



**Australian Government**  
**Independent Parliamentary**  
**Expenses Authority**

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## ASSURANCE REVIEW MEMORANDUM – 2021/004

Former Senator Mr Cory Bernardi, travel during the period 1 October to 30 November 2019.

Date: 10 February 2021  
To: Marc Roberts  
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal

Declaring party political duties as dominant purpose of travel after deregistering the Australian Conservatives Party.

### PURPOSE:

This assurance review aims to:

1. Determine the dominant purpose of former Senator Mr Cory Bernardi's travel during the period 1 October to 30 November 2019.

### BACKGROUND:

2. IPEA received a public enquiry on 19 November 2020 raising concerns on the misuse of travel allowance by the former Senator Mr Cory Bernardi, on three occasions in October and November 2019, by declaring party duties as the dominant purpose of travel after Mr Bernardi had deregistered his party earlier that year.
3. IPEA conducted a preliminary assessment of travel and travel-related expenses incurred by former Senator Mr Cory Bernardi during the period 1 October to 30 November 2019. The preliminary assessment found that parliamentary business resources were used for travel by the former Senator during the period. In accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, an assurance review into Mr Bernardi's travel was commenced on 19 November 2020.

### LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK:

4. Section 10(2) of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017* (the Regulations) provides that Australian travel allowance for members is limited to 10 nights in a financial year for travel for the dominant purpose of one or more of the following:
  - (a) conducting the member's party political duties at a location other than Canberra;
  - (b) conducting the member's electorate duties at places outside the member's electorate.

### TRAVEL:

5. IPEA reviewed Mr Bernardi's Quarterly Expenditure Report (October – December 2019) at Attachment A and noted three instances where Mr Bernardi is reported to have claimed 'Party Duties (excl. CBR) & Outside Electorate Duties' during this period.

# OFFICIAL

6. The travel allowance section in the Quarterly Expenditure Reports have three categories of parliamentary business:
  - Electorate Duties;
  - Parliamentary Duties; and
  - Party Duties (excl. CBR) & Outside Electorate Duties.
7. IPEA examined Mr Bernardi's travel allowance claims for these three trips (Attachment B) and noted that Mr Bernardi selected 'Electorate Duties' as the dominant purpose for each trip. The travel locations were outside his electorate of South Australia.

## ANALYSIS:

8. Mr Bernardi became an independent on 25 June 2019 when his political party, the Australian Conservatives, was deregistered. From this date he was unable to claim 'Party Duties' as his reason for travel.
9. IPEA's Travel Education and Advice Branch (TEAB) processes travel allowance claims received from parliamentarians into Entitlements Management System (EMS). If a travel allowance claim form is received and the parliamentarian has selected party political duties (excluding Canberra), or electorate duties and they have travelled outside their electorate, TEAB processes the claim in EMS against section 10(2) of the Regulations. This ensures the 10 night limit outlined in section 10(2) of the Regulations is not exceeded in any given financial year.
10. Mr Bernardi's dominant purpose of accessing travel allowance on 19 October 2019, 7 November 2019 and 29 November 2019 was for electorate duties outside his electorate.

## CONCLUSION:

11. Mr Bernardi used parliamentary business resources when claiming travel allowance on 19 October 2019, 7 November 2019 and 29 November 2019.
12. There is no basis for concern of misuse as Mr Bernardi claimed electorate duties outside his electorate, not party political duties as was alleged by the member of the public.
13. On the information available to IPEA there is no basis to conclude that Mr Bernardi's travel for the period 1 October to 30 November 2019 requires further investigation.

## RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that you:

14. Note the contents of this Assurance Review and:
15. Accept the matter as closed with no further investigation required.

NOTED & ACCEPT AS CLOSED

/ PLEASE DISCUSS

Prepared by:

s 47F

12 February 2021

s 47F

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

Reviewed by:



12 February 2021

Marc Roberts

Branch Manager, Audit & Assurance  
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Senator Cory Bernardi

**Travel Allowance****Travel Allowance**

Date From	Date To	Location	Details	No. of Nights	Rate	Amount
29 Sep 19	2 Oct 19	Port Lincoln	Electorate Duties	4	\$112.00	\$448.00
13 Oct 19	16 Oct 19	Canberra	Parliamentary Duties	4	\$291.00	\$1,164.00
19 Oct 19	20 Oct 19	Sydney	Party Duties (excl. CBR) & Outside Electorate Duties	2	\$415.00	\$830.00
29 Oct 19	31 Oct 19	Port Lincoln	Electorate Duties	3	\$112.00	\$336.00
7 Nov 19	7 Nov 19	Sydney	Party Duties (excl. CBR) & Outside Electorate Duties	1	\$415.00	\$415.00
10 Nov 19	13 Nov 19	Canberra	Parliamentary Duties	4	\$291.00	\$1,164.00
24 Nov 19	27 Nov 19	Canberra	Parliamentary Duties	4	\$291.00	\$1,164.00
29 Nov 19	30 Nov 19	Melbourne	Party Duties (excl. CBR) & Outside Electorate Duties	2	\$392.00	\$784.00
1 Dec 19	4 Dec 19	Canberra	Parliamentary Duties	4	\$291.00	\$1,164.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>28</b>		<b>\$7,469.00</b>

