



AFPA Bulletin: AFP Travel Policy 1 September 2008

The AFPA National President Jon Hunt-Sharman and AFPA CEO Jim Torr have raised members concerns about the rate & limitation on the travel allowance in the amended *AFP National Guideline on Travel* with the AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty. The AFP Commissioner has agreed to a joint AFPA/AFP review of the AFP Travel Policy. The Commissioner should be commended for his conciliatory approach in relation to this important issue.

You will recall that the AFPA believes that the current rate for the allowance is too low. We also objected 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 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 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 operational requirements. **The AFPA recommended that the AFP introduce a partial day travel allowance for individual meal periods.**

As part of the joint AFP/AFPA review, the AFPA National President and AFPA CEO recently met with AFP Chief Operating Officer Andrew Wood and National Manager Human Resources Paul Jevtovic. Preliminary discussions were positive and there appears to be 'room to move' by both parties.

A further meeting is scheduled with the AFP, to work through this issue. The AFPA is confident that a compromised outcome will be jointly reached by the AFP/AFPA working group.

The AFPA will keep members informed of the progress and final outcome of the joint AFPA/AFP review.

If you have any concerns about the issues raised in this bulletin or other CA 2007 – 2011 queries please contact your local representatives or visit your AFPA Zone Discussion Forum at <https://secure.afpa.org.au/members/>

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