

2025

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

Remuneration Tribunal Determination 6 of 2025 – ACT Supreme Court

**Presented by
Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister
September 2025**



Determination 6 of 2025

ACT Supreme Court Judicial Positions

made under the

Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995, section 10 (Inquiries about holders of certain positions)

ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT

Background

Under section 10 of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995* (the Act), the Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) must inquire into and determine the remuneration, allowances and other entitlements to be paid to the holders of Judicial positions mentioned in Schedule 1 of the Act, including the Chief Justice of the ACT Supreme Court, and Acting Judges. For the Chief Justice, this entitlement is in addition to their entitlements as a resident judge under the *Supreme Court Act 1933*.

Considerations

In August 2025, the Tribunal commenced its Spring Sitting to consider the remuneration, allowances and other entitlements of the following office-holders:

- ACT Magistrates;
- ACT Supreme Court judges;
- ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal members;
- the ACT Integrity Commission (Integrity Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer);
- the Principal Registrar, Courts and Tribunal;
- the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- part-time Holders of Public Office on Boards, Tribunals and Committees; and
- any other positions that have been referred to the Tribunal for consideration.

The Tribunal advertised its Spring Sitting on its website and in the Canberra Times on 31 May 2025. The Tribunal also wrote to the relevant office-holders inviting submissions.

At its meeting in August 2025, the Tribunal met with the Chief Minister, ACT Government Treasury officials and officials responsible for the Enterprise Agreement bargaining for ACT Public Sector non-executive employees. The Tribunal also met with full-time and part-time public office holders, and Directorate officials.

The ACT Government briefing provided an overview of the local economy and a summary of the Machinery of Government changes, implemented in July 2025, designed to deliver improved standards of service to the Canberra community. The ACT Government noted that current Enterprise Agreements are expiring in 2026 and confirmed that bargaining had commenced with a continued focus on the lowest paid public service employees.

The briefing provided to the Tribunal by ACT Treasury confirmed that the ACT economy remains strong. The ACT recorded Wage Price Index (WPI) growth of 3.6 per cent over the year (June 2024 – June 2025)¹, and the labour market continues to be robust with high participation rates and low unemployment relative to other jurisdictions.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics released the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the June 2025 Quarter, which included an increase of 0.3 per cent for the ACT during the quarter², and a 1.6 per cent increase over the year (June 2024 to June 2025).³ The national annual CPI inflation was 2.1 per cent over the year, with trimmed mean inflation trending down from 2.9 percent in the March 2025 quarter to 2.7 percent in the June 2025 quarter.⁴ While inflation has moderated, cost of living pressures persist. In this context the Tribunal remains alert to the future compounding effect of not providing increases in remuneration.

The ACT Government indicated that while there is a positive outlook for the economy, the ACT budget faces fiscal pressures. Therefore, the Tribunal sought to balance considerations around the strength in the labour market, community expectations and the Territory's fiscal circumstances, which impact on the affordability of pay increases.

The Tribunal notes the increase to the remuneration of Federal Court Judges, to which the remuneration of ACT Supreme Court Judges is linked under legislation. This increase is reflected in the current determination for Supreme Court judges. Consistent with past practice, the Tribunal made a commensurate increase to the allowance payable to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Decision

The Tribunal determines to increase the allowance for the position of the Chief Justice of the ACT Supreme Court to \$53,008 per annum continuing the existing relativity of this allowance to salary and noting also the increases in remuneration and entitlements provided to Federal Judicial positions in July 2025 by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal which therefore determines the remuneration provided to ACT Judicial positions.

The Tribunal determines to maintain the remuneration for the position of Acting Judge of the ACT Supreme Court, at the rate of 1/230 of the annual remuneration paid to a Judge of the ACT Supreme Court per day.

The retrospective application of this Determination to 1 July 2025 does not affect the rights of a person (other than the ACT Government) in a manner prejudicial to that person, nor does it impose any liability on such person.

1 September 2025

¹ [Australian Bureau of Statistics Release 13 August 2025](#)

² [Australian Bureau of Statistics Release 30 July 2025](#)

³ [ACT Treasury, 30 July 2025, CPI – June Quarter 2025](#)

⁴ [Australian Bureau of Statistics Release 30 July 2025](#)



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1. Commencement

This instrument is taken to have commenced on 1 July 2025.

2. Remuneration

- 2.1 The benchmark is \$530,080 (being the remuneration payable to a Federal Court Judge and ACT Supreme Court Judge on 1 July 2025).

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

- 2.2 The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is entitled to an allowance of \$53,008 per annum in addition to the benchmark.

Acting Judge

- 2.3 If an Acting Judge undertakes judicial duties for 3 hours or more on any given day, they are entitled to the daily remuneration calculated at the rate of 1/230 of the annual remuneration paid, from time to time, to a Judge of the ACT Supreme Court.
- 2.4 If an Acting Judge undertakes judicial duties for fewer than 3 hours on any given day, they are entitled to half of the daily remuneration rate.
- 2.5 In any 12-month period, total remuneration paid to an Acting judge must not exceed that paid to a Judge of the ACT Supreme Court.
- 2.6 The Chief Justice may include reasonable travelling time other than for travel between the person's home and principal place of work in the number of hours in a given day in which the Chief Justice determines that the Acting Judge has undertaken judicial duties.
- 2.7 **Judicial duties** includes the following:
- court sitting time, as listed by the Chief Justice;
 - preparation, decision writing and judicial education approved by the Chief Justice; and
 - reasonable travelling time other than for travel between the person's home and principal place of work.

- 2.8 An Acting Judge is entitled to an allowance in lieu of a vehicle equal to the amount of reimbursement for private vehicle running costs that applies to Federal Court Judges, as determined by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal, from time to time. This allowance is paid pro-rata for the period of the appointment and is not superable.

3. Travelling Allowance for an Acting Judge — within and outside Australia

An Acting Judge of the Supreme Court is entitled to the same travelling allowance provisions as for other ACT Supreme Court Judges (being those of a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia), which are outlined in Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal Determinations for Judicial and Related Offices, issued from time to time.

4. Employer superannuation contribution – Acting Judge

- 4.1 An Acting Judge of the Supreme Court is only eligible for the employer's superannuation contribution in this determination if their superannuation entitlements are not provided for elsewhere.
- 4.2 Superannuation entitlements for an Acting Judge are consistent with clause D7 in the *ACT Public Sector Administrative and Related Classifications Enterprise Agreement 2023-2026* or its replacement.
- 4.3 The value of the employer's superannuation contribution must not be paid in cash to the person appointed to an office in clause 2 of this Determination.

5. Definitions

In this Determination:

employer means the Australian Capital Territory and includes any person authorised to act on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory.

fringe benefits tax means the tax assessed under the *Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986*.

6. Revocation of previous determination

Determination 8 of 2024 is revoked.

Ms Sandra Lambert AM
Chair

Ms Pam Davoren PSM
Member

Mr Michael Manthorpe PSM FIPAA
Member

1 September 2025