Month Yr	Check Type / Data	Cabcharge	Parl TA - AOR	Staff TA - AOR	Business Class	Staff Hire Cars	SUBTOTAL	COMMENTS
Jul-19	Sample Size	20	20	20	4	12	76	
	Offices with Data	10	0	0	6	7	23	
	Transactions	223	14	72	4	12	325	
	Completed	20	20	20	4	12	76	
	Offices contacted	10				5		
	Referred to TEAB	1				2		
Aug-19	Sample Size	20	20	20	11	11	82	
	Offices with Data	8	0	0	0	7	15	
	Transactions	68	15	12	11	11	117	
	Completed	20	20	20	11	11	82	
	Offices contacted	8				4		
	Referred to TEAB	0				2		
Sep-19	Sample Size	20	20	20	9	3	72	
	Offices with Data	0	0	0	0	2	2	
	Transactions	387	13	13	0	0	413	
	Completed	20	20	20	9	3	72	
	Offices contacted	17				0		
	Referred to TEAB	3				0		
Oct-19	Sample Size	20	20	20	4	9	7	
	Offices with Data	0	0	0	0	7	7	
	Transactions	356	23	19	0	9	407	
	Completed	20	20	20	4	9	73	
	Offices contacted	17				3		
	Referred to TEAB	2				0		
Nov-19	Sample Size	20	20	7	3	8	4	
	Offices with Data	0	0	0	0	4	4	
	Transactions	174	17	9	0	8	208	
	Completed	20	20	20	3	8	71	
	Offices contacted	15				2		
	Referred to TEAB	0				2		
Dec-19	Sample Size	20	7	4	4	3	3	
	Offices with Data	0	0	0	0	3	3	
	Transactions	244	5	6	0	3	258	
	Completed	20	7	7	4	3	41	
	Offices contacted	20				2		
	Referred to TEAB	4				2		
Jan-20	Sample Size	20	20	9	12	8	6	
	Offices with Data	0	0	0	0	6	6	
	Transactions	457	0	0	0	8	465	
	Completed	20	20	20	12	8	80	
	Offices contacted	16				6		
	Referred to TEAB	1				3		
Feb-20	Sample Size	20	20	4	3	12	7	
	Offices with Data	0	0	0	0	7	7	
	Transactions	754	6	4	0	12	776	
	Completed	20	20	20	3	12	75	
	Offices contacted	18				2		
	Referred to TEAB	2				2		
Mar-20	Sample Size	20	20	10	5	9	4	
	Offices with Data	0	0	0	0	4	4	
	Transactions	66	6	10	0	9	91	
	Completed	18	20	20	5	9	72	
	Offices contacted	12				7		
	Referred to TEAB	0				1		
Apr-20	Sample Size	20	20	8	2	2	2	
	Offices with Data	0	0	0	0	2	2	
	Transactions	159	8	7	0	2	176	
	Completed	20	20	20	2	2	64	
	Offices contacted	12				1		
	Referred to TEAB	1				0		
May-20	Sample Size	20	20	6	4	2	0	
	Offices with Data	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Transactions	175	9	6	0	0	190	
	Completed	20	20	20	4	2	66	
	Offices contacted	16						
	Referred to TEAB	3						
Jun-20	Sample Size	9	20	1	1	5	0	
	Offices with Data	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Transactions	200	4	1	0	0	205	
	Completed	9	20	20	1	5	55	
	Offices contacted	6						
	Referred to TEAB	0						

Check Type / Data	Cabcharge	Parl TA - AOR	Staff TA - AOR	Business Class	Staff Hire Cars	YTD TOTAL
Sample Size	229	227	129	62	84	
Offices with Data	18	-	-	6	49	
Transactions	3,263	120	159	15	74	
Completed	227	227	227	62	84	
Offices contacted	167	-	-	-	32	
Referred to TEAB	17	-	-	-	14	

Cabcharge	Named Range	Description
Sample Size	CabMmm	Offices sampled according to randomised selections
Offices with Data	VCountMmm	Sum of offices that had data to check - drawn from the total of outgoing Vfire records raised
Transactions	TransMmm	Sum of all Office transactions
Completed	CompMmm	Sum of completed check processes
Offices contacted		
Referred to TEAB		

AOR, Bus Class, Self Drive	Named Range	Description
Sample Size	PAORMmm	ParlTA - AOR - TA claims where receipts have been nominated as being Available on Request
	SAORMmm	StaffTA - AOR - TA claims where receipts have been nominated as being Available on Request
	BCFMmm	Business Class Fares - Business class air travel by staffers who are not entitled
	PSDMmm	Short-Term Self-Drive - Parliamentarian use of short term hire cars
	SSDMmm	Short-Term Self-Drive - Use of short term hire cars by staff of parliamentarians
Offices with Data	AVCountMmm	ParlTA - Sum of offices that had data to check - drawn from the total of outgoing Vfire records raised
	SVCountMmm	StaffTA - Sum of offices that had data to check - drawn from the total of outgoing Vfire records raised
	BVCountMmm	Business Class Fares - Sum of offices that had data to check - drawn from the total of outgoing Vfire records raised
	PSVCountMmm	Parliamentarian Self Drive - Sum of offices that had data to check - drawn from the total of outgoing Vfire records raised
	SSVCountMmm	Staff Self Drive - Sum of offices that had data to check - drawn from the total of outgoing Vfire records raised
Transactions	ATransMmm	ParlTA - Sum of all transactions checked, to a limit of three per person (where data exists)
	STransMmm	StaffTA - All staff with data checked, to a limit of three per person (where data exists)
	BTransMmm	Business Class Fares - Sum of offices that had data to check
	PSTransMmm	Parliamentarian Self Drive - Sum of offices that had data to check
	SSTransMmm	Staff Self Drive - Sum of offices that had data to check - drawn from the total of outgoing Vfire records raised
Completed	ACompMmm	ParlTA - Completed check by return of signed certification or provision of receipts
	SCompMmm	StaffTA - Completed check by return of signed certification or provision of receipts
	BCompMmm	Business Class Fares - Completed check by clarification of travel
	PSCompMmm	Parliamentarian Self Drive - Completed check by clarification of travel
	SSCompMmm	Staff Self Drive - Completed check by clarification of travel

NOTE 09/09/20:
602 I have provided the ANAO and our Annual Reports with a conservative number of 600 PPCs for the year I did not include other data from Apr-20 to Jun-20, as I have not had a chance to QA the data in the last quarter

NOTE 28/09/20
322 37 Cabcharge amount recovered Refer to TAB [Cabcharge]
1,216 18 Amount recovered from other PPC Refer to TAB [AOR]
1,538.55 Total amount of funds recovered from post payment check activities This does not included PPC that were suspended as the checks to this date have not been finalised

NOTE 06/10/20:
827 Number of PPC 602 tallied on 09/09/20 + Parl and Staff TA (Mar - Jun) and other remaining checks (Apr - Jun)

NOTE 09/10/20
322 37 Cabcharge amount recovered Refer to TAB [Cabcharge]
11,019 81 Amount recovered from other PPC Refer to TAB [AOR]
11,342.18 Does not include 44 outstanding PPC as at 09/10/20
9,803 63

NOTE 09/10/20:
830 Total number of PPC at 06/10/20 + 3 parliamentarian car hire

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY EXPENSES AUTHORITY
ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES - CALENDAR YEAR 2019

This table captures matters that were Executive Support & Assurance (and then the TAL) Branch from 1 January 2019. All matters have been filed within HPE Content Manager.
NOTE: All assurance matters below the blue shaded row commenced after 30 June 2019.

APPROVAL OFFICERS:
Annwyn Godwin - CEO
Petra Gartmann - Branch Manager
s 47F

ASSESSMENT OFFICERS:
s 47F

CALENDAR YEAR 2019

TOTAL PARLIAMENTARIAN		
Preliminary Assessments	25	= Fraser Anning, Mathias Cormann (N), George Christensen, Kerryn Phelps, Malarndirri McCarthy
Assurance Reviews	5	= George Christensen, Malarndirri McCarthy
Audit	2	
TOTAL MOP(S) ACT STAFF		
Preliminary Assessments	2	=s 22
Assurance Reviews	0	
Audit	0	
TOTAL PARLIAMENTARIAN & STAFF		
Preliminary Assessments	27	
Assurance Reviews	5	
Audit	2	

DETAILS									ASSESSMENT						FILED IN CONTENT MANAGER
Status	Assurance type at Conclusion	Type	Matter Ref #	Member	Staff	Family	Date Received	Received From	Assessment Officer	Recommendation	Approved By	Approval Date	Date discussed with BM	SUMMARY	
s 22															
s 22															s
CONCLUDED	Audit	Audit	2019/003	CHRISTENSEN, George	N/A	N/A			s 47F	Admin - Invoice Raised	Approved by Members - Published 20/01/2020	20/01/2020		pe was to examine Mr Christensen's Commonwealth funded domestic travel which preceded or followed non-official international travel during the period 1 Jan-14 to 31 Dec-18. 14 itineraries were identified to be within scope and examined. ASSURANCE REVIEW: 17 April 2019 AUDIT: 20 May 2019 CONCLUSION: 1 trip (post 2018 legislation) was found to be outside the framework. Two invoices were raised, one with contravened amount + 25% penalty; and second with volunteered repayment amounts. AUDIT REPORT PUBLISHED: 20 January 2020.	YES
s 22															
CONCLUDED	Preliminary Assessment	PAM	2019/011	MCDONALD, Ian	N/A	N/A	20/06/2019	Media	s 47F	No Further Action	s 47F	12/11/2019		ISSUE: Use of extra electoral allowance for printing during Queensland floods. ASSESSMENT: The access to extra allowance is within the legislative framework. No further action	YES
Not Accepted	NFA	PAM	2019/012	SESELJA, Zed	N/A	N/A	29/05/2019	Public	s 47F	No Further Action	GARTMANN	25/09/2019	25/09/2019	ISSUE: Public allegation of misuse of APH email account. ASSESSMENT: The use of the email network to communicate with constituents was not inconsistent with the provisions of the legislations. Communicated outcome to M&PS. No further action	YES
Not accepted	NFA	PAM	2019/014	McKENZIE, Bridget	N/A	N/A	16/06/2019	Media		No Further Action				ISSUE: Media articles published in relation to National Deputy Leader Bridget McKenzie who claimed the most travel allowance last year. ASSESSMENT: NFA	YES
s 22															
Not Accepted	NFA	PAM	2019/017	KING, Madeline	N/A					No Further Action				ISSUE: Travel to 2018 Grand Final. ASSESSMENT: M. KING declared publicly that her DP was PB. M KING met with industry reps. The remaining parliamentarians claimed legitimate PB as office holders. No further action.	YES
Not Accepted	NFA	PAM	2019/018	FARRELL Don	N/A					No Further Action					YES
Not Accepted	NFA	PAM	2019/019	WYATT Ken	N/A					No Further Action					YES
Not Accepted	NFA	PAM	2019/020	McKENZIE, Bridget	N/A					No Further Action					YES
s 22															

