSITION	ANNUAL SALARY
Chief Justice	\$509,591
President of the Court of Appeal	\$477,012
Senior Puisne Judge	\$455,511
Senior Judge of the Court of Appeal	\$455,511
Puisne Judge	\$442,057
Senior Master of the Supreme Court	\$409,726
Master of the Supreme Court	\$397,951
Chief Judge District Court	\$442,057
Senior Judge District Court	\$409,726
Judge District Court	\$397,951
Chief Magistrate	\$397,951
Deputy Chief Magistrate	\$348,952
Principal Registrar/Magistrate Supreme Court *	\$348,952
Principal Registrar/Magistrate, Family Court *	\$348,952
Magistrates	\$328,484
Registrars/Magistrates Family Court *	\$328,484
Parliamentary Inspector, Corruption and Crime Commission	\$265,234 [#]

* These office holders hold commissions to be Magistrates while holding the offices of Registrar or Principal Registrar.

[#] Salary amount determined for an officeholder who has not previously held the office of a judge in the Supreme Court or District Court.

PART 2: TRAVELLING AND ACCOMMODATION ALLOWANCE

- 2.1 When an overnight stay away from home is involved, a travelling and accommodation allowance (inclusive of accommodation, meals and incidentals) shall be payable in accordance with the relevant Australian Taxation Office reasonable benefit limit applicable from time to time and where accompanied by certification that the expense was appropriately incurred.
- 2.2 If reasonably and properly incurred travelling and accommodation expenses exceed the rate specified in 2.1, then actual costs should be reimbursed. Receipts or vouchers must be provided in support of any claim for reimbursement in excess of the specified rate.
- 2.3 Claims for overnight stays in the Perth metropolitan area should be subject in each case to the approval of the relevant Chief Judicial Officer.
- 2.4 Part payment of travelling and accommodation allowances shall apply in the following circumstances:
 - a. When the Judge, Master or Magistrate is accommodated in private, non-commercial accommodation, such as the home of a family member or friend, a rate of one third of the specified rate shall be payable.
 - b. When the cost of commercial accommodation is met by an entity other than the Judge, Master or Magistrate, an allowance shall be payable in accordance with the relevant Australian Taxation Office reasonable benefit limit for meals and incidentals applicable from time to time and where accompanied by certification that the expense was appropriately incurred.
 - c. When in the case of commercial accommodation referred to in 2.4.b above, the cost of a meal or meals is met by an entity other than the Judge, Master or Magistrate, the amount of travelling allowance shall be reduced by the relevant amount(s) referred to in the preceding paragraph.

PART 3: MOTOR VEHICLES

- 3.1 The following arrangements apply or continue to apply, as the case may be, to each Judge, Master and full-time Magistrate for the provision of a fully maintained motor vehicle for business and private use.
- 3.2 All vehicles (being part of the Government-owned State Fleet) should be managed in accordance with the policies and conditions established and amended from time to time by the Department of Finance (the effective owner of the State Fleet). Applicable terms and conditions are currently set out in the document "State Fleet - Agency General Agreement".
- 3.3 Selection of appropriate vehicles should be subject to consultation between the Department supporting the Courts administratively (as the "Agency" responsible for managing the leasing arrangements for vehicles provided to Judges, Masters and Magistrates) and the relevant Court. Although the cost of the vehicles is centrally funded, as a consequence of it being a benefit recommended under the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*, the area remains an administrative responsibility of the Department to manage in a cost effective manner.

3.4 In providing for the use of a motor vehicle under this arrangement, the Tribunal requires that office holders and the Department of Justice will take account of the following principles established by the Tribunal. The provision of a motor vehicle should:

- a. meet the operational conveyance needs of the judiciary;
- b. provide for adequate safety and security of judicial office holders;
- c. represent fair value and benefit;
- d. support of the efficient, effective and ethical use of State resources;
- e. be consistent with current principles of environmental sustainability, in particular, fuel efficiency and Government emissions targets;
- f. be commensurate with the status of judicial offices; and
- g. when private use of a vehicle is permitted, provide scope for personal preference in choice of motor vehicle consistent with the above principles.

3.5 For the purposes of determining the value of the motor vehicle lease relative to the value of the relevant benefit set out in this report, the lease value shall be based on a whole of life lease over a minimum of two years/40,000 kilometres. The lease value and term will be determined at the time of ordering the motor vehicle and will be inclusive of the cost of accessories. No additional costs shall be incurred by the office holder as a result of fluctuations in lease costs during the specified term of the lease.

