

Public Sector Industrial and Employee Relations

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Circular No. C1/06

Date 20 April 2006

Changes to the policy on the payment of fees to Part time Chairs and Members of Government Boards, Committees and Statutory Authorities

On 21 November 2005 Cabinet decided that Ministers were to immediately ensure that fees for all boards within their portfolio covered by the current policy are increased to the 1 September 2004 rates and that such fees increases were to be met from within agency budgets.

This decision is based on the need to standardise fees across all boards assessed at the same fee level to ensure there is equity and fairness in the operation of the policy.

This decision effectively eliminates Ministerial discretion to recommend to Cabinet and the Governor in Council less than the maximum daily fees, however these may have been calculated.

Further the Auditor General requires that provision be made for the payment of reduced fees in relation to meetings and special assignments of short duration occurring on any day. This is to better align board fees with the actual work performed.

The standardisation of fees also applies to future fee increases. All boards are to receive fee increases annually. The increases will be notified by the Department of Industrial Relations and will be effective from 1 July.

The booklet on the *Remuneration of Part time Chairs and Members of Government Boards, Committees and Statutory Authorities* has been adjusted accordingly and can be found at: www.psier.qld.gov.au/policies/docs/remunbook.pdf.

The following changes have been made to the booklet –

- Daily fees have replaced references to maximum fees
- The only occasion on which a board does not receive the daily fee is when work is of short duration

- Half day fees are to apply where the duration of meetings and special assignments is 4 hours or less on any one day. Full daily fees apply for work in excess of 4 hours on any day.
- Reference to Ministerial discretion in determining the fees to be paid has been removed
- All board fees are to be increased annually on 1 July only after notification is received from the Department of Industrial Relations
- As fees are standardised and boards at the same level are receiving the same fees the need to undertake fee reviews has decreased i.e. there is no longer a need to review the fees paid to a board when the chair or 50% or more of the members' positions become vacant.
- Reviews are now limited to newly created boards, special reviews of existing boards when the functions and responsibilities of a board have significantly altered or when an annual allowance is being proposed.
- The Auditor General has recommended that the calculation of an annual allowance be based on a record of the hours previously worked.
- Reference to public sector employees now also includes employees of local government owned corporations. This corrects an existing anomaly.

Tom Barlow
GENERAL MANAGER

The Division of Public Sector Industrial and Employee Relations provides policy advice and consultancy and training services to Queensland Government departments and agencies. It is part of the Department of Industrial Relations. Enquiries about this circular should be directed to Maria McGinity on 3225 2346.

General enquiries about public sector industrial and employee relations matters should be directed to telephone 07 3225 2658.

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Copies of all current circulars issued by Public Sector Industrial and Employee Relations are available from the department's web site at www.psier.qld.gov.au

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