CONCLUDED	NFA	PAM	2019/023	CORMANN, Mathias	N/A	Hayley Cormann	15/02/2019	Media	s 47F	No Further Action	GARTMANN	19/02/2019	19/02/2019	ISSUE: Media article regarding Hayley Cormann's' trips to Broome. ASSESSMENT: Travel was within the Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990 and the relevant determinations applicable during the time of travel. In particular, s 3.13 - 3.15 of Determination 2017-13 Members of Parliament - Entitlements. Senator Cormann is a Senator for Western Australia and as Hayley Cormann travelled to Broome (Western Australia), the travel is within the legal framework. No issues note. No further action	YES
s 22														
Not Accepted	NFA	PAM	2019/008	CORMANN & DUTTON	N/A	N/A	29/08/2019	Media	s 47F	No Further Action	s 47F	19/09/2019	25/09/2019	ISSUE: Cormann & Dutton using tax payer funds to return to Canberra using Special Purpose Aircraft to be sworn in for new Government. ASSESSMENT: Minister Cormann & Dutton's use of the SPA was in accordance with approval from the Minister for Defence. No further assessment required.	YES
Not Accepted	NFA	PAM	2019/009	WOOD, Jason	N/A	N/A	19/09/2019	Media	s 47F	No Further Action	GARTMANN	20/09/2019	25/09/2019	ISSUE: The electorate office was being used for advertising political party campaigns. ASSESSMENT: The contact details of the electorate office is used on the invitation of a Liberal Party fundraising event. This is not unusual given the location is held within the parliamentarians' electorate. M&PS administers office expenses. M&PS has initial responsibility for examining this work expense. IPEA received no referral from M&PS under the Protocol. No further action required.	YES
Matter Transferred	Preliminary Assessment	PAM	2019/010	ALBANESE, Anthony (staff)	s 22	N/A	19/09/2019	Finance - M&PS	s 47F	Other				ISSUE: Anonymous allegation that staffer s 47F) made fraudulent TA claim. M&PS forwarded the allegation to IPEA as it relates to Travel Allowance. Matter referred to IPEA, QPS, AFP and the Dept. of Finance. AFP took carriage of the matter. No further action from IPEA	YES
Not Accepted	NFA	PAM	2019/013	JOYCE, BARNABY	N/A	N/A	27/09/2019	Inter-agency	s 47F	No Further Action	GARTMANN	2/10/2019	2/10/2019	ISSUE: Media allegation and request for response from the Attorney General's office in regards to Mr Joyce's use of electorate allowance to pay rent. ASSESSMENT: Electorate allowance is not an MP work expense. It is prescribed in a determination made by the Remuneration Tribunal and paid and administered by the respective Chamber departments. No further action required.	YES
Not Accepted	s 22													

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY EXPENSES AUTHORITY
ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES 2020

This table captures matters from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020. All matters are to be filed in Content Manager/TRIM.

APPROVAL
Petra Gartmann - Branch Manager
s 47F

ASSESSMENT
s 47F

STATISTICS: 1 JAN - 30 JUN 2020, as at 30 June 2020

PAM	11	# of Parliamentarians assessed	97
AR	0	# of MOP(S) Staff assessed	3
AUDIT	2	# of Offices contacted	28
		# of M&PS Work expense matters	2
		$ Recovered	19,532.62

Stats for Estimates as at 30 Sep-20 (completed) 2020:

TOTAL PARLIAMENTARIAN	
Preliminary Assessments	11
Assurance Reviews	2
Audit	0
TOTAL MOP(S) ACT STAFF	
Preliminary Assessments	0
Assurance Reviews	0
Audit	0
TOTAL PARLIAMENTARIAN & STAFF	
Preliminary Assessments	11
Assurance Reviews	2
Audit	0

Helen Polley, Pauline Hanson

STATISTICS: 1 JUL 2019 - 30 JUN 2020, as at 30 June 2020

PAM	10	# of Parliamentarians assessed	106
AR	0	# of MOP(S) Staff assessed	5
AUDIT	2	# of Offices contacted	29
		# of M&PS Work expense matters	6
		$ Recovered	19,532.62
		PPC Recovery - Refer to '2019-20 Tracking & Statistics Spreadsheet'.	1,538.55
		TOTAL AMOUNT RECOVERED - Includes GST and surcharges	21,071.17

DETAILS													ASSESSMENT							
Status	Status as at 30 Jun-20	Assurance type	# of Parliamentarians Assessed	# of MOP(S) Staff Assessed	# of Offices Contacted	M&PS Work Expense	SCHEME	Matter Ref #	Member	Staff	Family	Date Received	Received From	Assessment Officer	Recommendation	Approved By	Approval Date	Date discussed with BM	SUMMARY	FILED IN CONTENT MANAGER	Monies recovered
CLOSED	CLOSED	Audit (Carry forward) & CLOSED	1	-	1	-	Both	2019/005	MCCARTHY Malarndirri	N/A	N/A	16/05/2019	Media	s 47F	Pub ished on website	Members of the Authority	2/04/2020	2/04/2020	ISSUE: To determine whether the travel and travel-related expenses incurred by Senator McCarthy were consistent with the relevant legislative provisions incurred during the time of travel. Audit focused primarily on domestic travel connections through Sydney during the period 2 July 2016 to 30 April 2019. ASSESSMENT: IPEA recovered $17 362.22 (including applicable GST Cabcharge service fees and loading) for expense items found to be inconsisten with the legislative frameworks in force at the time.	YES	17 362.22
CLOSED	CLOSED	Audit (Carry forward) & CLOSED	1	-	1	-	Both	2019/003	CHRISTENSEN	N/A	N/A	18/04/2019	Media	s 47F	Pub ished on website	Members of the Authority	20/01/2020	20/01/2020	ISSUE: Scope was to examine MrC's C'wealth funded domestic travel which preceded or followed non-official international travel during the period 1 Jan-14 to 31 Dec-18. 14 itineraries were identified to be within scope and examined. ASSURANCE REVIEW: 17 April 2019 AUDIT: 20 May 2019 CONCLUSION: 1 trip (post 2018 legislation) was found to be outside the framework. Two invoices were raised one with contravened amount 25% penalty; and second with volunteered repayment amounts.	YES	2 170.40
CLOSED	CLOSED	Preliminary Assessment	1	-	-	-	PBR Scheme	2020/001	PATRICK Rex	N/A	N/A	27/01/2020	Media	s 47F	NFA	s 47F	s 47F	10/03/2020	ISSUE: Media monitoring suggested that Senator Rex Patrick had excessive software costs at around $50 000. The article did not allege misuse. ASSESSMENT: The media article compared Senator Patrick's expenditure on software to that undertaken by parliamentarians representing the major parties on annual subscriptions to centrally organised constituent management programs. IPEA retrieved the two invoices that made up the reported $50 000 from M&PS as it is a M&PS administered expense. These invoices related to the setup and annual maintenance of a product that included both constituent management and office management capabilities. Expenses of this nature are provided under sections 66(1)(i) (software including associated servicing, training and backup services) and 66(1)(ia) (cloud based services including storage and software) of the Parliamentary Business Regulations 2017 IPEA determined that there was no misuse.	YES	-
CLOSED	CLOSED	Preliminary Assessment	1	-	-	-	PBR Scheme	2020/002	McMAHON Sam	N/A	NAYDA Wayne	3/02/2020	Media	s 47F	NFA	s 47F	3/03/2020	3/03/2020	ISSUE: Senator McMahon has claimed family reunion travel for her spouse Mr Wayne Nayda to accompany her on two occasions in 2019. ASSESSMENT: The PBR Regulations 2017 permit a spouse of a Senator to travel in Business class Australia wide and as Mr Nayda has joined Senator McMahon where she has stated she is conducting parliamentary business on both occastions above there is no issue with the use of family reunion fares.	YES	-
CLOSED	CLOSED	Preliminary Assessment	11	-	7	-	PBR Scheme	2020/003	MISC. - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS - TONY ABBOTT TRIBUTE DINNER	N/A	N/A	13/01/2020	Media	s 47F	Progress to Assurance Review	GARTMANN	23/04/2020	23/04/2020	ISSUE: Media reporting that a number of parliamentarians travelled to Sydney to attend a tribute dinner for Mr Abbott. ASSESSMENT: Commonwealth resources were used. Upon investigation it was found that parliamentarians accessed parliamentary business travel resources on and around the date of the event. Commence an Assurance Review.	YES	-
UNDER REVIEW	WIP	Assurance Review										23/04/2020		s 47F					ISSUE: Media reporting that a number of parliamentarians travelled to Sydney to attend a tribute dinner for Mr Abbott. ASSESSMENT: IPEA sought comment from those parliamnetarians were reported in attendance or whose travel may have coincided with the event. No misuse was identified.	YES	-
CLOSED	CLOSED	Preliminary Assessment	1	-	-	-	PBR Scheme	2020/004	McKENZIE Bridget	N/A	N/A		Media	s 47F	NFA	s 47F	27/05/2020	27/05/2020	ISSUE: Senator McKenzie undertook 15 Commonwealth funded charter flights part of 7 itineries during her time as a Minister. ASSESSMENT: No sustained concerns regarding the 'dominant purpose' or 'value for money' of the Senator's use of Commonwealth funded charter flights during her time as a Minister.	YES	-
CLOSED	CLOSED	Preliminary Assessment	1	-	-	-	PE framework	2020/005	REYNOLDS Linda	N/A	REID Robert	18/02/2020	Media	s 47F	NFA	GARTMANN	18/02/2020	18/02/2020	ISSUE: Defence Minister Linda Reynolds claimed $1 268 from Commonwealth funds in may 2015 so she could fly to Brisbane return from Canberra for an Australian Medical Association cocktail party event. The event was held from May 29 to 31 between two sitting weeks of Federal Parliament. Her husband was the AMA's Director of Communications at the time. ASSESSMENT: All costs mentioned are utilised under pre-1 January 2018 legislation. The article mentions that an AMA spokesperson confirmed that Senator Reynolds was invited in her official capacity. At initial examination Ms Reynolds appears not to have breached the legislation.	YES	-
CLOSED	CLOSED	Preliminary Assessment	1	-	-	-	PBR Scheme	2020/006	McCORMACK Michael	N/A	N/A	N/A	Media	s 47F	NFA	s 47F			ISSUE: Media monitoring suggested that in 2019 Mr McCormack (Deputy Prime Minister) may have travelled to sporting events in which he had a personal interest at Commonwealth expense. In particular media made reference to the 2019 Melbourne Cup. This led to a decision to review Mr McCormack's travel and travel related work expenses against a list of major sporting events in 2019. The framework question considered: "What was the nature of the par iamentary business conducted when accessing travel and travel related work expenses on or around the dates of major sporting events in 2019?" ASSESSMENT: On the basis of the assessment conducted IPEA found nothing to suggest that the travel and work related travel expenses accessed by Mr McCormack on and around dates of the specified major sporting events in 2019 were inconsistent with the legislative framework.	YES	-
CLOSED	CLOSED	Preliminary Assessment	1	-	-	-	PBR Scheme	2020/007	CANAVAN Matthew	N/A	N/A	25/03/2020	Media	s 47F	NFA	s 47F	2/04/2020	2/04/2020	ISSUE: Use of Unscheduled Commercial Transport costs on 17 September 2019 to travel from Mackay to Collinsville and return to officially open the Byerwen coal mine in Queensland's Bowen Basin. ASSESSMENT: Use of UCT is justified as he was to travel to Canberra afterwards to attend Parliamentary Sittings.	YES	-
CLOSED	CLOSED	Preliminary Assessment	1	-	-	1	PBR Scheme	2020/008	LAMING Andrew	N/A	N/A	31/03/2020	Public	s 47F	NFA	s 47F	14/04/2020	14/04/2020	ISSUE: On 31 March 2020 IPEA received an email from a member of the public s 22 alleging abuse of electorate expenses' by Mr Andrew Laming MP in relation to a letter from Mr Laming to residents in Alexandra Hills s 22 characterises Mr Laming's letter as "attempting to influence the local government election in the Redlands and the later Queensland election" and contends that this amounts to an abuse of Mr Laming's office expenses. Though office expenses are not administered by IPEA IPEA has the power to review these expenses through its audit function (s 12(1)(i) of the IPEA Act). ASSESSMENT: Any office expenses claimed in relation to the printing and distribution of Mr Laming's letter would be consistent with the legislative framework. Mr Laming's letter did not solicit any specific action *in support* of a particular member political party or candidate. The printing and distribution of the letter is consistent with the dominant purpose of parliamentary business specifically *e ectorate duties*; it relates to supporting serving or otherwise communicating with his constituents (noting Alexandra Hills is in Mr Laming's electorate of Bowman).	YES	
WIP	WIP	Preliminary Assessment	13	-	5	-	PBR Scheme	2020/009	MISC. - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS - Nagambie Nationals Party event	N/A			Media	s 47F					ISSUE: Attendance and travel to Nagambie ASSESSMENT: Postponed - awaiting outcome of Melbourne Cup Carnival Assessment. Allegation was that National Party event in Nagambie arranged to allow Parliamentarians to attend Me bourne Cup Carnival. As such further assessment halted and pending outcome from Melbourne Cup Carnival Assessment.		

