



Jurisdictional Policy Advice No. 2007/ 14
Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRC Act)
Indexation of Funeral Benefits under Section 13.

Background

1. On 29 June 2007, Jurisdictional Policy Advice 2007/11 advised that as a result of the legislative changes to the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2007 (SRCOLA)*, the ‘maximum amount’ payable under subsection 18(2) of the SRC Act had been increased to \$9000, commencing on 13 April 2007.
2. The SRCOLA Act also provided for this increased amount, the ‘relevant amount’ of the new subsection 18(4)(a), to be subject to the indexation provisions of section 13 of the SRC Act. Section 13 provides for the ‘relevant amounts’ specified to be indexed on 1 July each year, based on variations in the Consumer Price Index for the previous December to December period.
3. The relevant percentage change from the December quarter 2005 to the December quarter 2006, as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, reflected an increase of 3.3% in the All Groups Consumer Price Index (CPI).

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4. As a result of this situation, the advice given in JPA 2007/11 with respect to the maximum amount of compensation payable for funerals under subsection 18(2) has been updated.
5. The maximum amount of compensation available under subsection section 18(2) for funerals for a date of death in the period between 13 April 2007 (the commencement of the amended Act) and 30 June 2007 (dates inclusive) is \$9000.
6. The maximum amount of compensation in respect of funeral expenses to be paid under subsection 18(2) for a date of death from 1 July 2007 is **\$9,297**. This figure takes into account a 3.3% increase in CPI for the previous December to December period, in accordance with section 13.

7. Indexed rates for 2008 and beyond will be notified by Comcare in conjunction with other rates indexed under the provisions of section 13 around February each year when the CPI statistic becomes available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
8. Any queries in relation to this policy advice may be discussed with SRC policy, phone 1300 366 979 or email SRC.Policy@comcare.gov.au

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Director

SRC Policy

22 July 2007