



Australian Government
**Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority**

Assurance Review 2023/017

Office of Mr Aaron Violi MP, Member for Casey, Victoria –
review of travel for new parliamentarians, family members
and MOP(S) Act staff

1 April to 30 June 2023

Contents

Executive summary	3
Audit and Assurance function	4
IPEA’s statutory audit function	4
Legislative framework	4
Assurance Review methodology	6
Background	6
Scope of Assurance Review	6
Method	6
Assessment of work expenses	7
Summary of findings	7

Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) conducted an Assurance Review of travel by Mr Aaron Violi, his family members and MOP(S) Act staff during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023^{needed}]. The Assurance Review forms part of IPEA's 3 Year Assurance Plan. The purpose of the Assurance Review was to determine whether the use of parliamentary business resources by Mr Violi was consistent with the legislative framework.

Assurance Review Findings

2. The Assurance Review assessed whether the use of parliamentary business resources was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business. IPEA identified Mr Violi as having used parliamentary business resources for travel to Hobart with his family between 11 and 18 April 2023 and then for Mr Violi for travel to Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023.
3. Having considered the available information, including the response provided by Mr Violi, IPEA is satisfied the dominant purpose of the travel was parliamentary business and was consistent with the legislative framework.

Scope and Purpose

4. The scope of this Assurance Review is travel by Mr Violi and his family to Hobart between 11 and 18 April and travel by Mr Violi to Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023.

Engagement with Mr Violi

5. On 6 September 2023, IPEA wrote to Mr Violi in relation to his travel to Hobart and Adelaide. Mr Violi was asked to confirm the dominant purpose of his travel and provide detail of his parliamentary business. Mr Violi was also asked whether the travel to Hobart by his family members met the three-part test for family travel.

Mr Violi Response

6. On 21 September 2023, Mr Violi provided a detailed response to IPEA. Mr Violi confirmed the dominant purpose of his travel to both Melbourne and Adelaide was parliamentary business and he provided detail of the parliamentary duties undertaken. Mr Violi confirmed his family members accompanied him during his travel to Hobart for the purposes of family reunion purposes.

Audit and Assurance function

IPEA's statutory audit function

8. IPEA audits parliamentarians' work expenses and the travel expenses of their staff under section 12 of the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* (IPEA Act). Assurance Reviews determine if there has been a misuse of a parliamentary business resources. IPEA assesses the use of parliamentary business resources against the legislative framework to determine whether there was misuse.
9. Potential outcomes of an Assurance Review include:
 - a. no further action in circumstances where the review has concluded the use of parliamentary business resources was not inconsistent with the legislative framework, or
 - b. administrative remedial action, including penalty where the review has concluded there is evidence the use of parliamentary business resources was not consistent with the legislative framework, or
 - c. an IPEA initiated Ruling or Audit, where there is evidence of systemic or substantial misuse of parliamentary business resources, or
 - d. referral to the Australian Federal Police where compelling prima facie evidence of fraud or other criminal conduct is identified.

Legislative framework

10. The legislation relevant to this Assurance Review is:
 - a. *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act)
 - b. *Parliamentary Business Resource Regulations 2017* (the Regulations)
 - c. *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (the Determination)
11. The PBR Act and the PBR Regulations established a framework for providing resources to parliamentarians in respect of their parliamentary business. Parliamentarians are eligible to claim public resources under the framework in respect of their parliamentary business.
12. Section 6 of the PBR Act provides the meaning of **parliamentary business**:
 - (1) The **parliamentary business** of a member means any of the following:
 - (a) the **parliamentary duties** of a member, being activities of the member that:
 - (i) relate directly the member's role as a member; and
 - (ii) are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(a);
 - (b) the **electorate duties** of the member, being activities of the member that:
 - (i) support or serve the member's constituents; and
 - (ii) are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(b);
 - (c) the **party political duties** of the member, being activities determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(c);
 - (d) for a member who is an office holder or a Minister of State—the **official duties** of the member being activities that:

- (i) relate to the member's role as an office holder or Minister of State; and
- (ii) are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(d).

