

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, RT.HON. R.G.MENZIES

SALARIES OF FEDERAL JUDGES

The Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) said before leaving Canberra today that the Government would introduce bills during the present sittings of Parliament to increase the salaries of the judges of the High Court and of the Federal Courts created by the Australian Parliament.

Explaining the decision the Prime Minister said that the salaries of the Commonwealth judges had not been altered since 1955 although since that time the salaries of other public offices for which the Commonwealth was responsible had been increased more than once. The salaries paid to State judges in New South Wales and Victoria have been increased several times since 1955, and the remuneration, including allowances, of these judges is now in every case but one, in excess of the salaries paid to the Commonwealth judiciary. For these reasons the Commonwealth Parliament will be asked to establish proper levels of remuneration for its judges.

In New South Wales the increases made, subsequently to the Judges' Remuneration Act 1955 (Commonwealth) were :-

Chief Justice

1955	£5575	plus	£350	allowance
1957	5850	"	"	"
1959	6200	"	"	"
1960	6900	"	"	"

Puisne Judges, Supreme Court

1955	£4725	plus	£250	allowance
1957	5000	"	"	"
1959	5500	"	"	"
1960	6250	"	"	"

Industrial Commission

1955	£4725	plus	£250	allowance
1957	5000	"	"	"
1959	5500	"	"	"
1960	6250	"	"	"

and in Victoria

Chief Justice

1956	£5750	plus	£500	allowance
1958	6050	"	"	"
1960	6750	"	"	"

Puisne Judges, Supreme Court

1956	5150	plus	£350	allowance
1958	5450	"	"	"
1960	6150	"	"	"

The allowances do not bear tax to the extent that expenditure incurred against them is deductible.

By way of comparison the present salaries of the Judges of the High Court are for the Chief Justice £8,000 and for the other Justices £6,500. For the Chief Judge of the Commonwealth Industrial Court and the President of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission the salary is £6500; and for the puisne Judges of the Commonwealth Industrial Court the Federal Judge in Bankruptcy and the Deputy Presidents of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission £5,500.

The proposed new salaries for the Judges of the High and Federal Courts will include £10,000 for the Chief Justice of Australia and £8,500 for the other Justices of the High Court. The Chief Judge of the Commonwealth Industrial Court and the President of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission will receive £8,000. The puisne judges of the Commonwealth Industrial Court, the Federal Judge in Bankruptcy and the Deputy Presidents of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission will receive £7,000.

These figures represent an increase of £2,000 (gross) on present figures in the case of the High Court, and an increase of £1500 (gross) for the other judges.

The High Court is established by the Constitution. It is the supreme court of the Commonwealth and the ultimate court of appeal in Australia; the new salaries are designed to reflect its special status and responsibilities.

The Prime Minister said that these were the main changes. There were special considerations applicable to the Supreme Courts of the mainland Territories; the salaries of the judges of the Territory Courts would be determined later.

CANBERRA
29th September, 1960.