

Dear Tribunal Secretariat,

Please find the following written submission, regarding the Members of Parliament salaries and allowances – annual adjustment...

Specifically, this submission refers to the third question suggested on the Tribunal website...

What other matters should the Tribunal consider when making the Determination, if any, in addition to those listed in section 24(2) of the VIRTIPS Act?

I submit that parliamentarians should not be remunerated above a 3.0% increase in base salary, in line with the cap to salary increases that they have imposed upon members of their own public service, who are conducting the business of the Victorian government for them.

Whatever other measures you have that say they should be paid more, the overriding principle of servant leadership should be applied – that the masters are no better than the servants. If is OK to cap Police, Nurses, childcare workers, teachers, ambulance workers, forest firefighters at 3%, then I'm sure their leaders will follow that example. If belts need to be tightened, then indeed the leaders should be tightening them, too.

If you go against this fundamental principle of leadership and follow other stats instead, you – Tribunal members – continue the decline of our civilisation by extending the gap between those 'leading' our society and those who are actually making the society function.

They are already remunerated at more than twice the average of Public Servants' average wages – so 3% for a parliamentarian is already more than twice as much of an increase, as it is for an average VPS worker. Anything greater than 3% therefore adds injury to insult – especially if they impose further budget cuts across the public service this year.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

Please confirm receipt of this submission.

Regards, Sonia Athanaileas