

DEFENCE FORCE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

MATTER NO 25 OF 2008

SUBMARINE ESCAPE ALLOWANCE

STATEMENT

At the Annual Review of Allowances on 22 July 2008 (Matter No 11 of 2008) the ADF foreshadowed a review of Submarine Escape Allowance (SEA) to be conducted in November 2008.

The ADF and the Commonwealth proposed that this matter be dealt with on the papers without the need for a formal hearing, to which the Tribunal agreed.

In November 2008, the ADF provided a written submission to the Tribunal on its proposal for SEA. The ADF submitted that the structure and quanta of SEA remain current. The ADF went on to say it is recognised that there is a “skills component encapsulated within SEA and any implications for the structure of this allowance would be best addressed in a wider review of salary related allowances. The ADF intends to conduct a comprehensive review of salary related allowances as a matter of priority in 2009 and intends to incorporate SEA into this review.”

In a written submission on 3 December 2008, the Commonwealth said “We note the ADF submission relating to Submarine Escape Allowance. We note that the submission does not seek to change the current structure or quanta of the allowance. As it is proposed that the DFRT undertake a wider review of ADF ‘disability’ allowances in 2009 it would seem appropriate for the ADF submission to be considered as part of the broader review.”

The Tribunal agrees with this approach. Since the ADF considers that the structure and quanta of the allowance remain current, it would be appropriate to include SEA in the broader review of disability allowances in 2009.