



BUSINESS & FINANCE COMMITTEE

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To the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia:

MINIMUM STIPEND – JULY to DECEMBER 2013

Commencing 1 July 2013, the minimum stipend for ministers will be \$1,230.85 per week. This is a rise of \$39.32 over the present minimum stipend of \$1,191.53. This adjustment follows the procedure established by Synod 1982 (Acts of Synod 1982, Article 70.3) and flows from an increase in the Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE) of 3.3% in the 6 months to November 2012.

Synod 1988 decided that children's allowances are to be adjusted by the same percentage as the minimum stipend. These allowances are now as follows:

\$15.27 per week for each child under the age of 12;

\$25.45 per week for each dependent child aged 12 and over.

The service increment remains unchanged at \$3.00 per week for each year of service up to a maximum of 10 years within the denomination or within a church in ecclesiastical fellowship with the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia. If your minister lives in his own home, a suitable housing allowance is to be paid to him, as agreed upon between him and the Session (as per Article 70.7.b of Acts of Synod 1982).

Concerning your legal obligation to provide for Superannuation, please note that full-time or part-time employees (including vicars) who are paid \$450 or more per month are required by law to have superannuation contributions paid by their employer. The Session is legally responsible for ensuring that superannuation payments are made. If you want such employees registered in the CRCA Superannuation Fund, please notify me immediately of the date on which such employee will commence to be paid by your church and the amount of the weekly/monthly salary.

As usual, you will be advised in December 2013 of the adjustment to apply as from January 2014.

On behalf of the Business & Finance Committee

Troy Vander Noord