



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA

Mr John Conde, AO
President
Remuneration Tribunal
PO Box 281
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2600

25 SEP 2006

Dear Mr Conde

Thank you for your letter of 15 September 2006 about remuneration for Deputy Chairmen of certain parliamentary Committees.

I note the Tribunal's proposals to apply an additional allowance of 5.5% of the base salary of a backbencher to the Deputy Chairs of certain committees, and 8% for the Deputy Chairs of the Joint Committees on: Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade; Treaties; Public Works and Public Accounts and Audit. I have no comment on the Tribunal's proposal of this quantum.

In regard to the attachment, I make two comments.

The Standing Committees on the Scrutiny of Bills and Regulations and Ordinances appear to have been included under the heading 'Committees dealing with the internal affairs of Parliament'. They actually deal with legislation and subordinate legislation, and are properly described as 'legislative scrutiny committees'. I would not suggest the Deputy Chairs of these committees receive an additional allowance.

There is a slight error in the reference to 'Broadcasting of Parliamentary Procedure'; this should correctly be 'Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings'.

Yours sincerely

(Paul Calvert)



REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

John C Conde AO
President

Senator the Hon Paul Calvert
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Thank you for your letter of 29 August 2006 concerning the changes to the Senate committee system and remuneration for Deputy Chairmen of Senate Committees.

In expressing support for an additional allowance for the Deputy Chairs of the new committees, you note that it is reasonable to expect that, as a consequence of the consolidation of the former committees into eight general purpose standing committees, the workload of these committees will significantly increase and therefore, the Deputy Chairs will be required to provide more support to the Chairmen.

You also propose that, on the basis of their significant and sustained workload, the Deputy Chairs of the Joint Statutory and Standing Committees, with some specific exceptions, be eligible for a similar additional allowance. However, you suggest that the Deputy Chairs of committees dealing with the internal affairs of the Parliament should not receive additional remuneration.

As you will be aware, the Tribunal has also received submissions concerning the remuneration of deputy chairs of committees in their respective Houses of Parliament from the Leader of the Government in the Senate, Senator the Hon Nick Minchin, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon David Hawker MP. Some aspects of these submissions, including the quantum of the proposed allowance, are at variance with your proposals.

After considering all the proposals for remuneration of deputy chairs in both Houses, taking into account committee numbers, the nature of their work, comparative levels of responsibility and relative workloads, the Tribunal has formed some proposals, which are set out in the attachment to this letter.

We would appreciate your views on our proposals by 30 September 2006, as this will assist the Tribunal in meeting its statutory obligation to complete its annual review of additional salary for parliamentary office holders. The contact for this matter in the Tribunal's Secretariat is Ms Celia Tancred on (02) 6121 5244.

I have written in similar terms to Senator Minchin and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Yours sincerely

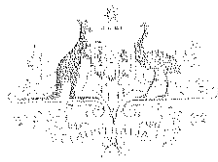
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John C Conde AO
President
15 September 2006

Payment recommended for Deputy Chairs of Senate and House Committees:

Type of Committee	Tribunal Proposal: Deputy Chair#
Legislative/General Purpose Standing Committees: Senate - 8 Committees House - 13 Committees	5.5% of base Salary
Committees dealing with the internal affairs of Parliament: Senate – 7 Committees House – 5 Committees	NIL
Joint Statutory and Standing Committees administered by either House or Senate (<u>except</u> Broadcasting of Parliamentary Procedure): 10 Committees	8% for the 4 Committees specified in Determination 2005/17 5.5% of base salary for others
Joint Select Committee / Select Committee in either House	NIL
Investigating Standing Committee established by resolution of either House	NIL

The proposed amount is 50% of the additional salary paid to the relevant committee Chair.



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29 AUG 2006

Mr John Conde, AO
President
Remuneration Tribunal
PO Box 281
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2600

Dear Mr Conde

I refer to my letter of 22 June 2006 relating to remuneration for Deputy Chairmen of Senate Committees.

