

COUNCILLOR EXPENSES for the period 1 July to 30 September 2008

BACKGROUND

The allowance paid to Councillors is currently set by the State Government in an Order-In-Council and specified as \$110,000 for the Lord Mayor, \$45,000 for the Deputy Lord Mayor and \$25,000 for Councillors.

Significant demands and expectations are placed on Councillors of City of Melbourne in carrying out their civic and statutory functions. In carrying out their policy development, representation and communication roles, Councillors accept a range of responsibilities in representing a Capital City government and its community and stakeholders at a local, national and international level.

As part of these responsibilities, Councillors represent the Council on over 30 external organisations and advisory bodies. The demands and level of expectations on Councillors in these roles is significant and varies from organisation to organisation depending on specific structure, purpose and objectives. In a small number of instances, remuneration or fees for services on the organisations is offered to Council. A full list of external organisations and advisory bodies with details of any fees received by Council can be found on the Council's web site at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au.

The Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines provide a broad overview of how the Council provides assistance and support to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors in carrying out their role and official duties as Councillors.

As part of Council's commitment to open government, Council has resolved that details of Councillor expenses in the following categories be released on a regularly basis and be accessible on the Council's web site.

EXPENSE CATEGORIES

1. Conferences, Functions and Training*

This category covers registration fees associated with attendance by Councillors at conferences, functions, seminars and one-off or short-term training courses. These are normally held by local government related organisations, professional bodies and institutions, educational institutions and private sector providers on areas and events which impact on the role of Councillors and the City in general. Attendance may involve activities held locally, interstate and overseas.

2. Travel Local *

This category covers costs associated with assisting Councillors in meeting the transport costs incurred in attending meetings, functions and other commitments within and outside the municipality. This comprises use of taxi service, reimbursement for use of private vehicle while conducting Council business, car parking fees, the provision of car parking permits, e-tags and use of Council fleet vehicles as described in the Councillor Expenses & Resources Guidelines. This category also comprises costs associated with accommodation and incidentals incurred when travelling on Council business in outer metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

3. Travel Interstate *

This category covers costs associated with Councillors travelling interstate on Council business as approved in accordance with Councillor Expenses & Resources Guidelines. This comprises airfares, accommodation costs, car hire, taxis, meals, hospitality and ancillary expenses such as dry cleaning, laundry and recreation. Interstate conference registration fees are covered under (1) above and communication expenses are included in section (6) below.

4. Travel Overseas *

This category covers costs associated with Councillors travelling overseas on Council business as approved in accordance with Councillor Expenses & Resources Guidelines. This comprises airfares, accommodation, visas, passport costs, car hire, taxis, meals and hospitality and ancillary expenses such as dry cleaning, laundry and recreation. Overseas conference registration fees are covered under section (1) above and communication expenses are included in section (7) below.

5. Communication – Local

This category covers communication costs associated with ensuring that Councillors are accessible and are able to communicate with constituents, stakeholders, other Councillors, Council officers and family members while conducting Council business locally. This category comprises costs associated with use of mobile phones, home phones, facsimile machines and use of telephone services for internet access.

6. Communication – Interstate

This category covers communication costs associated with ensuring that Councillors are accessible and are able to communicate with constituents, stakeholders, other Councillors, Council officers and family members while conducting Council business when travelling interstate on Council business. This category comprises costs associated with use of phone cards, telephone, facsimile and internet services at places of accommodation or access points while on interstate Council business.

7. Communication – Overseas

This category covers communication costs associated with ensuring that Councillors are accessible and are able to communicate with constituents, stakeholders, other Councillors, Council officers and family members while conducting Council business when travelling overseas on Council business. This category comprises costs associated with use of phone cards, telephone, facsimile and internet services at places of accommodation or access points while on overseas Council business.

8. Functions External to Town Hall *

In some cases, Councillors may need to use external hospitality services when conducting Council business outside Council offices. In doing so, Councillors seek reimbursement for expenses incurred. These expenses comprise costs associated with the provision of meals, refreshments and other entertainment (for Councillors and their guests) considered appropriate to the nature of Council business being conducted.

9. Carer Expenses

The Council will reimburse the cost of necessary carer expenses incurred by Councillors in the course of carrying out their duties. This covers child care and other forms of care needed to support immediate family members

** Costs incurred under these categories may include those relating to the participation of partners in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines*

SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES FOR THE LORD MAYOR AND DEPUTY LORD MAYOR FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008			
	Lord Mayor, John So	Deputy Lord Mayor, Gary Singer	Total
1. Conferences, Functions & Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2. Travel - Local	\$4,763.92	\$3,110.04	\$7,873.96
3. Travel - Interstate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4. Travel - Overseas	\$4,135.56	\$0.00	\$4,135.56
5. Communication – Local	\$530.21	\$1,085.20	\$1,615.41
6. Communication – Interstate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7. Communication – Overseas	\$415.06	\$0.00	\$415.06
8. Functions External to Town Hall	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9. Carer Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$9,844.75	\$4,195.24	\$14,039.99

SCHEDULE OF COUNCILLOR EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

	Cr Catherine Ng	Cr Dr David Wilson	Cr Carl Jetter	Cr Fraser Brindley	Cr Brian Shanahan	Cr Fiona Snedden	Cr Peter Clarke	Total
1. Conferences & Functions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$136.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59.09	\$0.00	\$195.45
2. Travel – Local	\$213.21	\$115.36	\$1,957.42	\$184.65	\$467.92	\$616.87	\$27.05	\$3,582.48
3. Travel – Interstate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4. Travel – Overseas	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,391.19	\$0.00	\$6,391.19
5. Communication – Local	\$474.19	\$431.32	\$387.81	\$129.68	\$853.61	\$1,543.46	\$1,096.32	\$4,916.39
6. Communication – Interstate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7. Communication – Overseas	\$1.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$518.56	\$0.00	\$520.26
8. Functions External to Town Hall	\$456.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$456.25
9. Carer Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,905.00	\$0.00	\$1,905.00
Total Expenses	\$1,145.35	\$546.68	\$2,481.59	\$314.33	\$1,321.53	\$11,034.17	\$1,123.37	\$17,967.02