WIP	WIP	Preliminary Assessment	57	-	11	-	PBR Scheme	2020/010	MISC. - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS - Attendance at Melbourne Cup 2019				Media	s 47F					ISSUE: Attendance at Me bourne Cup 2019 ASSESSMENT: ONGOING - 57 Parliamentarians identified as potentially travelling to/in & or from Melbourne during the assessed period of the Melbourne Cup Carnival. 11 of the 57 Par iamentarians use of work expenses will require further assessment including letters with questions to Parliamentarians.		
WIP	NOT STARTED	Preliminary Assessment	1	-	1	-	PBR Scheme	2020/011	LAMING Andrew		WIFE & Family travel		Media						ISSUE: Knaus Media Enquiry. Family trip to Tasmania wife travel to Melbourne. ASSESSMENT:		
CLOSED	WIP	Preliminary Assessment	1	-	1	-	PBR Scheme	2020/012	POLLEY Helen	N/A	HUSBAND & Family travel	18/06/2020	IPEA	s 47F	Progress to Assurance Review	de SMET	6/07/2020	6/07/2020	ISSUE: On 18 June 2020 the Travel Advice & Education Branch notified the Audit & Assurance Section of a trip that Senator Polley and her husband took to Melbourne on 20 February 2020. It is unclear whether the travel was for the dominant purpose of undertaking parliamentary business. ASSESSMENT: Commonwealth resources were used. Senator Polley used parliamentary travel business resources for her travel allowance and return domestic flights toMlebourne with her spouse. Commence Assurance Review.		
CLOSED		Assurance Review										22/06/2020			NFA	GARTMANN	24/09/2020	24/09/2020	ISSUE: Senator Polley used parliamentary work resources for a three-night trip to Perth in October 2018. ASSESSMENT: On the information available to IPEA there is no basis to conclude that Senator Polley and her husband's travel to Melbourne requires further investigation.		
CLOSED	CLOSED	Preliminary Assessment	1	-	-	-	PBR Scheme	2020/013	HANSON Pauline	N/A	N/A	15/06/2020	Media	s 47F	Progress to Assurance Review	de SMET	22/06/2020	22/06/2020	ISSUE: On 4 June 2020 a journalist from s 47F wrote to IPEA in relation to a series of articles on MP expenses he was intending to publish the following week. A s 47F posed the following question in relation to Senator Hanson: *"Pauline Hanson charged taxpayers $3 700 for a three-night trip to Perth in October 2018 where she held intimate dinners for high-paying One Nation donors and used a fish and chips lunch to raise thousands of dollars ahead of the federal election".* ASSESSMENT: Commonwealth resources were used. Senator Hanson used parliamentary travel business resources for her	YES	-
CLOSED	WIP	Assurance Review										22/06/2020		s 47F	NFA	GARTMANN	24/09/2020	24/09/2020	ISSUE: Senator Hanson used parliamentary travel business resources for a three-night trip to Perth in October 2018. ASSESSMENT: On the information available to IPEA there is no basis to conclude that the travel and work related travel expenses accessed by Senator Hanson require further investigation.	YES	-
CLOSED	CLOSED	Preliminary Assessment	1	-	-	1	PBR Scheme	2020/014	LAMING Andrew			13/05/2020	Public	s 47F	NFA - Provided to MAPS.	de SMET	25/05/2020		ISSUE: ASSESSMENT:		
WIP	WIP	Preliminary Assessment	-	1	1	-	PBR Scheme	2020/015	HANSON Pauline	s 22			IPEA	s 47F					ISSUE: Review o s 22 car hire against travel allowance claims and motor vehicle allowance. Issue arise through post payment check as Senator Hanson did not certify travel for car hire within the city of her electorate. ASSESSMENT:		
CLOSED	CLOSED	Preliminary Assessment	-	2	1	-	PBR Scheme	2020/016	McKENZIE Bridget	s 22 & other staff member			IPEA	s 47F / McKENZIE					ISSUE: ASSESSMENT:		
s 22																					
			92	-	27	1															
Move to FY21																					
NOT STARTED		Preliminary Assessment							MISC. - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS - Eden-Monaro By-election				Part of periodic assurance reviews	s 47F					ISSUE: Review of Parliamentarian and staff travel to Eden-Monaro area. ASSESSMENT:		

From: s 47F
To: Assurance
Cc:
Subject: 2020/007 RE: Preliminary Assessment - Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, 2 April 2020 11:22:13 PM
Attachments: image001.png

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 47F
Thanks for your work on this.
Noted and approved for finalisation.
Can you please record this in the relevant TRIM folder.
Cheers

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Assurance
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 8:57 AM
To: s 47F
Cc:
Subject: Preliminary Assessment - Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

TO: s 47F
Director, Transparency and Audit
Through:
Assistant Director, Transparency and Audit
SUBJECT: Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan, Senator for Queensland
Preliminary Assessment – Use of Unscheduled Commercial Transport - 17 September 2019

BACKGROUND:

1. On 25 March 2020, Guardian Australia posted an article on their website titled Matt Canavan billed taxpayers $5,390 for charter flight to attend coalmine opening. The article discussed the cost and the use of unscheduled transport and made comparisons with an older pre-PBR, case (that of former Speaker the Hon Bronwyn Bishop). At no point do the commentaries suggest any wrong-doing. The article noted that Senator Canavan had provided comment to defend the use of unscheduled commercial transport as part of his role as a Minister of Resources and Northern Australia, which he held office on the date of travel. He also noted that the use of unscheduled commercial transport enabled him to get back to Canberra to attend Parliamentary Sitting that day.

PURPOSE:

2. This preliminary assessment aims to determine if Senator Canavan used travel work expenses appropriately under the conditions outlined in the PBR Act.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK:

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017 (IPEA Act)
Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017 (PBR Act)
Parliamentary Business Regulations 2017 (PBR Regs)

ASSESSMENT:

1. Senator Canavan flew on unscheduled commercial transport from Mackay to Collinsville and back on 17 September 2019 (departing 8:15 and returning at 14:15). A certification form for this travel is attached.
2. The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources released a Media Statement on 17 September 2019 stating that Senator Canavan officially opened the Byerwen coal

mine in Queensland's Bowen Basin (see attached). Official Duties was the dominant purpose of Senator Canavan's travel on 17 September 2019.

3. Byerwen coal mine is located 95km away from Collinsville, a nearby town. The use of air charter services to fly from Mackay to Collinsville to attend the event is not unreasonable given the remote location and the lack of scheduled commercial transport to Collinsville.
4. According to his Travel Declaration (also attached), Senator Canavan used the Special Purpose Aircraft to then travel from Mackay to Canberra. Use of the SPA on this occasion is not being assessed.