3.6 The notional lease value must include the lease cost, Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and all other operating costs based on the relevant figure of nominated kilometres to be travelled annually. The formula to be adopted in valuing the motor vehicle is:

$L + R + aD + \text{FBT} + I + \text{LCT}$, where

L	=	Lease payments
R	=	Registration costs
a	=	Running cost per kilometre
D	=	nominated annual kilometres
FBT	=	Fringe Benefits Tax
I	=	Insurance
LCT	=	Luxury car tax

3.7 FBT is costed at applicable Australian Taxation Office rates. FBT is costed at purchase price (including GST) x Statutory fraction x Gross up (2.0802) x FBT rate (0.470).

3.8 FBT Exempt Agencies: Where an organisation is exempt from FBT in accordance with Commonwealth Government legislation, a notional amount equal to the standard FBT must be added to the cost of the benefit.

3.9 Motor vehicles leased for judicial office holders shall not be changed prior to the expiration of the lease unless it is for operational reasons approved by the relevant Chief Judicial Officer in consultation with the Department of Justice.

3.10 The Chief Justice is entitled to the provision of a vehicle to the notional value of \$27,300 per annum.

- 3.11 Judges, Masters and the Chief Magistrate are entitled to the provision of a vehicle to the notional value of \$26,900 per annum.
- 3.12 Magistrates are entitled to the provision of a vehicle to the notional value of \$25,400 per annum.
- 3.13 Judges, Masters, and Magistrates may choose any vehicle and accessories in the Common Use Contract or an “off contract” vehicle and accessories available under Government leasing arrangements, the total cost of which does not exceed the maximum cost of accessing a motor vehicle benefit determined in this report. When the total cost of the chosen vehicle and accessories exceeds the maximum cost of accessing a motor vehicle benefit determined in this report, the additional cost must be borne by the individual. This includes the purchase cost of any accessories and the installation cost and removal costs if required before disposal of the vehicle.
- 3.14 The relevant Chief Judicial Officer, in consultation with the Department of Justice, may approve the reasonable additional cost of modifications to a motor vehicle that result in total vehicle costs higher than the notional lease values specified in Parts 3.10 to 3.12, when the modifications are required to:
- (a) cater for a disability; or
 - (b) provide a reasonable level of vehicle safety for an officeholder who is based in a regional area and who requires the vehicle to undertake significant travel for work purposes.
- 3.15 In order to contain additional administrative costs associated with “off contract” leases, office holders may request cost quotations for not more than three vehicles outside the Government’s Common User Contract for motor vehicles, in the process of selecting a vehicle under this arrangement.
- 3.16 Vehicles with V8 engines are not included. Turbo charged and super charged engines with a capacity greater than 3.0 litres are not included.
- 3.17 Each actual lease should be tailored to achieve the most cost-effective arrangement based on individual usage patterns.
- 3.18 Use of an off road vehicle must be substantiated by operational need and must be approved by the Chief Judicial Officer. Off road vehicles shall be of a standard, the cost of which does not exceed the whole of life notional lease value of the Toyota Prado GXL Auto 3.0 litre Turbo Diesel fitted with “roo” bar (air bag compliant) or the relevant notional value specified in Parts 3.10 to 3.12, whichever is higher. This includes the purchase cost of other essential accessories approved by the relevant Chief Judicial Officer.
- 3.19 For the Magistrate resident in Kununurra, use of the Government provided vehicle is permitted to and from the Northern Territory for periods of usage up to seven days under the same conditions as if the vehicle were in Western Australia. Under the State Fleet – Agency General Agreement, office holders are required to seek approval from State Fleet for travel outside Western Australia for periods of seven days or more.

- 3.20 When a Magistrate is employed on a part time basis, a pro rata amount should be added to the remuneration in lieu of a motor vehicle. For this purpose, the full value of the vehicle is assessed at \$24,000 per annum.
- 3.21 In the event an acting magistrate is employed for less than two years, a pro rata amount should be added to the remuneration in lieu of a motor vehicle. For this purpose, the full value of the vehicle is assessed at \$24,000 per annum.
- 3.22 In the event that an acting magistrate, at the time of their appointment to act, is already provided a vehicle through Government arrangements that are separate to this Report, then those arrangements may continue and the acting magistrate will receive the difference between the cost of that vehicle, less any contributions made by the acting magistrate, and \$24,000 per annum.

Signed on 24 June 2021.

M Seares AO

B A Sargeant PSM

CHAIR

MEMBER

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL