

From: [Pearson, Nicole](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Assurance Review - the Hon Greg Hunt MP - Family travel [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 7 September 2021 2:08:30 PM
Attachments: [image002.gif](#)
[image003.gif](#)

SEC=OFFICIAL

[REDACTED]

Cleared. Thank you.

Kind regards

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

T: 02 6215 3991

M: 0457 800 444

E: nicole.pearson@ipea.gov.au

W: www.ipea.gov.au & www.ipea.gov.au/ed

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 6 September 2021 9:58 PM
To: Pearson, Nicole <Nicole.Pearson@IPEA.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Assurance Review - the Hon Greg Hunt MP - Family travel
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

Dear Nicole

FOR CLEARANCE (by COB Monday 13 September 2021)

As foreshadowed in my earlier email, I have **attached** another assurance review (AR) memo (and relevant attachments). This AR relates to the use of family travel expenses by the Hon Greg Hunt MP.

This matter is also quite straight forward. In particular, I note paragraph 13 of the **attached** which indicates that Minister Hunt's office sought advice from IPEA about the use of family travel expenses and it appears the travel was undertaken in accordance with that advice. [REDACTED] has recommended (endorsed by me) that this matter requires no further action.

[REDACTED] and/or I would be happy to discuss if you have any questions or would like further information.

Kind regards

s 47F

s 47F

Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

s 47F

| 02 6215 2505 |

s 47F

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

ASSURANCE REVIEW MEMORANDUM – [2021/016]

The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, use of family travel expenses for the period 1 May 2019 to 20 August 2021.

Date: 6 September 2021

To: Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

- i. Note the contents of this assurance review, and
- ii. Accept the matter as closed with no further action required.

NOTED & ACCEPTED AS CLOSED / PLEASE DISCUSS

Date: September 2021
Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Prepared by:

s 47F

Reviewed by:

s 47F

Date: 31 August 2021

s 47F

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

Date: 31 August 2021

s 47F

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

SCOPE

1. The period in scope of the assurance review is 1 May 2019 to 20 August 2021.

PURPOSE

2. This assurance review aims to assess the Hon Greg Hunt MP's (Minister Hunt) use of family travel expenses during the period 1 May 2019 to 20 August 2021.

BACKGROUND

3. On 5 May 2021 IPEA received a public enquiry about the use of family travel expenses by Minister Hunt.
4. In accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, a preliminary assessment into Minister Hunt's use of parliamentary business resources (family travel expenses) commenced on 10 May 2021 (**Attachment A**).

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

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

6. Family travel expenses must meet the three part test set out in section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017* (the Regulations):

A family member of a member travels for family reunion purposes if:

- (a) the member is travelling within Australia for the dominant purpose of conducting the member's parliamentary business; and*
- (b) the family member travels to accompany or join the member; and*
- (c) the travel by the family member is for the dominant purpose of facilitating the family life of the member's family.*

Obligations

7. The principles based legislative Framework imposes a number of obligations on parliamentarians in relation to their use of public resources. In summary, parliamentarians are personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources. They must be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business and must act ethically and in good faith in using, and accounting for the use of, those resources. Specifically, a parliamentarian must not claim public resources unless they are claimed for the dominant purpose of conducting their parliamentary business.

ANALYSIS

8. IPEA reviewed family travel expenses incurred by Minister Hunt, and his family, for the period 1 May 2019 to 20 August 2021.
9. IPEA identified 2 instances of family travel expense use by the family members of Minister Hunt (**Attachment B**).

Trip 1 — 28 to 29 May 2019

10. All 3 family members of Minister Hunt travelled from Melbourne to Canberra on 28 May 2019.

11. Minister Hunt was in Canberra from 27 May 2019 to the 30 of May 2019 and claimed 3 nights of travel allowance (TA) for Official Duties.
12. All 3 family members returned to Melbourne on 29 May 2019.

Trip 2 — 13 to 14 March 2021

13. The office of Minister Hunt sought advice from IPEA in relation to this travel and all travel occurred as per the advice provided and recorded in the vFire system, reference number 1568337.
14. Mr Hunt claimed 2 nights in Sydney from the 8 to the 10 of March 2021 and 5 nights in Canberra from 13 March 2021 for Parliamentary Duties.
15. Minister Hunt claimed and was paid travel allowance on the basis that his overnight stays were for the dominant purpose of conducting his parliamentary business at the relevant times.

CONCLUSION

16. Based on the information available to IPEA, and noting paragraph 13 above, it appears that Minister Hunt's use of the family travel expenses was in accordance with the framework.



Australian Government
**Independent Parliamentary
 Expenses Authority**

Protocol—Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) was established to provide greater accountability and transparency of the Parliamentary Work Expenses Framework (the Framework). IPEA provides assurance that parliamentarians' work resources and *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act) employees' travel resources are spent in compliance with the Framework.

IPEA deals with possible misuse of work or travel resources at arm's length from Government. The *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* (IPEA Act) provides legislative powers for the auditing and reporting of parliamentarians' work and travel resources and MOP(S) Act travel resources.

When IPEA becomes aware of information that indicates possible non-compliance with the Framework, IPEA may conduct a preliminary assessment. The assessment scrutinises the use of the work or travel resource and determines if a parliamentary business resource has been used.

Possible misuse

In the event of possible misuse, IPEA decides whether to undertake an assurance review or audit of the matter. IPEA does not undertake assurance reviews or audits at the request of parliamentarians or MOP(S) Act employees.

- Under the IPEA Act, IPEA may audit any parliamentarian's work or travel resource or MOP(S) Act travel resource as it considers appropriate.
- IPEA may conduct an assurance review where a preliminary assessment indicates that a Commonwealth resource was used for a parliamentarian's work expense or MOP(S) Act employee's travel expense.
- IPEA may conduct an audit where there are allegations of systemic or substantial misuse of work expenses or where there is an educative benefit.
- An audit may also be a systematic and comprehensive examination of the use by all parliamentarians and/or MOP(S) Act employees of a specific category of work expense.
- The Members of the Authority or the Chief Executive Officer may issue a notice requiring a person to provide information that is relevant to an audit by IPEA, as provided for under Part 5 of the IPEA Act. Criminal penalties apply for failure to comply with a notice, or for providing false or misleading information.
- In the event of an audit, the parliamentarian or MOP(S) Act employee is accorded procedural fairness to provide comment on any findings.

Members of the Authority decide whether a matter is referred to the Australian Federal Police (AFP)

- The Minister responsible for the AFP and the Minister responsible for the Framework are notified of a referral to the AFP.

Publication of audits

- Members of the Authority decide whether, or not, to publish their decision(s).

As approved by the Members of the Authority: October 2020

Minister Greg Hunt family travel expenses for the period 1 May 2019 to 20 August 2021

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways – s 47F	Melbourne	28/05/2019	4:20pm	Canberra	28/05/2019	5:25pm	\$493.46
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways – s 47F	Melbourne	28/05/2019	4:20pm	Canberra	28/05/2019	5:25pm	\$493.46
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways – s 47F	Melbourne	28/05/2019	4:20pm	Canberra	28/05/2019	5:25pm	\$493.46
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways – s 47F	Canberra	29/05/2019	3:00pm	Melbourne	29/05/2019	4:10pm	\$168.79
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways – s 47F	Canberra	29/05/2019	3:00pm	Melbourne	29/05/2019	4:10pm	\$168.79
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways – s 47F	Canberra	29/05/2019	3:00pm	Melbourne	29/05/2019	4:10pm	\$168.79
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways – s 47F	Sydney	13/03/2021	2:35pm	Canberra	13/03/2021	3:30pm	\$408.80
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways – s 47F	Canberra	14/03/2021	1:25pm	Melbourne	14/03/2021	2:30pm	\$347.31