



# AFPA BULLETIN FOR ALL MEMBERS

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## AFP TRAVEL POLICY SCROOGES MEMBERS

The Australian Federal Police Association is disappointed that the AFP is reluctant to consult with the Association and move to a system that provides the same level of compensation for travel related expenses as other Commonwealth agencies.

Setting the per diem rate at **\$85** for domestic travel is too low in 2007. Not only is it lower than the rates set by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations more than 2 years ago it is also significantly below existing rate of **\$97.25 per day**.

The AFPA understands that in information provided by the Acting COO to all staff it is stated:

*“the travel rates have been established with reference to the taxation rulings on what is deemed reasonable compensation for costs incurred in the course of official travel”*

If this is the case then it is reasonable to ask how the rates the AFP has arrived at are lower than those that the Australian Taxation Office provides to its employees when they travel. Surely the ATO would have regard to their own tax rulings?

Surely the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations would have similar regard to those rulings when providing guidance to public sector agencies on appropriate travel rates.

Why is the AFP intent on scrooging its workforce?

The AFPA has asked AFP management the following questions:

“Can you provide some explanation as to why you are proposing to pay TA at a level close to \$15 below most Commonwealth agencies [including the ATO and DEWR]?”

“Could you also confirm whether this policy applies to SES employees or whether a higher rate applies?”

The AFP has yet to respond to either question.

The simplest and fairest solution would be to set this allowance at \$97.25 a day or round it up to \$100 a day. For an organization that expects its members to be able to respond to emerging priorities at short notice this is a small price to pay.

**If you have any concerns about the issues in this bulletin or other industrial queries please contact your local representatives or the AFPA National Office on [afpa.industrial@afpa.org.au](mailto:afpa.industrial@afpa.org.au) for more information.**