On 14 August 2006 the Senate adopted a report of the Senate Procedure Committee which consolidated a number of standing committees of the Senate, to be effective from 11 September 2006. The dual system of sixteen legislative and references committees, with eight designated portfolio subject areas, has been replaced by eight general purpose standing committees.

As a consequence of the changes, these committees will under the revised standing orders be responsible for consideration of (a) matters referred to them by the Senate, including estimates of expenditure; (b) bills or draft bills; (c) annual reports of departments and agencies; and (d) the performance of departments and agencies allocated to them.

It is reasonable to expect, as a consequence of this consolidation, that the workload of these committees will significantly increase. I understand that the Government has indicated it will make a submission to your Tribunal suggesting an additional office-holder allowance for Deputy Chairs of these committees.

I would support such an allowance. Given that all the Joint Committees have historically had a significant, and sustained, workload, I would also respectfully suggest that the Tribunal take this opportunity to give consideration to the Deputy Chairs of the Joint Statutory and Joint Standing Committees receiving an appropriate additional allowance, with the exception of the Joint Standing Committee on the Parliamentary Library where a decision has been taken that neither of the Co-Chairs should receive additional remuneration, and the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings, where statute provides that the Presiding Officers will be Chairman and Deputy Chairman, *ex officio*.

I would not suggest an additional Deputy Chairs' allowance for the Privileges, Publications or Senators' Interests Standing Committees, nor for the Deputy Chairs of the two Senate Legislative Scrutiny Standing Committees, *i.e.* the

Regulations and Ordinances Committee and the Committee on the Scrutiny of Bills.

It is of course a matter for the Tribunal to determine the quantum of any additional Deputy Chairs' allowance. I note the Speaker in his 4 May 2006 submission on the remuneration of Deputy Chairs of House of Representatives Committees suggests a determination of between one-quarter and one-half of the allowance payable to Chairmen of committees of that place.

I would think, in regard to the Senate, that 60 per cent of the allowance payable from time to time to the relevant Chairman would be an appropriate quantum, reflective of the workload. That would equate, under the present scale, to \$7,894 p.a. for Deputy Chairs of legislative and general purposes committees and \$11,424 p.a. for Deputy Chairs of Joint Statutory and Joint Standing Committees.

I would be happy to provide any further information the Tribunal may require.

Yours sincerely



(Paul Calvert)



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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Mr John Conde, AO
President
Remuneration Tribunal
PO Box 281
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2600

22 JUN 2006

Dear Mr Conde

Late in May Mr Derren Gillespie, Secretary to the Remuneration Tribunal, contacted my office to ask whether I might be making any submission to the Tribunal in relation to remuneration for Deputy Chairmen of Senate committees, and advised my office that the Speaker of the House of Representatives made a submission in relation to remuneration of Deputy Chairs of House of Representatives committees on 4 May 2006. I understand the Tribunal was anxious to ensure that each House of the Parliament was treated equally.

I have now had an opportunity to read the Speaker's submission.

The Senate committee system is different from that operating in the House, however the Government on 20 June 2006 announced a proposal to amalgamate Senate general purpose legislative and references committees so that the current 16 committees covering 8 portfolio areas would be consolidated into 10 committees covering 10 portfolio areas. The workload of those committees would consequently change, and the Government has announced that it will be making a submission to the Tribunal seeking an allowance for Deputy Chairmen of those committees.

The Senate has yet to consider the proposal, and has referred it to the Procedure Committee, for consideration during the winter recess. I would expect the Senate will consider the Procedure Committee's report when Parliament resumes in early August.

I will write to you again, once I know the outcome of the Senate's deliberations. I should then be in a better position to comment on the general proposal that Deputy Chairmen be remunerated. I will send a copy of this letter to the Speaker, for his information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Paul Calvert'.

(Paul Calvert)