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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT – [2022/001]

Mr Craig Kelly MP, Member for Hughes, use of parliamentary business resources to travel to Melbourne on 13 November 2021 and 4 to 6 December 2021.

Date: 24 January 2022

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

RECOMMENDATION

- i. Note the contents of this preliminary assessment and proceed to an assurance review.

PROCEED TO AN ASSURANCE REVIEW

PLEASE DISCUSS

s 47F

24 January 2022

s 47F

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

Prepared by:

s 47F

Date: 24 January 2022

s 47F

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

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PURPOSE

1. This preliminary assessment aims to assess whether Mr Craig Kelly MP accessed parliamentary business resources to travel to and within Melbourne on 13 November 2021 and ~~4 to 6~~ December 2021 ^{s 47F}

BACKGROUND

2. In November 2021 a number of media articles reported that Mr Kelly (a backbench parliamentarian with a suburban Sydney electorate), attended protest rallies about pandemic laws in Victoria in November and December 2021 (see an example at Attachment A).
3. In accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, a Preliminary Assessment into Mr Kelly's use of parliamentary business resources to travel to and within Melbourne on 13 November 2021 and ~~4 to 6~~ December 2021 commenced on 18 January 2022. ^{s 47F}

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

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

ANALYSIS

5. Upon investigation it was found that parliamentary business resources (flights by scheduled commercial services) were used by Mr Kelly to travel to Melbourne on 13 November 2021 (returning the same day) and on ~~4~~ December 2021 (returning on ~~6~~ December 2021).
6. Parliamentary business resources (COMCAR) were also used by Mr Kelly to travel from Melbourne Airport to Port Melbourne on 13 November 2021.

CONCLUSION

7. On the basis of the findings of this preliminary assessment, and in accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, it is recommended IPEA proceeds with an assurance review into this matter to determine the dominant purpose of Mr Kelly's use of travel resources.

NEWS CORONAVIRUS

5:53pm, Nov 13, 2021 Updated: 6:50pm, Nov 14

LIVE

Massive demo against mandatory jabs and 'pandemic law' swamps Melbourne



Protesters march through Melbourne's CBD on their way to Parliament House.
Photo: Twitter



The New Daily

@TheNewDailyAU

5:53pm, Nov 13

SHARE



LIVE

Thousands have marched through central Melbourne in the largest protest so far against pending pandemic laws that would give politicians the right to impose pandemic restrictions that critics have denounced as legislated tyranny.

Protesters blocked tram lines and forced public transport to be rerouted as they marched from the State Library to Parliament.

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crowd, which stretched from Spring Street to Elizabeth Street, to be in excess of 20,000.

With another protest set for next weekend, Reignite Democracy's founder Monica Smit hopes to see that number doubled on November 20. Ironically, Ms Smit was unable to attend because of bail conditions imposed after an earlier arrest.

Unlike earlier anti-lockdown demonstrations, there were no reports of unrest or violence, with some police seen handing out water bottles to marchers.

Craig Kelly's rant

Former Liberal MP turned United Australia Party leader Craig Kelly addressed the protest, saying mandatory vaccinations were an "abuse of human rights".

"We are being governed by medical bureaucrats that are part of a mad, insane cult of vaccinists," he told the rally.

As of Friday, just under 93 per cent of Victorians aged 12 and over had received at least one vaccine dose and 86 per cent both.

The deadline for construction workers to be fully vaccinated to continue working on site has been reached.

The controversial vaccine mandate, which sparked violent protests across Melbourne in September, requires all tradies to have had two vaccine doses by Saturday.

Victorian aged care workers must be fully vaccinated by Monday and about one million of the state's essential workers in total will be required to be double-jabbed by November 26.

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"I would encourage Victorians to fight on every level against Daniel Andrews' terrible pandemic bill ... but they should make their views known in a peaceful and calm and sensible way," he told reporters.

-with AAP

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