CONCLUSION:

5. Senator Canavan has used travel related work expenses appropriately for parliamentary business.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that you:

6. Note the contents of this preliminary review; and
7. Approve finalisation of this matter.

s 47F

Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: 02 6215
E: s 47F @ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au

EMS references

UCT: FCM81756532

Trav declaration: 114860

UNCLASSIFIED

s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 12:10 PM
To: s 47F
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Draft preliminary assessment and draft email responses - the Hon. Andrew Laming MP [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

H s 47F

I approve finalisation of this matter. Thanks for your work with this assessment.

Petra cleared the words to MAPS which I sent last Thursday and received a response on Good Friday which I will provide to you shortly. When your TRIM access is sorted can you please ensure this is filed and recorded appropriately.

Cheers

s 47F

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 April 2020 2:02 PM
To: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR CLEARANCE: Draft preliminary assessment and draft email responses - the Hon. Andrew Laming MP [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 47F

Just wondering if you have heard back from Petra on this one?

Thanks
s
47F

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 April 2020 3:55 PM
To: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Draft preliminary assessment and draft email responses - the Hon. Andrew Laming MP [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Forwarded to PG to clear the words to Lauren.

Chase me in the morning – Thursday.

Cheers

s 47F

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 1:51 PM
To: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Cc: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>; s 47F @ipea.gov.au>; s 47F <s 47F @ipea.gov.au>; s 47F @IPEA.gov.au>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Draft preliminary assessment and draft email responses - the Hon. Andrew Laming MP [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 47F

As discussed, below is a draft preliminary assessment for your clearance. Many thanks to s 47F for his involvement and especially for the lessons about postage stamps. I have also included a draft email for you to send to M&PS with our proposed draft response to s 47F .

I heard s 47F mention a register for 2020 assurance requests. As you know (all too well!) I don't have access to CM but will ask one of the team if they will kindly update for me once you've cleared.

Happy to discuss.

Many thanks
s 47F

TO Mr s 47F
Director, Transparency and Audit

SUBJECT

The Hon. Andrew Laming MP, Federal Member for Bowman

Preliminary Assessment – Email correspondence to IPEA alleging 'abuse of electorate expenses' by Mr Laming.

BACKGROUND

1. On 31 March 2020 IPEA received email correspondence from a member of the public (s 47F) alleging 'abuse of electorate expenses' by Mr Laming. The correspondence attaches a letter from Mr Laming to residents of Alexandra Hills, containing assertions about the needs of residents and negative commentary regarding current local government representation.
2. The letter (and postage paid envelope) bears the Coat of Arms of the Commonwealth of Australia and Mr Laming's name and title. s 47F alleges that Mr Laming is attempting to influence elections in Queensland and use of the Coat of Arms of the Commonwealth of Australia suggests that Mr Laming's "electoral expenses" were improperly used to print and distribute the letter.

PURPOSE

3. This preliminary assessment considers whether, based on the information provided, any office expenses claimed in relation to the printing and distribution of Mr Laming's letter would be consistent with the current legislative framework.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017 (IPEA Act)
Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017 (PBR Act)
Parliamentary Business Regulations 2017 (PBR Regulations)
Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business Determination) 2017

ASSESSMENT

4. s 47F characterises Mr Laming's letter as "attempting to influence the local government election in the Redlands and the later Queensland election" and contends that this amounts to an abuse of Mr Laming's office expenses.

Does the printing and distribution of the letter constitute an 'office expense'?

5. Paragraph 66(1) of the Parliamentary Business Regulations 2017 (the Regulations) prescribes the office expenses for the conduct of a member's parliamentary business including printing (paragraph 661()(a)) and distributing material (paragraph 66(1)(e) which would likely apply to the present circumstances.
6. Relevantly, paragraph 66(3) provides that:

> *Office expenses must not be used to produce, communicate or distribute material that:*
>
> *(a) solicits any of the following:*
> *(i) a vote for a person other than the member;*
> *(ii) subscriptions or other financial or non-financial support (other than volunteering) for a member, political party or candidate;*
> *(iii) applications for or renewals of members in a political party; or*
> *(b) provides instruction on how to complete a ballot paper.*

7. Mr Laming's letter appears to not so much solicit a vote or support for a member or political party or candidate but rather attempts to disparage the s 47F for being too close to the Labor Party and not sufficiently independent. Mr Laming asks residents to contact s 47F asking her "is it out of Labor or out of the council?"
8. The letter attaches a flyer promoting the Liberal National Party but importantly, for the purposes of paragraph 66(3), falls short of soliciting any specific action in support of a particular member, political party or candidate, from the letter's audience (i.e. voting, subscribing, applying). On this basis, the office expenses have not been used for purposes outlined in paragraph 66(3). The printing and distributing of the letter are otherwise prescribed office expenses, as noted above.

Were the office expenses claimed for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business?

9. The note to paragraph 66 of the Regulations makes clear that claims for these expenses are still required to meet the dominant purpose test in section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*. The letter would likely fall within Mr Laming's *electorate duties* as outlined in section 6 and Schedule 2 of the Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017. It relates to supporting, serving or otherwise communicating with his constituents, noting that Alexandra Hills is in Mr Laming's electorate of Bowman. As such, Mr Laming's actions appear to be consistent with the principle of dominant purpose.
10. For completeness, in relation to s 47F comments on the use of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, this is outlined in the "Guidelines on the use of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms", administered by the

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. As such, the appropriateness of its use in Mr Laming's letter is not for IPEA to consider.

CONCLUSION

11. Based on the information available, any office expenses claimed in relation to the printing and distribution of Mr Laming's letter would be consistent with the legislative framework (specifically, paragraph 66 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 and section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

12. Note the contents of this preliminary review; and
13. Approve finalisation of this matter.

Hi Lauren

IPEA received the **attached** (attach corro) email correspondence alleging misuse of office expenses by the Hon. Andrew Laming MP. I'm not sure if M&PS have also received this? In line with IPEA's protocol, our proposed response is below. Noting that office expenses are administered by M&PS, please let me know if you have any comments or concerns before we send the response (insert timeframe?).

Cheers
s 47F

Dear s 47F

Thank you for your recent email to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) dated 31 March 2019 regarding a letter from the Hon. Andrew Laming MP to residents of Alexandra Hills.

IPEA handles all allegations of misuse in line with its protocol for *Dealing with Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses*.

We will consider this matter, however please be aware that IPEA does not generally comment on any individual matter, as it could potentially compromise the conduct and/or outcome of any investigation, and the privacy of individuals concerned.

More information about IPEA's Audit and Assurance function is available on our website.

Kind regards

s 47F

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 11:16 AM
To: IPEA - Assurance Unit <IPEA.AssuranceUnit@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Communications from Hon Andrew Lamming MHR [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Morning Team

Please see attached.

s 47F can we have a chat about this one? And for those of you who wish to join let me know and I'll send a meeting.

Cheers

s 47F

UNCLASSIFIED

From: IPEA <IPEA@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 11:09 AM
To: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Communications from Hon Andrew Lamming MHR [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s 47F

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s 47F @IPEA.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 8:40 AM
To: IPEA <IPEA@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Communications from Hon Andrew Lamming MHR [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hey s 47F – I've copy pasted email below and the attachments are above. One of the attachments appears not to download. Thanks

s 47F

Office of
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

Dear Sir or Madam,
I wish to draw your attention to the apparent abuse of electorate resources by Andrew Lamming MHR, whilst attempting to influence the local government election in the Redlands and the later Queensland election.

Please find attached a scanned image of the envelope and the letter it contained. I believe this to be an abuse of the members electoral expenses as follows:

1. The letter bears the coat of arms of the Commonwealth of Australia and the members name and title. This should be reserved for official communications appropriate to his office.
2. The postage paid envelope also bears the coat of arms of the Commonwealth of Australia. I presume it was delivered by Australia Post at tax payers expense.

3. The letter gives the appearance of being produced by offset printing or similar process, not directly from a laser printer. This implies that many hundreds of copies were made to justify the cost of printing setup.
4. The letter would have been expensive to produce in terms of the professional artwork.

I have retained the original documents as evidence if required. Please advise what action if any is being taken with respect to this matter.

s 47F

Kind regards,
s 47F

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: 02 6215 3000
E: enquiries@ipea.gov.au
www.ipea.gov.au

Did you know that travel can now be claimed through our online and mobile site?

Try using PEMS, the Parliamentary Expenses Management System, for Travel Allowance and Motor Vehicle Allowance claims.

UNCLASSIFIED

From: IPEA <IPEA@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 5:10 PM
To: s 47F @IPEA.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Communications from Hon Andrew Lamming MHR [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 47F, for some reason the original email is already archived and I can't access it. Can you restore it and send it again? Thanks, s 47F
s 47F

s 47F

UNCLASSIFIED

From: IPEA Enquiries <Enquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 9:38 AM

To: IPEA <IPEA@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Communications from Hon Andrew Lamming MHR [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Public enquiry – thanks team

Kind regards,
s 47F

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: 02 6215 3000
E: enquiries@ipea.gov.au
www.ipea.gov.au

Did you know that travel can now be claimed through our online and mobile site?

Try using PEMS, the Parliamentary Expenses Management System, for Travel Allowance and Motor Vehicle Allowance claims.

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s 47F
Sent: Friday, 27 March 2020 7:26 PM
To: IPEA Enquiries <Enquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Cc: senator.watt@aph.gov.au
Subject: Communications from Hon Andrew Lamming MHR

This message has been archived. View the original item

s 47F

Office of
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

Dear Sir or Madam,
I wish to draw your attention to the apparent abuse of electorate resources by Andrew Lamming MHR, whilst attempting to influence the local government election in the Redlands and the later Queensland election.

Please find attached a scanned image of the envelope and the letter it contained. I believe this to be an abuse of the members electoral expenses as follow

Attachments:

Envelope_20200327.pdf (1.1 MB)

Letter_20200327.pdf (6.6 MB)

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT MEMORANDUM

TO: s 47F
A/g Director, Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch

SUBJECT: Mr Ian Macdonald
Former Senator for Queensland
Preliminary Assessment – Use of 2018/19 Printing and Communications

BACKGROUND:

1. On 20 June 2019, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation published an article titled *LNP senator Ian Macdonald spent $25,000 on pre-election ads under 'exceptional circumstances'*. The article discusses 23 printed items paid for by Mr Macdonald at a cost of $25,096.69 within two months of the election. Mr Macdonald defended the expenditure stating that the spending was for advertising government disaster-relief payments following the Queensland floods.

