

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: Andrew Laming **s 47F**  
Sent: Thursday, 14 July 2022 10:53 AM  
To: Godwin, Annwyn <Annwyn.Godwin@ipea.gov.au>  
Cc: **s 47F**  
Subject: CEO correspondence

This is important correspondence, and I urge you to review your decision to ignore communication regarding this matter.

Third-party **s 47F** has now confirmed that the basis of my 2019 Hobart conference address arrangements was inadvertently not provided to IPEA Audit because, 'I don't think they requested the sms details.' These fourteen exchanges comprised the entirety of the hard copy material. They demonstrate that I addressed the Conference 'as his guest,' negotiated timings and discussed content.

- ote IPEA also omitted from audit any inconvenient material that might be inconsistent with their adverse finding.
- ✓ - Conference registration with Conference Partners June 12,
  - ✓ - Dinner event booking and subsequent refund on June 24 because I was attending 'as **s 47F** guest.'
  - ✓ - Travel bookings- flights BNE to HOB and LST to MEL, re-routed HOB to MEL due to Parliamentary meeting rescheduled from Friday 21 June to Monday 24 June.
  - Accommodation (non-refundable) bookings, with additional bookings required due to illness and size of party which had no net impact on cost to the Commonwealth.

I now draw your attention to the relevant part of the Act.

*Effect of ruling*

- (5) A ruling given in relation to conduct engaged in by a member or any other person ceases to be conclusive evidence of the matters stated in the ruling to the extent that:
- (a) the *contrary is established by the member*; or (see the ignored March 16 and 23 correspondence)
  - (b) the Chief Executive Officer of IPEA establishes, on behalf of the Commonwealth, that the ruling was given on the basis of information (from RANZCO) that was *false or misleading* **s 47F** (RANZCO provided information they neither intended nor knew was misleading).

I reject the findings below, given the information forming the basis of the decision is now conclusively exposed as incomplete.

58. There is evidence from the conference convenor, **s 47F** that Mr Laming spoke to the RANZCO meeting around the morning tea break on Sunday 23 June 2019. **s 47F** advises that there was no record of any formal invitation for Mr Laming to attend the conference. He said "We got to know of Mr Laming's plans to attend at the last minute" and "We came to know about Mr Laming's plan to attend the conference quite close to the actual meeting and we made a slot for him to speak on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June".

**s 47F** is copied into this communication, should any element of it be contrary to his recollection.

**Be careful with this message**

External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

s 22(1)

**From:** Pearson, Nicole  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 July 2022 1:21 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Sian  
**Subject:** FW: CEO correspondence [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Please discuss

Kind regards

---

**Nicole Pearson**

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

T: s 22(1)

M: s 22(1)

E: [nicole.pearson@ipea.gov.au](mailto:nicole.pearson@ipea.gov.au)

W: [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)

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**From:** Godwin, Annwyn <[Annwyn.Godwin@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Annwyn.Godwin@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 July 2022 12:34 PM  
**To:** Pearson, Nicole <[Nicole.Pearson@IPEA.gov.au](mailto:Nicole.Pearson@IPEA.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Frost, Michael <[Michael.Frost@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Frost@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: CEO correspondence [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Dear Nicole

Please confirm that the dot point information forwarded by Mr Laming is included in his previous correspondence for consideration by the independent assessor. If not, please arrange for relevant material to be provided to Mr Frost.

Regards, Annwyn

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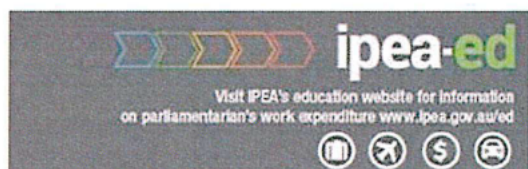
**Annwyn Godwin**

Chief Executive Officer  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603

T: s 22(1)

E: [annwyn.godwin@ipea.gov.au](mailto:annwyn.godwin@ipea.gov.au)

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The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to Land, Waters and Community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past, present and emerging.





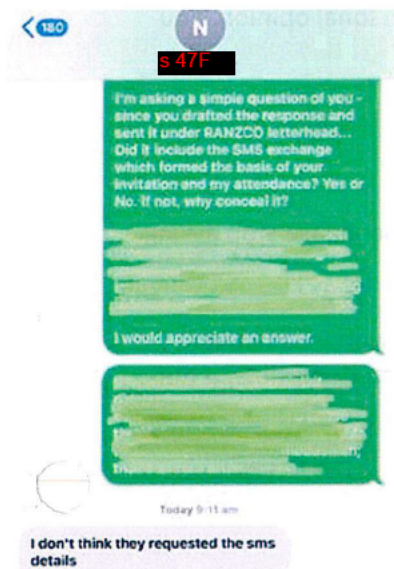
From: Andrew Laming [s 47F](#)  
Sent: Friday, 8 July 2022 4:41 AM  
To: Godwin, Annwyn <[Annwyn.Godwin@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Annwyn.Godwin@ipea.gov.au)>  
Cc: [s 47F](#)  
Subject: Audit in tatters

This represents a final opportunity to rectify clear and deliberate Audit omissions that led to the fabrication of an adverse decision in the 2019 Hobart/Melbourne travel matter.

Thanks to IPEA failing to redact [s 22\(1\)](#) name from the FOI material, it is evident his conduct included removal of the following relevant factual material from assessment.

- June 12, 2019 non-refundable accommodation bookings indicating satisfactory pre-planning of the Parliamentary address to the Hobart Congress- in IPEA possession, removed from final Audit.
- June 12 flights to attend the conference- - in IPEA possession via FCM, omitted from final Audit.
- ✓▪ June 12 registration for the conference- - in IPEA possession, omitted from final Audit.
- June 12 registration for the Saturday evening event- - in IPEA possession, and confirmed with a single phone call to Conference Partners.

Yesterday, [s 47F](#) indicated the SMS communications with me arranging the Parliamentary address which I had no access to, were not obtained under IPEA information gathering powers because [s 22\(1\)](#) neglected to 'request the sms details.'



This now leaves the 2021 Audit frolic in tatters. It also explains the rush to a new Assurance process as a smokescreen.

Thankfully [s 47F](#) can provide what IPEA neglected to obtain; SMS messages that my arrangements with him were initiated at the earliest possible opportunity, just 10days after return of 2019 Election writs and release of the 46<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary sitting calendar by the Whips.

[s 22\(1\)](#) cherry-picking of subjective phraseology in the RANZCO correspondence will never stand up to any form of independent scrutiny. It is also evident that these two phrases (squeezed in and last minute) formed the basis of overruling the entire journey. The Audit was both sloppy, opportunistic, and limited to as little inquiry as possible in order to fabricate the desired outcome. The three unremarkable hotel check-in times forming the remainder of the Audit were completely consistent with my accounts.

Inventing an opinion about what is Parliamentary is alarming enough. Omitting factual material in order to achieve it is utterly unacceptable. This was pointed out to you at the first available opportunity and my valid concerns were ignored.

Thanks to my FOI, it is now clear that for two full years, the only concern with this travel was a duplicated Tasmania to Melbourne flight bookings. I was only aware of this when **s 22(1)** made the bizarre claim in my Parliamentary office two years later when he claimed I 'wasted taxpayer funds.' The four Jetstar Launceston to Melbourne legs cost just \$96 each. They were either non-refundable or subject to a \$60 cancellation fee. This was a matter for FCM when dealing with my itinerary change, not the Parliamentarian. Value for money was the reason I didn't book four \$896 business class fares for this travel.

So instead of contacting me, FCM or even Jetstar to understand the situation, **s 22(1)** opted for an Assurance review on the day baseless media allegations surfaced, all of which are now subject to what will be successful defamation action in the Federal Court.

I could also have explained to **s 22(1)** if he had alerted me to his concern at the appropriate time in 2020 that the Independent Schools Tasmania meeting was switched from Friday 21 June to Monday 24 June; leading to,

- the necessary itinerary change to fly out of Hobart instead of Launceston,
- the field visits to central Tasmania requiring twice as much driving as initially planned in order to 'loop back' to Hobart, and
- the first night of the non-refundable accommodation unsuitable.

This entire variation in the itinerary amounted to zero net cost to the Commonwealth, apart from a possible \$36 net refund loss from Jetstar, assuming FCM had been able to secure it. Throughout the entire 12-month process, there was simply no interest in my version of events, not a syllable of which has ever been found to be inaccurate. This left **s 22(1)** with only one option; assessing my activity as insufficiently Parliamentary from his personal opinion. You will be held responsible for his actions.

Further communication on these matters is now clearly futile, so I make the following points.

- These March 2022 Audit conclusions are now exposed as hopelessly flawed.
- They will be independently assessed at the time of my choosing, not yours.  
I have no confidence in your actions and decline to sign the related quarterly reports, so please stop asking.
- Any invoices raised are of no concern.

Your refusal to address these factual omissions the appropriate time was either indolent or at worst vindictive. Your sustained and obdurate refusal to do so despite my reasonable requests may amount to contemptible, if not corrupt conduct.

Any privacy or confidentiality provisions with this communication is waived.

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**From:** Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 July 2022 3:35 PM  
**To:** **s 47F**  
**Subject:** Re: Assurance Review - Mr Andrew Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Laming

Thank you for your response.

Please find **attached** further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to this matter.

It is important that you read the correspondence and respond.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on s 22(1) or at [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

---

**Nicole Pearson**

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: s 22(1) | E: [Nicole.Pearson@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Nicole.Pearson@ipea.gov.au)

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**From:** Andrew Laming s 47F  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 July 2022 1:28 PM  
**To:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Assurance Review - Mr Andrew Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL]

The previous Audit was a fabricated conclusion, arrived at by omitting hard copy evidence in IPEA's possession from the final report.

This was pointed out in the draft stage and IPEA bizarrely elected to evade those constructive queries. The entirety of the Audit turned on the omissions.

It is also clear that the process was activated two years later for political purposes, just 48 hours after adverse media; all of which has been found to be baseless.

I won't be bullied into dropping concerns regarding IPEA conduct by the immediate opening a new process. The March 2022 Audit is now subject to appeal and I again ask IPEA to account for why the following evidence of Parliamentary travel to the Hobart conference address as early as June 11 2019 was excluded from Audit:

- conference registration, evening event booking, flight bookings, non-refundable accommodation bookings and hard copy invitation to attend, available from the convenor upon request.

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**From:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2022 12:51:36 PM  
**To:** s 47F  
**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Assurance Review - Mr Andrew Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Laming

Thank you for your response.

Please find **attached** further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to this matter.

It is important that you read the correspondence and respond.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on s 22(1) or at [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).



Yours sincerely

---

**Nicole Pearson**

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: s 22(1) | E: [Nicole.Pearson@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Nicole.Pearson@ipea.gov.au)

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**From:** Andrew Laming s 47F  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 10:03 AM  
**To:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** HPE CM: Re: Assurance Review - Mr Andrew Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thank you.  
Please accept yesterday's response as my final correspondence regarding this matter.

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**From:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 9:54:14 AM  
**To:** Andrew Laming s 47F  
**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Assurance Review - Mr Andrew Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Laming  
Thank you for your response. Please find **attached** further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to this matter.  
Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or at [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).  
Yours sincerely

---

**Nicole Pearson**

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 | E: [Nicole.Pearson@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Nicole.Pearson@ipea.gov.au)

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**From:** Andrew Laming s 22(1)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 May 2022 2:16 PM  
**To:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Assurance Review - Mr Andrew Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear IPEA,  
  
The Sydney leg (5,6/4/2022) comprised meetings in a Parliamentary capacity with the Australian Society of Ophthalmologists. The Melbourne leg encompassed vehicle travel to a two-day event (8,9/4/2022) in regional Victoria in my electorate capacity, given my involvement through Stronger Communities funding in re-establishing post-COVID, a successful model for a similar regional community event in Bowman. The dependents' return travel

was accompaniment/facilitation of family life. Additional incidental meetings were held in both locations and I am prepared to publicly justify the benefits and value for money of the journey.

My current priority remains obtaining independent assessment of the 2019 IPEA travel assurance/audit decision.

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**From:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>

**Sent:** 18 May 2022 10:44

**To:** s 47F

**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Assurance Review - Mr Andrew Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Laming,

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

---

**Nicole Pearson**

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 | E: [Nicole.Pearson@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Nicole.Pearson@ipea.gov.au)

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