



Australian Government

Comcare

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Jurisdictional Policy Advice No. 2008/6

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988

Review of kilometre rate under sub-section 16(6) – effective 1 July 2008

Background

1. Sub-section 16(6) of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC Act) provides that Comcare is liable to pay compensation where an employee reasonably incurs expenditure in making a necessary journey not involving the use of public transport or an ambulance (i.e. using a private motor vehicle) to and from medical treatment and provides the formula for payment of travel costs.
2. The total distance travelled must exceed 50 kilometres as prescribed in subsection 16(7). Subsection 16(8) lists the factors to be considered, including the place where appropriate medical treatment was available, the means of transport available and the route that could have been travelled.
3. Where the journey involves the use of a private motor vehicle compensation payable for the journey is calculated by the formula:

Specified rate per kilometre x Number of kilometres travelled.

4. The Minister specifies the rate per kilometre by legislative instrument and the previously approved rate of \$0.47 per kilometre was effective on and from 1 July 2003.
5. The specified rate is regularly reviewed by applying the annual movement in the relevant CPI components, excluding standing costs, under the category 'Transportation – Private Motoring'. The annual movement in these costs for the quarter ending in the March 2008 was 28.4%.
6. When the movement is applied to the current specified kilometre rate of \$0.47 the rate per kilometre increases by 13 cents to \$0.60.

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7. On 6 June 2008 the Minister approved an increase in the specified rate to \$0.60 per kilometre effective from 1 July 2008. A copy of the signed Ministerial Instrument is attached.
8. Determining authorities should have suitable processes and procedures in place to ensure that all calculations of entitlements under subsection 16(6) use the rate specified by the Minister for all applicable journeys undertaken on and from 1 July 2008.
9. For enquiries concerning this policy advice, please contact the SRC Policy Section by telephone on 1300 366 979, or by email at SRC.Policy@comcare.gov.au

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