



SENATOR THE HON MATHIAS CORMANN
Minister for Finance
Leader of the Government in the Senate

Mr Peter Woolcott AO
Australian Public Service Commissioner
GPO Box 3176
CANBERRA ACT 2601


Dear Mr Woolcott


I am writing on behalf of myself and the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health and the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service and Cabinet. We request a stay on increases to remuneration, entitlements and allowances for all Senior Executive Service public servants, until such time as we have resolved the challenges arising from the COVID19 pandemic.

At this critical time, while the Government is dealing with the challenges presented by COVID19, we would not consider it appropriate that senior public officials enjoy economic advancement while so many in today's economy are facing severe difficulties. Wage restraint for the highest paid public officials would assist the unified national effort to ensure available public funding is focussed as far as possible towards protecting public health, saving jobs and supporting economic recovery.

This request does not cover public servants at more junior levels who are at the front line of the delivery of Government services.

We can inform you that we have written in similar terms to the Chair of the Remuneration Tribunal, Mr John Conde AO, to request an equivalent freeze on increases to remuneration, entitlements and allowances for Ministers, parliamentarians, parliamentary office holders and all senior office holder positions that are subject to the Tribunal's determinations.

We would appreciate your timely consideration of this important proposal. I have copied this letter to the Hon Greg Hunt MP, the Minister for Health and the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service and Cabinet.


Kind regards

Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance

 March 2020