2. On 20 June 2019, the Audit and Assurance (A&A) team checked expenditure reports for Mr Macdonald and examined the relevant transactions by accessing the forms and attachments submitted by the office. It was discovered that at the time of the expenditure Mr Macdonald had sought and received approval from the then Special Minister of State (SMOS), the Hon Alex Hawke MP to access additional resources under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act). The approval covered office expenses relating to the printing and distribution of electronic material of up to $36,000 (including GST).

PURPOSE:

3. This preliminary assessment aims to clarify that Mr Macdonald had used his Printing and Communications work expenses appropriately under the conditions outlined in the PBR Act.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK:

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017 (IPEA Act)

Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017 (PBR Act)

Parliamentary Business Regulations 2017 (PBR Regs)

ASSESSMENT:

Approval of additional Public Resources

4. On 1 March 2019, the SMOS wrote to Mr Macdonald advising him that he had approved additional funding for advertising to assist him in responding to constituents affected by the 2019 North Queensland floods (Attachment A).
5. The SMOS letter advised Mr Macdonald that the PBR Act obligations would apply to any claims made against the additional funds, including dominant purpose and value for money tests.

CONCLUSION:

6. Mr Macdonald had used his Printing and Communications work expenses appropriately on this occasion.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that you:

7. Note the contents of this preliminary review; and
8. Approve finalisation of this matter.

s 47F
Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch

5 November 2020

s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 5 November 2019 1:56 PM
To: s 47F
Subject: 2019 Preliminary Assessment - Macdonald _ Use of extra electorate allowance [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Macdonald Attachment A.pdf; Preliminary Assessment Memorandum - Macdonald.docx

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 47F

I agree with s 47F assessment below. Senator Macdonald's use of the work resources does not contravene relevant framework, given the circumstances.

Can you please review and approve for closure. No further action is required and I will record as part of 2019 Assurance Matters.

Regards

s 47F

s 47F
Senior Audit & Assurance Officer
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: 02 6215 s 47F
E: s 47F @ipea.gov.au
www.ipea.gov.au

From: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 August 2019 12:40 PM
To: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>; s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Draft Prelim Assessment [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 47F

As discussed earlier, attached is the draft preliminary assessment I wrote on Monday.

Thanks.
s 47F

s 47F
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: 02 6215 s 47F
E: s 47F @ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT MEMORANDUM

Date: 18 May 2020
To: s 47F
Director, Audit and Assurance

PURPOSE:
This preliminary assessment aims to:

a) determine if the Senator's use of Commonwealth funded charter flights from 20 December 2017 to 2 February 2020 were not for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business; and

b) determine if the Senator's use of Commonwealth funded charter flights from 20 December 2017 to 2 February 2020 did not represent value for money.

BACKGROUND:

1. IPEA assesses concerns regarding the possible misuse of work expenses in accordance with its published protocol, 'Dealing with Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses'. IPEA considers internal records, public records and media reports when deciding to accept a matter under the protocol.

2. In January 2020, in accordance with its misuse protocol, IPEA decided to undertake a preliminary assessment of Senator McKenzie's use of Commonwealth funded charter flights for the period she was a Minister.

3. The preliminary assessment aims to determine if, from publically available information and information held by IPEA, Senator McKenzie did not fulfil her legislative obligations in accessing specific work expenses.

4. Senator McKenzie was a Minister and member of Cabinet from 20 December 2017 to 2 February 2020. She held a number of portfolios in that period, some concurrently, including Minister for Sports, Minister for Rural Health, Minister for Regional Communication, Minister for Regional Services, Local Government and Decentralisation and Minister for Agriculture.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK:

5. The legislative framework relating to this mater includes:
   - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*
   - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*

6. 'Parliamentary *business' has the meaning given by section 6 of the PBR Act 2017. Activities that fall within the four duty streams of parliamentary business are set out in the Determination.*

7. 'Value for money' has the meaning given by section 5 of the PBR Act 2017. Expenses that are incurred provide value for money if the payment by the Commonwealth of the expenses uses public money efficiently, effectively and economically.

ASSESSMENT:

8. IPEA reviewed an internal report from IPEA Reporting (parameters outlined below) and reviewed official press releases, news media and social media.

9. The framework questions considered

   "What was the purpose of the Senator's use of Commonwealth funded charter flight?" and

   "Did the Senator's use of Commonwealth funded charter flight represent value for money?".

10. Senator McKenzie used a Commonwealth funded charter flight for 14 flights during the assessed period. The total value excluding GST was $55,856.73. This volume and frequency is not unexpected as the Senator is a regionally based parliamentarian with a number of portfolio and parliamentary responsibilities that requires travel to regional areas.

11. IPEA has found that for all itineraries, involving 14 charter flights, publicly available records suggest that the Senator had meetings and engagements that could reasonably be described as Parliamentary Business.

12. IPEA has found that for all the itineraries there were no scheduled commercial services that could have reasonably provided a similar travel itinerary as the Senator's charter travel achieved.

OTHER MATTERS:

13. An internal report from IPEA-Reporting (IDOC/47096) was requested with the following parameters:
    - Domestic *travel* and travel related expenses including COMCAR accessed by Senator McKenzie
    - Between 20 *December* 2017 to 2 February 2020.
14. The original data was sorted and filtered to highlight travel involving the use of Commonwealth funded charter flights. This was used for the assessment. Data not relevant to travel involving Charter flights was not assessed.

CONCLUSION:

15. There are no sustained concerns about the 'dominant purpose' of the Senator's use of charter flights.
16. There are no sustained 'value for money' concerns regarding the Senator's use of charter flights.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that you:

17. Note the contents of this Preliminary Assessment Memorandum; and
18. Accept the matter as closed with no further investigation required.

NOTED / PLEASE DISCUSS

Prepared by:

s 47F

18 May 2020
Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch

Reviewed by:

s 47F

27 May 2020
Director, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch

s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 8:41 AM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F
Subject: RE: For your review and approval: 2020/004 McKenzie PAM [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 47F

Thanks for you assessment of this matter.

I agree with your assessment that there are no concerns regarding value for money or dominant purpose.

Great work. Approved for finalisation/closure.

s 47F

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s 47F @IPEA.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2020 12:24 PM
To: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Cc: s 47F @ipea.gov.au>; s 47F @ipea.gov.au>
Subject: For your review and approval: 2020/004 McKenzie PAM [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Morning s 47F

For your **REVIEW** and **APPROVAL,** please find attached the Preliminary Assessment Memorandum (PAM) of Senator Bridget McKenzie's use of Unscheduled Commercial Travel – specifically Charter Flights.
The memorandum is at TAB 1. A summary of the assessments is at TAB 2.

This has been reviewed by both s 47F. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Regards
s 47F

s 47F
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
E: s 47F @ipea.gov.au
T: 02 6215 s 47F
www.ipea.gov.au

UNCLASSIFIED

Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

ASSURANCE REVIEW MEMORANDUM

Senator Helen Polley, Senator for Tasmania, travel to Melbourne February 2020.

Date: 3 September 2020
To: Petra Gartmann
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal

PURPOSE:
This assurance review aims to:

1. Determine whether the dominant purpose of Senator Polley's travel to Melbourne on 20 February 2020 was parliamentary business; and
2. Determine whether Senator Polley's husband's travel met the three part test set out in regulation 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*.

BACKGROUND:

3. On 18 June 2020, the Travel Advice & Education Branch notified the Audit & Assurance Section of a trip that Senator Polley and her husband took to Melbourne on 20 February 2020.
4. The travel undertaken by Senator Polley was to Melbourne on a Thursday morning. Senator Polley claimed one night's Travel Allowance (TA) for electorate duties outside electorate. Senator Polley then stayed in Melbourne on the Friday and Saturday night with her husband without claiming TA, before she continued on to Canberra on the Sunday night for parliamentary sittings the following week.
5. It is unclear whether the travel on Thursday was for the dominant purpose of undertaking parliamentary business.
6. In accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, an assurance review into Senator Polley's travel to Melbourne on 20 February 2020 was commenced on 22 June 2020.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK:

7. The legislative framework is:
   - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act 2017)
   - *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017* (the Regulations)
   - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (the Determination)
8. "Parliamentary business" has the meaning given by section 6 of the *PBR Act 2017*. Activities that fall within the four duty streams of parliamentary business are set out in the Determination (**Attachment A**).

9. Family travel expenses must meet the three part test set out in regulation 6 of 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.

TRAVEL:

10. IPEA records show Senator Polley and her husband flying from Launceston to Melbourne on 20 February 2020 at a cost of $229.96 each.

11. Senator Polley claimed one night's TA in Melbourne at a cost of $392 (TA Claim against Clause code 10.2 - Party Duties (excl. CBR) & Outside Electorate Duties).

12. Senator Polley then flew to Canberra on 23 February 2020 at a cost of $148.08 and Senator Polley's husband flew home to Launceston on 23 February 2020 at a cost of $386.56.

ANALYSIS:

13. To assist IPEA in reviewing this matter, IPEA wrote to Senator Polley on 6 July 2020 asking her to provide answers and any relevant supporting material to the following questions:

    a. What was your dominant purpose for travelling to Melbourne on 20 February 2020?
    b. What was the nature of your parliamentary business during your time in Melbourne?
    c. Please advise whether your spouse's travel expenses meets the three part test set out in clause 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017:
        - You were traveling for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business;
        - Your spouse was travelling to accompany or join you; and
        - Your spouse's travel was for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.

14. Senator Polley provided a response to IPEA on 20 July 2020 detailing responses to the three questions listed above (Attachment B), which provided:

    a. the dominant purpose of her travel to Melbourne was parliamentary business including "undertaking research, communication with stakeholders and meetings regarding my position as Senator and member of the Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System";
    b. The nature of the parliamentary business included meetings with senior court officials "to discuss the Review of the Family Law system by the Joint Select Committee" and a "tour of the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia"; and
    c. Her husband's travel did meet the three-part test set out in clause 6 of the Regulations as follows: "I was travelling for parliamentary business, my husband was travelling with me and this facilitated my family life and I was going to be away from my home and family for this time and the following week."

One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603 • Telephone 02 6215 3000
Internet www.ipea.gov.au

15. IPEA confirmed through the Parliament of Australia website[1], that Senator Polley has been on the Joint Select Committee: Australia's Family Law System, from 15 October 2019. Senator Polley was still a Committee Member during the travel in question, on 20 February 2020.

