



# PRIME MINISTER

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## REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL REVIEW

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, announced today that Ministers would not accept the increases in Ministerial salary and allowances proposed in the Remuneration Tribunal's 1978 Review.

When the Parliament resumes in August, the Government will move for the disallowance of the Tribunal's Determinations Nos. 6 and 7 which provided for increases in the special allowance and travelling allowance of Ministers, and in the salary, special allowances, and travelling allowance of office holders of the Parliament.

The Government will also not proceed with implementation of the Tribunal's Report No. 1, which proposed increases in Ministerial salaries.

Mr Fraser said that Ministers felt strongly that they should be setting an example of restraint to the community.

In its submission to the Tribunal the Government had emphasised that it considered there should be no salary increases for persons within the Tribunal's jurisdiction, stating its belief that such offices are appropriate areas for establishing an example of restraint.

It had pointed out to the Tribunal that the Government's overall commitment to wage restraint had formed the basis of its submission to National Wage/Indexation hearings, when it had opposed any rise in award wages. If, however, the Tribunal did not accept the Government's argument, the Government suggested there should not be any increase greater than that applying from a "flow on" of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission decisions to those office holders who had not received any increases since last year.

Regrettably, the Tribunal had not accepted the thrust of the Government's argument.

Mr Fraser said, however, that the Government was prepared to abide by the Tribunal's other findings. This would allow all Senators and Members to receive salary increases based on national wage case decisions which had already been received by other wage and salary earners. Senior public servants and statutory office holders were in a similar position. The Tribunal's recommendations in respect of Judges would be accepted.