



SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL

Media Alert

10 August 2020

TRIBUNAL REPORT ON ALLOWANCES PROVIDED TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal has issued a Report following a review of allowances that are provided to Members of the Parliament of Western Australia.

The review initially focussed on the effectiveness of allowances, but its scope expanded following consultation between the Tribunal and the Corruption and Crime Commission, which was examining potential misconduct and corruption relating to use of allowances.

The Tribunal notes that Parliamentary allowances provide Members with resources needed to perform their role, but change is needed to ensure allowances more effectively achieve their purpose and to establish accountability measures.

The Report considered the scope of the Tribunal's current powers to adjust the provision of allowances and has proposed a number of changes, including introducing:

- principles by which Members must abide when using allowances; and
- a system of reporting for Members' use of certain allowances.

These changes are intended to apply to the new Parliament, following the State Election in March 2021.

The Report also notes approaches used in other Australian jurisdictions that have more extensive powers than Western Australia to implement and enforce accountability measures.

The report is available at www.sat.wa.gov.au.

Comments attributed to Tribunal Chair, Professor Margaret Seares:

"The review showed that Western Australia has fewer accountability mechanisms compared to other Australian jurisdictions, and the Tribunal has concluded that arrangements in this State are now out of step with contemporary standards.

In recent years, abuse of allowances by a very small number of people has somewhat eroded public confidence in elected members from all levels of Government, the vast majority of whom do the right thing in terms of use of public moneys.

Adjusting the mechanisms for provision of Members' allowances, including enhancing transparency and accountability, will improve the effectiveness of those allowances and public confidence in Members of Parliament."

ENDS

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