16. As a member of the Joint Committee, the activities described by Senator Polley (meetings with Family Court officials and tours of relevant facilities) meet the definition of parliamentary business as set out in the Determination. An article that Senator Polley wrote for the Launceston Examiner in the month following her travel refers to the difference in facilities between the Family Court in Melbourne (that she had inspected as part of her parliamentary business in Melbourne) and those in Launceston (Attachment B).

17. There is no information available to IPEA at this stage to suggest that Senator Polley's statement that the dominant purpose of the trip was to undertake parliamentary business and that her husband's travel was in accordance with the framework requires further investigation.

CONCLUSION:

18. On the information available to IPEA there is no basis to conclude that Senator Polley and her husband's travel to Melbourne requires further investigation.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that you:

19. Note the contents of this assurance review and;

20. Accept the matter as closed with no further investigation required.

NOTED & ACCEPT AS CLOSED / PLEASE DISCUSS

Prepared by:
s 47F

24 September 2020
s 47F
Assistant Director, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Reviewed by:

24 September 2020
Petra Gartmann
Branch Manager, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

[1] https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Parliamentarian?MPID=e5x

One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603 • Telephone 02 6215 3000
Internet www.ipea.gov.au

Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017

I, Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance, make the following determination.

Dated 14 December 2017

Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance

Contents

1 Name

This instrument is the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences at the same time as the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

4 Interpretation

(1) In this instrument:

Act means the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

(a) *constituent;*
(b) *member*;
(c) *office holder*, and
(d) *vice regal function.*

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, an activity specified in a Schedule to this determination is specified whether it takes place within Australia or overseas.

5 Parliamentary business of members

(1) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(a) of the Act, the ***parliamentary duties*** of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 1 for that member.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(b) of the Act, the ***electorate duties*** of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 2 for that member.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(c) of the Act, the ***party political duties*** of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 3 for that member.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(d) of the Act, the ***official duties*** of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 4 for that member.

Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties

(Act s 6(4)(a))

Column 1 Member (or class)	Column 2 Parliamentary duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament: a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise; b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose; c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member; d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function; e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio; f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates; g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose; h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function; i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. *Note: For Ministers representing the Government or Australia in their capacity as a Minister, this would be part of the member's official duties (see Schedule 4).*

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

Column 1 Member (or class)	Column 2 Electorate duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In the member's capacity as their constituent's elected representative: a) Facilitating and participating in debate, discussion, a meeting, event or function, or undertaking research or administrative functions relating to matters of importance or interest to constituents (including matters that do not relate exclusively to constituents, such as matters of national importance); b) Otherwise communicating with constituents; c) Representing the views and interests of constituents.

Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

Column 1 Member (or class)	Column 2 Party political duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In respect of the political party to which the member belongs, participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives: a) a formal meeting of the political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee); b) a national, state or territory conference.

Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

Column 1 Member (or class)	Column 2 Official duties
All office holders and Ministers of State	In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be): a) Exercising the powers or functions, or performing the duties, of the member's office, or activities engaged in for the purposes of doing so; b) Attending an event to which the member has been invited in their official capacity; c) Other activities directly related to, and engaged in for the purposes of, performing the member's official role.

(Attachment B)

20 July 2020

s 47F
Director, Audit and Assurance
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue
FORREST ACT 2603

Dear s 47F

RE: Travel 20th to 23 February 2020

Thank you for your letter dated 6th July 2020, please find my response to your questions listed and detailed below.

1. What was your dominant purpose for travelling to Melbourne on 20 February 2020?

I arrived in Melbourne with a staff member on the 20th February and claimed 1 night of travel allowance. The dominant purpose for this travel to Melbourne was for Parliamentary duties, namely undertaking research, communication with stakeholders and meetings regarding my position as a Senator and member of the Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System.

It is to be noted that I flew onto Canberra on Sunday the 23 February for a parliamentary sitting week. This I consider is value for money, as normally I would have then flown back to Launceston, my home base late on Friday evening or Saturday morning. Only then to pass back through Melbourne, as I usually do on my way back to Canberra on the Sunday.

Alternatively, had I continued to travel on from Melbourne to Canberra, I would have been entitled to claim travel allowance for Friday through to the Sunday. Again, my decision to travel to Melbourne with my husband was with these factors taken into consideration.

2. What was the nature of your parliamentary business during your time in Melbourne?

I had several meetings scheduled that day in the city of Melbourne. This included meeting with my colleague Senator Raff Ciccone. I had another meeting scheduled with advisor from Mellino's Office regarding legislation, unfortunately that meeting was cancelled by his office on that Friday morning.

..1/2

SENATOR HELEN POLLEY
Labor Senator for Tasmania
Suite 101, 287 Charles Street Launceston, TAS 7250
Ph 03 6331 2599 **Freecall** 1300 134 923 *(within Tasmania)*
Email senator.polley@aph.gov.au

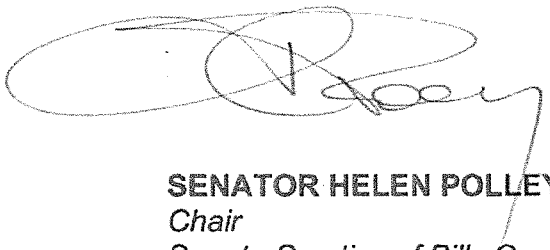
The majority of the afternoon was taken up with a visit to the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia. My advisor and I meet with David Pringle Chief Executive Officer and Principal Register, The Hon Justice William Alstergren CJ, and Renee Corcoran to meet and discuss the Review into the Family Law Review System by the Joint Select Committee. This involved a number of meeting and tour of the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

3. Please advise whether your family member's travel expenses meets the three part test set out in clause 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017:
- **You were traveling for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business;**
- **Your family member was travelling to accompany or join you; and**
- **Your family member's travel was for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life**

My husband's travel to Melbourne meets the three-part test, as I was travelling for Parliamentary Business, my husband was travelling with me and this facilitated my family life and I was going to be away from my home and family for this time and the following week.

Should you have any further question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



SENATOR HELEN POLLEY
Chair
Senate Scrutiny of Bills Committee
Labor Senator for Tasmania

Ref: mc

Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

ASSURANCE REVIEW MEMORANDUM

Senator Pauline Hanson, Senator for Queensland, Leader of the One Nation Party and Deputy Chair of Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System, travel to Perth October 2018.

Date: 3 September 2020
To: Petra Gartmann
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal

Media surrounding visit to Perth in October 2018.

PURPOSE:
This assurance review aims to:

1. Assess what travel and travel related resources were utilised by Senator Hanson during her visit to Perth in October 2018; and
2. Determine whether the dominant purpose of Senator Hanson's travel to Perth in October 2018 was parliamentary business.

BACKGROUND:

3. On 4 June 2020, a journalist from s 47F wrote to IPEA in relation to a series of articles on MP expenses he was intending to publish the following week.

4. s 47F posed the following question in relation to Senator Hanson:
"Pauline Hanson charged taxpayers $3,700 for a three-night trip to Perth in October 2018 where she held intimate dinners for high-paying One Nation donors and used a fish and chips lunch to raise thousands of dollars ahead of the federal election".

5. In accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, an assurance review into Senator Hanson's travel and travel related work expenses in Perth in October 2018 commenced on 15 June 2020.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK:

6. The relevant legislative framework is:
   - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act 2017)
   - *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017* (the Regulations)
   - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (the Determination)

7. "Parliamentary business" has the meaning given by section 6 of the *PBR Act 2017*. Activities that fall within the four duty streams of parliamentary business are set out in the Determination (Attachment A).

TRAVEL:

8. IPEA records show Senator Hanson flew from Brisbane to Perth on 11 October 2018 at a cost of $2,033.73. Senator Hanson then flew from Perth to Canberra on 14 October 2018 at a cost of $483.34 and returned to Brisbane directly from Canberra on 19 October 2018 at a cost of $211.41.

Senator Pauline Hanson

Domestic Scheduled Fares

Fares

Details	Amount
Canberra to Brisbane 21 Sep 18	$211.41
Brisbane to Canberra 23 Sep 18	$211.41
Darwin to Brisbane 28 Sep 18	$362.08
Brisbane to Hobart 3 Oct 18	$286.14 **
Hobart to Melbourne 5 Oct 18	$440.52 **
Melbourne to Brisbane 5 Oct 18	
* Brisbane to Perth 11 Oct 18 *	* $2,033.73 *
Perth to Canberra 14 Oct 18	$483.34
Canberra to Brisbane 19 Oct 18	$211.41

9. Travel Allowance records show that Senator Hanson claimed $1,218 for 3 night's commercial accommodation in Perth from 11 October 2018 (TA Claim against Clause code 10.2 - Party Duties (excl. CBR) & Outside Electorate Duties).

ANALYSIS:

10. The purpose of this analysis is to consider the nature of the parliamentary business conducted by Senator Hanson in Perth in October 2018 in order to confirm her certification of the trip being for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business.

11. The Guardian article by Mr Knaus (**Attachment B**) asserted that Senator Hanson "charged tax payers" for flights to Perth and Travel Allowance to hold a party fundraiser event (a fish and chip lunch and donor dinners).

12. Publicly available information relating to Senator Hanson's trip to Perth in October 2018 identifies that she undertook a range of activities while visiting Perth including:
    - Attending the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia's "Shot Expo"
    - Participating in a radio interview
    - Hosting donor dinners
    - Hosting a 'Fish and chip' event
    - Announcing candidates for the seats of Pearce and Cowan

13. Section 10 (2) of the Regulations state that travel allowance 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.

14. The Determination defines the four streams of "parliamentary business". They are, parliamentary duties; electorate duties; party political duties; and official duties. It is worth noting that party political fundraisers are not expressly excluded in the Determination[1].

1. Party political fundraisers are expressly excluded in respect of office expenses (section 66(3) of the Regulations). They are not expressly excluded anywhere else in the legislative framework.

