



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON.
WILLIAM McMAHON, CH, MP

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

26 APRIL 1972

In response to representations from both sides of the House, the amounts of travelling allowances paid to Members of Parliament have been reviewed.

Along with his recommendations for increased salaries, Mr Justice Kerr in his report tabled in Parliament on 8 December 1971 recommended that travelling allowances payable to Members and to Ministers and office-holders be increased. The Government subsequently decided not to proceed with any of the three bills relating to increases in Parliamentary salaries and allowances. That remains the position. Travelling allowances are not covered in this legislation and can be regarded separately from salaries, electorate allowances and Ministerial allowances.

The travelling allowance, or Canberra allowance, paid to Members of Parliament for living expenses and out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending Parliamentary Sittings has been \$15 a day since 1968. Mr Justice Kerr recommended \$22 a day. In several areas of the Commonwealth Service in Canberra in the less senior grades, the travelling allowance now paid is higher than the Canberra allowance paid to Members of Parliament. It has been put that to meet Members' increased living costs in Canberra and the increased costs of out-of-pocket expenses, the current rate of Canberra allowance should be increased. It has been decided to accept this view and to increase the allowance to \$22 a day as recommended by Mr Justice Kerr.

Mr Justice Kerr made recommendations about the payment of Canberra allowance for Party and Committee meetings held when the Parliament is not sitting. These recommendations will be accepted.

It was also recommended that the conditions of payment of travelling allowance be clarified. With this objective, a review of the conditions of payment will be undertaken.

As part of his general review, Mr Justice Kerr recommended that Members of Parliament residing in the ACT should receive half the Canberra allowance. As this matter is now being treated in isolation, it has been decided that Members of Parliament

residing in the ACT will not receive any increase in Canberra allowance but will not have the allowance reduced. These Members will continue to receive \$15 a day.

Mr Justice Kerr recommended increased travelling allowances for Ministers and office-holders. In general, the amounts of these allowances have not changed since 1964. The allowances are paid for travel away from Canberra on official or Parliamentary business. The recommended allowances were :-

PRIME MINISTER	\$42 A DAY
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SENIOR MINISTERS AND THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION	\$36 A DAY
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MINISTERS, THE PRESIDING OFFICERS, THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE	\$33 A DAY
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DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE AND THE LEADER OF THE SECOND NON-GOVERNMENT PARTY IN THE SENATE	\$28 A DAY
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THESE RECOMMENDED AMOUNTS OF TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE
WILL BE PAID.

The current travelling allowance of \$21 a day payable to Members of some Parliamentary Committees for meetings away from Canberra will be increased to \$25 a day. Travelling expenses will be reimbursed to Assistant Ministers to a maximum of \$25 a day.

The new rates will be payable from tomorrow.
