

**STATEMENT FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT,
CATHERINE HOLMES.**

Date: 30 July 2018

EXPLANATION OF JUDICIAL OVERSEAS TRAVEL

The Supreme and District Courts of Queensland has today released an explanatory statement to accompany the publication of its Judicial Overseas Travel for 2016/17.

This explanation is intended to clarify the position on overseas travel.

Overseas travel by judges is generally funded through their Jurisprudential Allowance, which is a component of their remuneration.

From 1993, the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal viewed the (jurisprudential) allowance 'as part of the total income of Queensland judges'. Consequently, it reduced judicial salaries (compared to other jurisdictions) by the amount of the allowance and permitted judges to elect to take the allowance as cash or to use it to cover travel expenses to attend conferences for professional development.

That continues to be case under the *Judicial Remuneration Act 2007* which gives Queensland judges the option as to how to have the amount paid.

As the allowance is in the nature of a salary sacrifice, it is not correct to view it as 'taxpayers' money'. It is entirely within the discretion of judges to decide whether and how they spend it for the purpose of conference travel as it is their own income.

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