



# AFPA Bulletin

## AFP Travel Policy

### 24 June 2008

The AFPA has raised members concerns about the rate & limitation on the travel allowance in the amended *AFP National Guideline on Travel*. At our request the AFP National Manager Human Resources reconsidered the policy but states that the policy will not be changed. The AFPA is seeking a review of his decision by the AFP Commissioner. We will keep members informed of developments on this important equity issue.

The AFPA welcomed the introduction of direct payments of travel allowance to compensate AFP employees for meals and incidentals while travelling rather than the previous acquittal process. However, the AFPA believes that the current rate for the allowance is too low. We also object to the removal of partial day payments.

The daily rate for domestic travel is set at \$85. The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations' (DEWR) recommends an allowance of \$97.25. This rate is applied by several Commonwealth agencies, including the Australian Crimes Commission. Some agencies provide an even higher rate of allowance for meals and incidentals. The AFPA considers the nature of travel conducted by these agencies to be comparable to that conducted by AFP employees. **Therefore, the AFPA has recommended that the AFP travel allowance be set at the DEWR recommended rate of \$97.25 for overnight stay.**

Under the amended *AFP National Guideline on Travel*, the travel allowance is payable "only for a period of official travel which includes an overnight stay" This is inconsistent with other Commonwealth agencies and the previous AFP Guideline. AFP employees, who travel extensively for long hours and over meal times, miss out on the allowance when they do not stay overnight. The AFPA argues that this provision fails to adequately account for the nature of the AFP workplace which includes employees who are engaged in shift work and other flexible work patterns. **The AFPA has recommended that the AFP introduce a partial day travel allowance for individual meal periods.**

The AFPA believes that the AFPs current position is erroneous. Many AFP employees are subject to excessive travel requirements. These members are now being disadvantaged by this arbitrary change to the *AFP National Guideline on Travel*. AFP employees have lost a previous entitlement without consultation. The AFPA will be seeking equity in relation to Commonwealth travel allowance.

**If you have any concerns about the issues raised in this bulletin or other CA 2007 – 2011 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.**