



PROPOSAL FOR "STUDY TRAVEL" BY NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER

The Remuneration Tribunal has determined that non-Executive members are entitled to financial assistance with travel for the purposes of undertaking studies or investigations of matters related to his or her duties and responsibilities as a Member ("study travel").

Chapter 15 of the Members' Guide sets out procedures for members to access this entitlement that the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure has endorsed. The process involves:

1. the member completing a "study travel proposal" and lodging that proposal with the Secretariat's Corporate Services Office; and
2. the Corporate Services Office providing advice to the Speaker on the proposal and on the member's available entitlement.

Members should note that approval to utilise this entitlement cannot be sought retrospectively.

The following information must be provided:

Brief description of the proposed activity (must include the purpose of the journey/activity and/or details of any conferences to be attended or training to be undertaken):

I am attending two conferences in Sydney, in my role as Shadow Treasurer, to discuss taxation issues and how these influence the development of taxation policies in the ACT. The first conference is the GST Distribution Review Symposium, which is being held under the auspices of the federal Treasury; the second conference is a Tax Roundtable, which is being held by the Menzies Research Centre.

Detailed itinerary (including dates and times) of the places to be visited/activity to be undertaken:

The GST Distribution Review Symposium is being held on Thursday, 13 October 2011 at the Holiday Inn, Sydney Airport. The Tax Roundtable is being held on Friday, 14 October 2011 at the Hilton Hotel in Sydney. I will stay at the Hilton Hotel on 13 October 2011.

Estimated cost of activity: \$630 [Tax Roundtable fee; accommodation; parking; fuel]

(Note: Analysis of cost should include fares, travelling allowances, conference fees and other training expenses)

I acknowledge that:

- within **eight weeks** of completing this activity, I am required to submit a written report detailing: the travel undertaken and the costs incurred (including any reimbursement received for nominee accompanied travel); the names and area of responsibility of persons contacted; a summary of business undertaken; in relation to any approved training undertaken, a report on that training; and
- details of this proposal and the study travel report will be published on the Assembly's internet site.

Brendan Smyth

Member's Name

Signature

11 / 10 / 11

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

Speaker

12 / 10 / 11

*Delete as applicable

STUDY TRIP REPORT

Name: Brendan Smyth

Purpose of visit: To attend two conferences on taxation matters.

Places visited and date(s) of visit: Sydney; 13 and 14 October 2011

Expenses incurred (including any reimbursement for spouse-accompanied travel):

Air fares	
Conference registration	220
Expenses and Incidentals	374
Total:	\$594

Organisation(s) and individuals visited and areas of responsibility:

I received an invitation to attend the GST Distribution Review Symposium in Sydney, on 13 October 2011, in my capacity as Shadow Treasurer. The activities at the Symposium were managed by the members of the review panel: Mr Nick Greiner AC and Mr John Brumby, as well as Mr Paul McCullough the Secretary of the review.

I attended a Tax Roundtable on 14 October 2011 in Sydney, which was conducted by the Menzies Research Centre. Some of the key people attending this Roundtable included the Hon Tony Abbott MP, the federal Shadow Treasurer, Hon Joe Hockey MP, Mr Dick Warburton, Dr Tony Rumble and Hon Mike Baird MLA, NSW Treasurer.

Business undertaken:

The Symposium involved a number of invited academics and interested parties making presentations to the Review Panel with questions and answers following. A wide range of views were presented and ideas canvassed.

At the end of the presentations the Review Panel led a discussion involving all in attendance.

Subjects which were discussed included:

- distribution of the GST and its effect on the various jurisdictions;
- distribution of mining royalties;
- the establishment of sovereign wealth funds
- the relationship between the Federal and State and Territory Governments; and
- the special circumstances of the ACT.

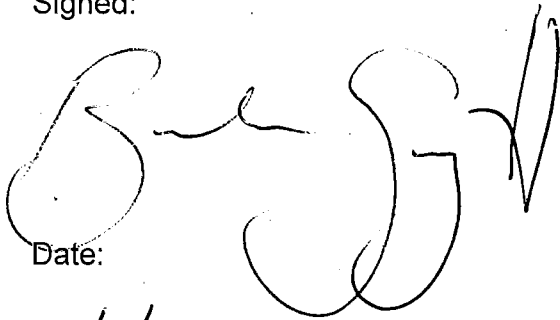
The Roundtable provided an opportunity for a wide range of views on prospects for reform of the taxation system. Subjects which were discussed included:

- evaluating how Australia's taxation system compares with taxation systems which exist in other countries and how Australia's competitiveness is influenced by the existing taxation system;
- examining the range of taxes which are imposed by the States and the potential for removing inefficient taxes; and
- considering the possibilities for simplifying the Australian taxation system and for removing unnecessary requirements.

Conclusions and/or recommendations:

These two forums provided a valuable exchange of views on contemporary taxation matters and this learning will be used to develop policies which are appropriate for the ACT economy.

Signed:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. J. V.' or similar, written over the 'Signed:' label.

Date:

23/1/12