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Internet www.ipea.gov.au

15. The Determination relevantly describes electorate duties as:
    In the member's capacity as their constituent's elected representative:
    a) Facilitating and participating in debate, discussion, a meeting, event or function, or undertaking research or administrative functions relating to matters of importance or interest to constituents (including matters that do not relate exclusively to constituents, such as matters of national importance);
    b) Otherwise communicating with constituents
    Party political duties are defined as:
    In respect of the political party to which the member belongs, participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives:
    a) a formal meeting of the political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee);
    b) a national, state or territory conference

16. The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia described its "Shot Expo" as "Australia's premier event for the sports shooting industry ... those wishing to participate in the sport, and the general public, with the view of improving public awareness, professionalism and safety. It has also become a landmark event for the shooting community in Australia and generates a lot of media interest ..." (Attachment C). Senator Hanson's One Nation party website identifies gun control issues as a major policy platform with the policy articulated, in part, as a commitment to "... a review the Weapons Act and Regulations and Weapons Categories Regulations in consultation with all stakeholders and industry experts within the first year of forming government." (https://www.onenation.org.au/policies/firearms-gun-control/) Given Senator Hanson's stated interest in firearm policy, participating in the event would meet the definition of parliamentary business – electorate duties.

17. Further, publicly available information confirms the Sporting Shooters event was held in both Sydney in June 2018 and later that year in Perth in October 2018. There was no Queensland-based event that Senator Hanson could have attended. Several media articles included photos of Senator Hanson at the Shooter's Expo firing an air rifle and speaking with patrons. An article in *Perth Now* on 13 October 2018 stated Senator Hanson 'was in WA to fundraise for One Nation and announce candidates for the seats of Pearce and Cowan, Sandy Old and Sheila Mundy'. An online search confirms these are the two candidates who stood for election at the subsequent federal election.

18. The donor dinners and fish and chip event, which were referred to by the media as fundraising events, are not expressly excluded scenarios in the Determination. Ultimately it will depend on the circumstances in each case and the parliamentarian's ability to justify their use of the particular expenses.

19. The media articles and public advertisement for the fish and chip function on 13 October 2018 refer to the event as an opportunity to meet and greet the Senator and her Western Australian One Nation colleagues, Senator Peter Georgiou, and three One Nation WA State MP's Colin Tincknell, Charles Smith and Robin Scott. Senator Hanson's facebook page included a flyer advertising the event in September 2018. Media reports indicate Senator Hanson spoke with One Nation supporters at the function. The $20 charge for the event is likely to have covered the costs of food only and not constitute fundraising.

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20. Whether the fish and chip function, attended by five One Nation parliamentarians, constituted a formal meeting or conference of Pauline Hanson's One Nation party and therefore meets the definition of party political duties, is a question of fact to be determined by reference to the party constitution. However, this is not necessary to establish as the fish and chip function also meets the definition of parliamentary business – electorate duties. This is because on the available public information Senator Hanson was attending an event or function of interest to her constituents and/or communicating with them on matters of interest to them as per the definition of electorate duties in the Determination.

21. There is less available material in relation to the dinner. I note section 6(2) of the PBR Act 2017 provides that an activity is not parliamentary business if it is carried out for the dominant purpose of providing a benefit or pursuing commercial purposes. On 3 October 2018 *The Australian* reported that Senator Hanson was charging $5000 a head for 12 people to attend a fundraising dinner at which she "has committed to spending time listening to each guest". It is not clear if this dinner in fact went ahead as there is no further publicly available information.

22. Finally, available media reporting indicates that when Senator Hanson arrived in Perth, she spoke to local radio station 6PR about her activities while in Perth. A transcript is not publicly available.

23. Attending the Shooter's Expo, hosing the fish and chip event, announcing candidates and conducting a radio interview, being the parliamentary business undertaken by Senator Hanson during her trip to Perth in October 2018, appear to be consistent with the legislative framework and sufficient to justify the number of nights travel undertaken.

CONCLUSION:

24. On the information available to IPEA there is no basis to conclude that the travel and work related travel expenses accessed by Senator Hanson require further investigation.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that you:

25. Note the contents of this assurance review, and

26. Accept the matter as closed with no further investigation required.

NOTED / PLEASE DISCUSS + accept as closed.

Prepared by:

s 47F

24 September 2020

s 47F

Assistant Director, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Reviewed by:

24 September 2020

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

One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603 • Telephone 02 6215 3000
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(Attachment B)

The Guardian

This article is more than **3 months old**

Pauline Hanson charged taxpayers for three-day Perth fundraising spree

Exclusive: the One Nation leader held a 'fish and chip' fundraiser, which attracted the support of far-right extremist group the Proud Boys

William Summers *and* Christopher Knaus

Wed 17 Jun 2020 03.30 AEST

Pauline Hanson charged taxpayers $3,700 for a three-night trip to Perth where she held intimate dinners for high-paying One Nation donors and a "fish and chip" fundraiser that drew the support of far-right extremists.

Politicians are not allowed to charge taxpayers for travel if the dominant purpose is party fundraising.

But in October 2018, Hanson had taxpayers pick up the bill for flights to and from Perth, as well as three days of travel allowance, where she hosted multiple One Nation fundraisers.

The One Nation leader held a $20-per-head "fish and chip" fundraiser for about 300 people at the Botanica Bar & Bistro in Innaloo, Perth. The event, organised by the party's WA executive, drew the support of members of the Proud Boys, who showed up outside to counter a protest against Hanson and One Nation.

Hanson also hosted intimate dinners for donors willing to pay $5,000 a head, more than double the amount that WA Liberal party donors had paid for a seat near prime minister Scott Morrison at a similar event.

A spokesman for Hanson told Guardian Australia she only ever "makes interstate trips for the purpose of her parliamentary duties".

"If time permits outside of those obligations, she will attend fundraising events after hours."

The spokesman declined to answer multiple questions about the nature of Hanson's parliamentary business during the trip.

One Nation's WA state president, Paul Filing, has previously told the Australian that the events were part of a major fundraising campaign in Perth, and said invitations to the 12-person intimate dinners had been sent to lobbyists and business leaders.

Records show Hanson later charged $3,735.07 to taxpayers for her WA trip. Her flights from Brisbane to Perth and back to Canberra cost the public $2,517. Hanson also claimed three days of food and accommodation allowance worth $1,218.

When Hanson arrived in Perth, she spoke to local radio station 6PR. The presenter opened the interview by asking about the One Nation leader's "fundraising plan" while in WA.

Hanson told the station the $5,000-a-head dinners were "about having an intimate dinner with us and having the opportunity to talk to us about your issues and what you want to talk about with us".

She also gave the cheaper event a plug: "We actually now have this other function, $20 a head for fish and chips tomorrow. So people can have the opportunity now to talk to me there about their issues; what they want to do. It's people's choice, you have a choice. You can either pay $5,000, or you can pay $20, or you can actually corner me in the shopping centre, like a lot of people do, and talk to me there."

Hanson reportedly used some of the trip to search for and announce local One Nation candidates in WA, and she also attended the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia's Shot Expo in Claremont, where she fired guns and posed for cameras.

The Perth trip again reveals serious flaws in the MP expenses regime, which critics say is ill-defined and open to abuse.

A Guardian investigation has revealed a string of questionable expense claims since Malcolm Turnbull's reforms in 2017, which were introduced after a number of high-profile scandals.

The rules around mixed-purpose travel - where an MP uses a trip to both fundraise and conduct legitimate parliamentary business - remain ambiguous, according to Yee-Fui Ng, an integrity expert with Monash University.

"The legislation adopts a principles-based approach that tries to ascertain the dominant purpose of undertaking an activity," but when an MP travelled for mixed purposes that could be hard to determine, she said.

"MPs are the custodians of public power, and trust in democracy is reliant on MPs appropriately exercising their powers and responsibly managing public funds, including their travel expenses," she said.

Guardian Australia has also found that former South Australian senator Cory Bernardi charged taxpayers for a $2,500 trip to Sydney on the day of a major fundraiser for his fledgling Australian Conservatives party in 2017.

Bernardi flew into Sydney on the afternoon of Friday 27 October 2017.

Comcar records, released through freedom of information, show he arrived at his hotel about 2pm before taking another Comcar to the fundraiser roughly two hours later, joining about 120 supporters for a riverside dinner at Parramatta Wharf.

The records also show he used a Comcar to leave the fundraiser and return to his hotel about 10pm that night.

Footage of the event also shows copies of Bernardi's book, *Revolution*, in which he writes that Australia needs to "re-establish the notion that taking responsibility for consequences is just as important as freedom of choice", were for sale at the fundraiser.

Bernardi stayed in Sydney for the weekend, flying out on Sunday 29 October, and may have had further parliamentary business on those days.

The former senator declined to answer questions about the trip when contacted by Guardian Australia.

"In your eagerness to bottom-feed, you ignore or haven't a clue what else I did that day, who I met or what parliamentary business was conducted, so I'll politely ask you to not contact me again," he said.

The former senator set up the Australian Conservatives after quitting the Liberals in early 2017, hoping his new party would sweep up Liberal voters disenchanted by Malcolm Turnbull's leadership.

But the party was deregistered in June 2019 after a poor showing at the federal election. Bernardi resigned from the Senate in January.

financially.

