Explanatory Statement: Determination 2006/18
Members of Parliament - Entitlements

1. The Remuneration Tribunal has inquired into the allowances and matters significantly related thereto for members of the Parliament by reason of their membership of the Parliament or by reason of their holding particular offices, or performing particular functions in, or in relation to the Parliament or either House of Parliament, as it is empowered to do by the Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973.

2. In making this determination the Tribunal has informed itself through consultation in accordance with established practice.

3. Any retrospective application of this determination is in accordance with subsection 12(2) of the Legislative Instruments Act 2003 as it does not affect the rights of a person (other than the Commonwealth or an authority of the Commonwealth) to that person’s disadvantage, nor does it impose any liability on such a person.

4. The Determination replaces in full Determination Number 9 of 2005 as amended (the previous determination) and takes effect on and from 1 July 2006.

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**ELECTORATE ALLOWANCE**

5. Clause 1.1 specifies the rates of electorate allowance payable to senators and members and is unchanged from the previous determination.

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**TRAVEL ENTITLEMENTS – SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT**

6. Clause 2.3 has been amended to provide a new method of calculating the cost differential for the use of charter transport.

   Clause 2.4 has been amended to provide the Special Minister of State with discretion to approve the use of charter transport where there are no alternative scheduled commercial services.

   Clause 2.8 has been amended to provide a definition of ‘home base’.

   The heading ‘Family Reunion Travel’ has been inserted before clause 2.9.

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**CAR TRANSPORT**

7. Clauses 3.1 to 3.16 set out the provisions for the use of car transport at government expense.

   Clause 3.1 has been amended to clarify that car transport may be used to travel both in and between cities and regional centres, except within the city in which a senator or member resides or has an electorate.

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**PRIVATE VEHICLE ALLOWANCE**

8. Clauses 4.1 to 4.5 set out the provisions for private vehicle allowance for travel to and from Canberra and are unchanged from the previous determination.
PROVISION OF VEHICLE

9. Clauses 5.1 to 5.10 set out the provisions for private plated vehicles for senators and members.

Clause 5.3 stipulates that provision of four-wheel drive vehicles is subject to guidelines approved by the Special Minister of State.

CHARTER AIRCRAFT / DRIVE YOURSELF VEHICLES

10. Clauses 6.1 to 6.9 set out the provisions for charter transport by senators and members.

Clause 6.1 has been amended to include the hire of an accredited driver within the charter transport entitlement.

Clause 6.2 has been amended to increase the charter travel allowance for senators and for members of electorates of 300,000 km² or more in area by 10 per cent.

The Principal Determination is amended by inserting new Clause 6.6 which specifies that a person who accompanies a senator or member on a charter for electorate business may travel unaccompanied on a charter positioning or re-positioning leg where no additional cost is incurred to the Commonwealth.

LIFE GOLD PASS

11. Clauses 7.1 to 7.5 set out the provisions relating to access to the Life Gold Pass provided to former senators and members and are unchanged from the previous determination.

SEVERANCE TRAVEL

12. Clauses 8.1 to 8.5 set out the provisions relating to severance travel by former senators and members and are unchanged from the previous determination.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

13. Clauses 9.1 to 9.13 set out the provisions relating to overseas travel by senators and members.

Subclause 9.1(c) has been amended to provide that the value of the overseas travel entitlement is to be calculated on the value of a scheduled commercial round the world first class air fare ‘home base-London-home base’ instead of ‘Canberra-London-Canberra’ as previously specified. This subclause has also been modified to provide that the value of the entitlement will be calculated for eligible senators and members once in the life of each Parliament on 1 July of the year that the entitlement is first used.

Subclause 9.1(d) has been modified to clarify the types of expenses for which the overseas travel entitlement may be used.

Clause 9.6 has been amended and new clause 9.7 inserted in the Determination to enhance the accountability arrangements for use of the overseas travel entitlement.

OFFICE FACILITIES

14. Clauses 10.1 to 10.13 set out the provisions relating to office facilities for senators and members.

15. Clause 10.4 has been amended to clarify that the communications allowance for members is calculated at 1 July each year based on the number of enrolled voters in his/her electorate as at the last working day of the preceding March.
Clause 10.10 has been modified to clarify the call-forward provision in light of the changed methodology adopted for calculating the communications allowance from 1 July 2005.

### AGREGATING ENTITLEMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF LARGE ELECTORATES

16. Clauses 11.1 to 11.3 set out the framework for the trial of aggregated entitlements and have been amended to extend the facility to aggregate their charter transport and communications allowances to members of electorates of 10,000 km² or more. The Tribunal’s decision to extend aggregation to these electorates follows a five-year trial of the facility among members representing electorates of 300,000 km² or more in area. It allows the members for larger electorates to service their constituents more efficiently by allocating resources according to the particular circumstances of their electorates.

### FREQUENT FLYER POINTS

17. Clauses 12.1 and 12.2 set out the provisions regarding frequent flyer points and are unchanged from the previous determination.

### GENERAL

18. Clauses 13.1 to 13.5 set out general matters relating to the determination.

Clause 13.3 has been amended to specify that the Special Minister of State may make guidelines to give effect to the determination.

Clause 13.4 is amended to provide that, in addition to a spouse or nominee, a dependent child or designated person are not entitled to access travel entitlements under this determination if they claim or receive travel benefits under any other source or entitlement for the same travel.

Authority: Sub-sections 7(1), 7(2) and 7(4) of the Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973