



Determination 2:

Excess Employees – Income Maintenance

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**Government
of South Australia**

Office of the Commissioner
for Public Sector Employment

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Determination 2: Excess Employees – Income Maintenance

Date of issue: 22 January 2026

WHO IS COVERED BY THIS DETERMINATION?

This Determination applies to:

- Employment in the Public Service (being employment in an administrative unit (department or attached office)), and
- Public sector employment outside the Public Service that is declared by another Act or the *Public Sector Regulations 2025 (PS Regulations)* to be employment to which section 16(1) of the *Public Sector Act 2009 (PS Act)* applies.

Agencies' Human Resources sections can clarify whether this Determination applies to particular employment, and to what extent.

DEFINITION OF AN EXCESS EMPLOYEE

An employee is excess to requirements when they are not employed in a substantive, funded role, duties or position and it is not practicable to transfer them to another suitable substantive, funded role, duties or position commensurate with their substantive remuneration level.

INCOME MAINTENANCE FOR EXCESS EMPLOYEES

The Commissioner for Public Sector Employment determines that where an employee is transferred to a role, duties or position at a lower remuneration/classification level than their substantive remuneration/classification level pursuant to section 53(1)(a) of the PS Act, the employee will continue to be remunerated at the rate they were being paid at the time they were transferred to role at the lower remuneration/classification level for the applicable following periods:

- for an employee with at least one-year continuous service but less than ten years – for a period of six months; or
- for an employee with at least ten years continuous service – for a period of twelve months.

An excess employee may be assigned or transferred to a role within any public sector agency on conditions that maintain the employee's substantive remuneration level, unless the provisions detailed below apply.

An income maintenance period will begin three (3) months following the employee being transferred to a role, duties or position at the lower remuneration/classification level. Chief Executives, agency heads or delegates may extend the period of income maintenance in exceptional circumstances.

A period of income maintenance does not need to be continuous. Should an excess employee be temporarily transferred into a suitable role, duties or position at their substantive classification level (or a higher level) during the time that income maintenance is applicable such income maintenance will be suspended for the relevant period. Income maintenance will recommence at the completion of the temporary transfer, if the employee resumes the role, duties or position at the lower remuneration/classification level.

An employee will be entitled to a second or subsequent period of income maintenance, if, after having been transferred to an ongoing substantive, funded role, duties or position, they again become excess to requirements and are transferred to another role, duties or position with a lower classification/remuneration level.

The rate payable to an employee during a period of income maintenance is the rate applicable to the substantive remuneration level they were employed at prior to being declared excess to requirements. The rate payable includes increases awarded through enterprise bargaining. Remuneration includes any allowances prescribed through awards, enterprises agreements or other industrial instruments. It does not include attraction or retention allowances unless the terms of the allowance require payment to the employee regardless of the duties they perform.

Where, at the cessation of a period of income maintenance, an employee is not performing duties at their relevant substantive remuneration level, the employee's remuneration will be pegged at that amount until such time as the remuneration applicable to the classification of any new role, duties or position they occupy equals or exceeds the pegged rate of pay.

An employee whose rate of pay is pegged shall not receive any increase to remuneration, whether incremental or otherwise (e.g. general salary increase applicable under an enterprise agreement) until such time as the remuneration for any new role, duties or position they occupy equals or exceeds the pegged rate of pay.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A period of income maintenance does not commence until an employee is transferred to a role, duties or position at a lower remuneration/classification level. In other words, a period of income maintenance does not necessarily commence at the time an employee becomes/is declared excess to requirements – unless this coincides with transfer to a role, duties or position at a lower remuneration/classification level.

A Chief Executive, agency head or delegate must be satisfied that it is not possible to transfer an employee to other duties at their substantive remuneration level, before they transfer or assign the employee to a role, duties or position at a lower remuneration level. Pursuant to section 53 of the PS Act, a public sector agency may not reduce an employee's remuneration level unless the agency has made reasonable endeavours to find, but has failed to find, other suitable duties to which the employee might be assigned or transferred on conditions that maintain the employee's substantive remuneration level.

Pursuant to section 62 of the PS Act, any decision to reduce an employee's remuneration level, or to transfer or assign an employee to a different place, that reasonably requires the employee to change his or her place of residence is a prescribed employment decision and therefore potentially subject to review by the South Australian Employment Tribunal.

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