**IPEA A&A NOTE:**

This page has been extracted from the former Senator Cory Bernardi's Oct-Dec 2019 Quarterly Report which is published on IPEA's Reporting Portal at:

[https://www.ipea.gov.au/pwe?field\\_reporting\\_period\\_tid=319&combine=Bernardi&=Apply](https://www.ipea.gov.au/pwe?field_reporting_period_tid=319&combine=Bernardi&=Apply)





## PARLIAMENTARIAN'S TRAVEL and/or PRIVATE VEHICLE CLAIM

- Use this form to claim travel allowance from 1 January 2018.
- This form must be lodged within 60 days of the completion of travel.
- Please ensure all relevant fields are completed.
- Incorrect or omitted details will delay processing of this claim.

### Returning your completed form

Scan and Email to: [forms@ipea.gov.au](mailto:forms@ipea.gov.au)

Enquiries: Independent Parliamentary  
Expenses Authority

Email: [enquiries@ipea.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ipea.gov.au)

Phone: (02) 6215 3000

### SENATOR / MEMBER

Last name **BERNARDI**

First name **CORY**

### TRAVEL & PVA DETAILS

- Non-consecutive nights must be identified by a separate line for each night/group of nights.
- Private Vehicle Allowance (PVA) is only to be claimed for the use of a privately owned vehicle (not a private plated vehicle (PPV)) for travel to and from Canberra, or part way.

Travel date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Travel from	Travel to	Accommodation details				Dominant purpose (select one per leg of travel)				PVA No. of kms if PVA applies to this leg
			Specific location stayed (i.e. suburb/town)	No. of nights being claimed	Type of accom. (see codes below*)	Receipts attached (if location other than Canberra)**	Parliamentary Duties	Electorate Duties	Party Political Duties	Official Duties	
19/10/2019	ADELAIDE	SYDNEY	SYDNEY CBD	2	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21/10/2019	SYDNEY	ADELAIDE				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

\* Accommodation codes: Commercial – C Non-commercial – NC Canberra – NR

\*\* If not provided, receipts must be available on request

### CERTIFICATION

- I certify that my claim for the expense, allowance or public resource complies with sections 25, 26, 27 and 28 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.
- I acknowledge that I am personally responsible and accountable for my use of public resources and that if section 26, 27 or 28 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* is contravened any amount not repaid within 28 days attracts a 25% penalty and is a debt due to the Commonwealth.
- I understand that knowingly giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995*.
- I have read and understood the Privacy Collection Notice (below).

Signature

Date

21/10/19

**Privacy Collection Notice** — Consistent with the *Privacy Act 1988*, the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) uses the personal information provided in this form to facilitate the administration and monitoring of work expenses and allowances for Parliamentarians and their employees under the parliamentary work expenses framework. Details of the related expenditure may be tabled in Parliament, published on the IPEA website, or provided to the Special Minister of State, the Department of Finance, relevant service providers, or publicly, as authorised by law. Further details on the collection, storage and use of personal information is available in the full Privacy Notice at [www.ipea.gov.au/privacy-policy](http://www.ipea.gov.au/privacy-policy)

*Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*

s25 Obligations in relation to the use of public resources for conducting parliamentary business

s26 Dominant purpose test

s27 Obligation to ensure value for money in incurring expenses or claiming allowances or other public resources

s28 Obligation not to make claims or incur expenses in breach of conditions



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<b>SENATOR / MEMBER</b>	Last name	BERNARDI
	First name	CORY

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Travel details			Accommodation details				Dominant purpose (select one per leg of travel)					PVA
Travel date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Travel from	Travel to	Specific location stayed (i.e. suburb/town)	No. of nights being claimed	Type of accom. (see codes below*)	Receipts attached (if location other than Canberra)**	Parliamentary Duties	Electorate Duties	Party Political Duties	Official Duties	No. of kms if PVA applies to this leg	
07/11/2019	ADELAIDE	SYDNEY	SYDNEY CBD	1	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
08/11/2019	SYDNEY	ADELAIDE				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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SENATOR / MEMBER	Last name	BERNARDI
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			Specific location stayed (i.e. suburb/town)	No. of nights being claimed	Type of accom. (see codes below*)		Parliamentary Duties	Electorate Duties	Party Political Duties	Official Duties	
29/11/2019	ADELAIDE	MELBOURNE	MELBOURNE CBD	2	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
01/12/2019	MELBOURNE	CANBERRA	GRIFFITH	4	NR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
05/12/2019	CANBERRA	ADELAIDE				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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