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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT – Family Reunion Travel 1 December 2020 to 31 January 2021 – [2021/013]

Date: 22 July 2021

To: s 47F
A/g Director, Audit & Assurance

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

- i. Note the contents of this preliminary assessment and proceed to an assurance review for Senator the Hon Amanda Stoker.

PROCEED TO AN ASSURANCE REVIEW / PLEASE DISCUSS

s 47F

Date: 22 July 2021

s 47F

A/g Director, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Prepared by:

s 47F

Date: 22 July 2021

s 47F

Assurance Support Officer, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

PURPOSE

1. This preliminary assessment aims to assess the use of family reunion travel resources accessed by parliamentarians and their families from 1 December 2020 to 31 January 2021.

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BACKGROUND

2. As part of IPEA's assurance activities, IPEA conducts ongoing systematic checking of expenses through regular sampling of transactions, including accompanying family and desirable destinations.
3. IPEA produced a family reunion travel resources report for all parliamentarians and their family members from 1 December 2020 to 31 January 2021.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

4. Relevant legislation includes:
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017.*

ANALYSIS

5. Upon investigation it was found that 31 parliamentarians used family reunion travel resources at some time during the period 1 December 2020 to 31 January 2021.
6. Initial review of the travel undertaken by parliamentarians and their family members suggests no further action is required.
7. However, based on the information available, including arrival and departure locations, the use of family travel by Senator the Hon Amanda Stoker requires further investigation.

CONCLUSION

8. On the basis of the preliminary assessment conducted, it is recommended IPEA proceed with an assurance review into the Senator the Hon Amanda Stoker's family reunion travel from 12 December to 15 December 2020.