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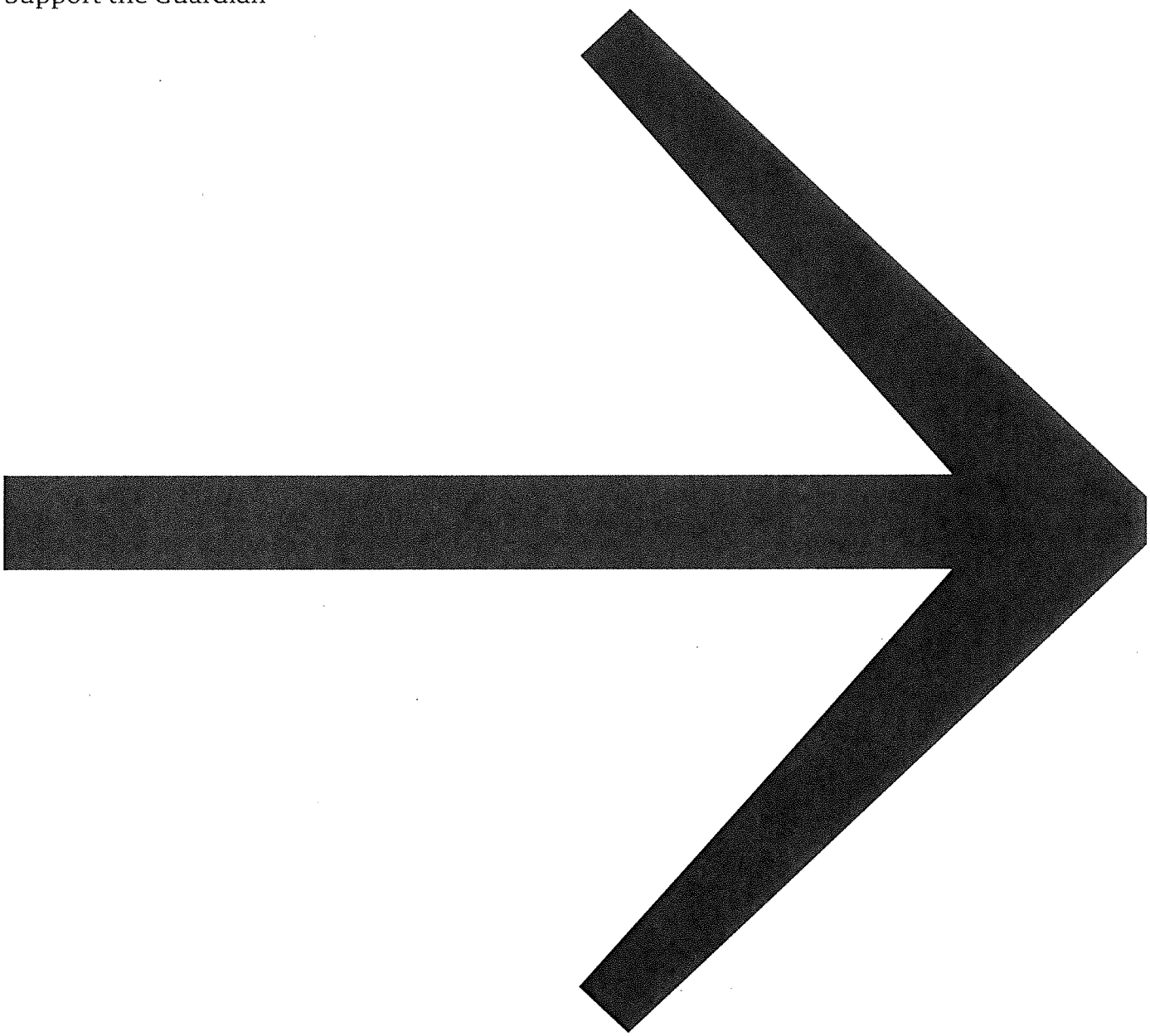

Topics

- Australian politics
- The transparency project
- Australian politicians' expenses
- Pauline Hanson
- One Nation
- Far right
- news

Attachment C – Shot Expo October 2018

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Events

Events

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OCT
13

SSAA SHOT Expo Perth 2018

Public · Hosted by SSAA SHOT Expo, Sporting Shooters Association Of Australia WA Inc. and Claremont Showground

13 Oct 2018 at 09:00 – 14 Oct 2018 at 16:00 UTC+08
More than a year ago

Claremont Showground
1 Graylands Road, Claremont Showground, Perth, WA, Australi...
Show map

Details

Australia's BIGGEST Shooting Sports, Hunting and Outdoors event, SSAA SHOT Expo, is returning to Calremont Showgrounds in Perth 13 & 14 October 2018... and it keeps getting BIGGER!!

In 2018, SSAA SHOT Expo will this time occupy the entire venue including all three buildings and all outdoor areas, which means there will be even more exhibitors, activities, outdoor displays, food & much more!

HIGHLIGHTS:
- 120+ exhibits with the latest equipment, gear, accessories & services for the shooting sports, hunting & outdoor trades.
- Live Demos & Expert Talks
- SSAA Field to Fork Cooking & Game Processing Demos
- SSAA Working Gun dog demos

See more

Fitness Child-friendly

Audit – Office stationery and supplies

Context

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) audits parliamentarians' work resources and the travel expenses of their staff under section 12 of the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* (the IPEA Act).

Scope

Office expenses can be purchased for the conduct of parliamentary business under section 66 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017* (the Regulations). The *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act) imposes overarching obligations to the accessing of office expenses by manner of a principles-based framework (the framework). The framework sets out that parliamentarians may claim public resources, including office supplies, where the claim is made for the dominant purpose of conducting their parliamentary business, represents value for money, and complies with all relevant conditions.

Purpose

IPEA examined office expenses incurred during 1 January 2018 to 31 October 2018 (the audit period), to determine whether a sample of transactions, drawn from various parliamentarian's Electorate Offices were purchased in accordance with the framework set by the PBR Act.

The audit was confined to the following categories of office expenses prescribed by section 66(1)(i),(j),(k) & (q) of the Regulations:

- office stationery and supplies;
- minor office equipment, including accessories, consumables, repairs and maintenance;
- accessories for information and communications technology (such as storage devices, portable power banks and camera lenses for mobile devices); and
- incidental fees and charges associated with the provision of resources covered by the Regulations.

Background

Section 32(1) of the PBR Act, provides that *"[the] Commonwealth must pay the expenses that are prescribed by the regulations relating to the conduct of a member's parliamentary business."*

Parliamentarians may purchase office stationery and supplies for the conduct of their parliamentary business, and subject to the limit of their annual budget for office expenses[1]. However, there are certain items that are not subject to the annual budget, including:

- approved items provided for work health and safety reasons;
- toilet paper, paper hand towels for bathroom use and hand-wash soap pump where these items are not provided by the contracted property services provider or landlord;
- office stationery and supplies provided by House Departments at Parliament House offices.

[1] See section 67 of the Regulations.

Subsections 66 (2) through to 66 (5) of the Regulations sets out what is specifically excluded from office expenses and provides:

- Office expenses must not be used to pay for the production or placement of content for broadcasting on television or radio;
- Office expenses must not be used to produce, communicate or distribute material that:
  (a) Solicits any of the following:
    (i) A vote for a person other than the member;
    (ii) Subscriptions or other financial or non-financial support (other than volunteering) for a member, political party or candidate;
    (iii) Application for or renewals of membership in a political party; or
  (b) Provides instruction on how to complete a ballot paper.
- Office expenses must not be used to produce, communicate or distribute any material that includes an advertisement pursuing a commercial purpose of the member or another person;
- Office expenses must not be used to pay for postage stamps or stamped envelopes, other than those provided by a Department of the Parliament established under the *Parliamentary Services Act 1999.*

Methodology

IPEA selected five parliamentarian's Electorate Offices using a random process within the parameters of a representative sample. The methodology for selecting site visits were as follows:

- sorted expenditure in accordance to highest overall expenditure per Electorate office during the audit period;
- considered states on the eastern seaboard which accounted for 80 per cent of total expenditure during the audit period;
- considered the higher range of spending above $50,000;
- excluded any members that have been the subject of an audit in the current year and certain office holders; and selected parliamentarians with the highest value of spending in each of the identified states.

IPEA then conducted site visits of those offices. Site visits were also conducted at the Administrator's State Offices that are located in the Commonwealth Parliament Offices (CPO) of that capital city. The State Offices visited are located in the capital cities of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. IPEA also conducted a site visit of the Western Australian State Office as it is the main support centre for purchases that are made through the contracted supplier, Complete Office Supplies (COS).

A sample of expenditure of office stationery and supplies made during the audit period was examined to determine if the purchase was made within the principles based framework. These samples were taken from the five selected Electorate Offices and the administration and advice regarding the purchase of the work expense was reviewed.

Observations

The acquisition of office stationery and supplies is treated by many Electorate Offices as 'business as usual' spending. IPEA found evidence that parliamentarians reviewed their purchases of office stationery and supplies at a higher level during the monthly reporting checks, as opposed to a detailed review of each purchase. From 1 January 2018, the new PBR framework commenced and, following a procurement process, COS replaced the former contracted supplier of office stationery

and supplies, Office Max, under the Whole of Australian Government arrangements. With the introduction of the PBR framework, restrictions to the items which could be ordered through the contracted provider were removed. In addition, offices could continue to purchase items outside of the contracted provider and submit claims for payment.

Discussions with State Offices revealed that with the commencement of the new framework, a number of offices purchased items not previously available through the restricted bundle available from the previous contracted provider. In addition, a number of items not previously available were purchased outside of the contracted arrangement. Examples of these items included multiple televisions for an Electorate Office, a drone camera, and IT peripheral equipment. While these items were generally not captured within existing procedural guidance referenced by the State Office Guidelines, where a claim was made for new items, it was reviewed under the PBR framework and assessed as to whether it can be processed.

There are various approval channels in place for the payment and reimbursement of office stationery and supplies. Items purchased through COS can be approved by a delegated Electorate Office staff member, while items purchased outside COS (for reimbursement, or direct payment to a supplier), require approval by the Parliamentarian. This raises the risk of purchases being made outside the framework unbeknownst to the parliamentarian.

Pre 1 January 2018, a number of additional restrictions and controls were in place with the previous contracted provider, however with the move to the principle-based framework these were removed. Parliamentarians are free to make orders on COS with no financial cap, noting that any expenditure in excess of the annual budget for office expenses remains the responsibility of the parliamentarian.

The Administrator receives and pays a monthly consolidated invoice of all 227 Electorate Offices from the contracted provider.

Suggestions for improvement

The audit found no evidence of systemic or sustained misuse in the office stationery and supplies expense category. The observations that were made during this audit were known to the central Administrators and are being dealt with by them. The following suggestions may be considered by the Administrator.

Extra guidance on the purchase of items may assist parliamentarians and their Electorate Office staff to satisfy these requirements more transparently. There is an opportunity for the Administrator to educate parliamentarians by providing further guidance on the considerations of the PBR framework as it relates to office stationery and supplies. For example, providing clarity and examples of purchases that are considered to be allowable or not allowable under the PBR framework could be communicated to Electorate Offices, noting that actual purchases need to continue to be assessed on a case by case basis.

Discussions held with the Administrator identified a sample of COS purchases that required reimbursement from the Electorate Office as these items contravened the framework. These were identified during the review of the monthly consolidated invoice. While it is the responsibility of each parliamentarian to ensure that items are purchased within the framework, the monthly review allows scrutiny of any unusual purchases made by Electorate Offices. A more frequent review could eliminate the 25% loading (PBR Act, section 38) applicable to reimbursements of purchases made outside the framework, that are identified 28 days from when the expense was incurred.

There is an opportunity to examine the extent to which the COS online ordering system might assist parliamentarians to manage this responsibility and limit any potential for purchases outside the framework.

The audit has reinforced the ongoing benefits of:

- clarifying requirements, and
- educating and raising awareness.