13. Subsection 6(4) of the PBR Act provides the Minister must determine activities of a member that are **parliamentary duties** of the member, or **electorate duties** of the member, or **party political duties** of the member, or **official duties** of the member. The Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 determines the activities which fall within the four duty streams set out in section 6 of the PBR Act.

14. Subsection 6(2) of the PBR Act further provides in part:

However, an activity is not the **parliamentary business** of a member if:

- (a) the member carries it out for the dominant purpose of either or both the following:
 - (i) providing a personal benefit to the member or another person;
 - (ii) pursuing commercial purposes of the member or another person;...

15. Subsection 9(1) of the PBR Act details expenses that may be incurred with travel as:

For the purposes of this Act, the following are examples of expenses incurred in connection with travel:

- (a) the cost of fares;
- (b) the cost of taxis and other local transport in connection with travel;
- (c) the costs of the provision of charter services;
- (d) the cost of accommodation;
- (e) the cost of meals;
- (f) the cost of incidentals.

16. The Parliamentary Business Resources (Commonwealth Transport) Determination provides that COMCAR services are to be made available for the purposes of subsection 8(2) of the PBR Regulations. There are limits and conditions on member's use of COMCAR within Australia. Subsection 8(2) of the Commonwealth Transport Determination provides:

COMCAR is not available for the purpose of subsection 8(2) of the Regulations if the member could reasonably use the member's private plated vehicle in the circumstances, assuming the member had a private plated vehicle.

Note: A member who chooses an allowance instead of a private plated vehicle could reasonably be expected to use the allowance instead of claiming COMCAR transport costs in circumstances where a private plated vehicle could otherwise reasonably be used.

17. Section 6 of the Regulation provides the meaning of **family reunion purposes** as:

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.

18. As an overarching matter, the public resources prescribed in Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the PBR Regulations are subject to a specific accountability regime established in the PBR Act for that purpose. Parliamentarians' access to and use of public resources are subject to the following obligations:

- Parliamentarians must be personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources, and to act ethically and in good faith using and accounting for their use of those resources (see section 25)
 - A parliamentarian must not claim or use public resources unless it is for the dominant purpose of conducting their parliamentary business (dominant purpose test, see section 26)
 - A parliamentarian must ensure value for money for the Commonwealth in incurring expenses or claiming public resources, taking into account the need to conduct the parliamentary business (value for money test, see section 27), and
 - A parliamentarian must not claim resources or incur expenses if any conditions for accessing the resources have not been met (section 28)
19. In accordance with sections 30 and 31 of the PBR Act, the Commonwealth must pay the travel expenses and travel allowances as prescribed by the Regulations. Division 1 of Part 2 of the PBR Regulations prescribes travel expenses and travel allowances for travel within Australia for the purposes of sections 30 and 31 of the PBR Act.

Assurance Review methodology

Background

20. Review of travel by parliamentarians forms part of IPEA's 3 Year Assurance Plan. On 28 August 2023, in accordance with IPEA's Statutory Audit Function Sheet, IPEA commenced a Preliminary Assessment in relation to travel by Mr Violi, his family members and MOP(S) Act staff between 1 April and 30 June 2023.
21. On 28 August 2023, IPEA Audit and Assurance obtained data on all travel completed by Mr Violi, his family members and MOP(S) Act staff between 1 April and 30 June 2023. The data included travel and travel-related expenses processed via the Parliamentary Expenses Management System (PEMS) and data provided by COMCAR.
22. The Preliminary Assessment found that parliamentary business resources were used by Mr Violi, his family members and MOP(S) Act staff during the period in scope. On 29 August 2023 it was decided to proceed to an Assurance Review in relation to travel by Mr Violi and his family members to Hobart between 11 and 18 April 2023 and travel by Mr Violi to Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023.
23. Travel by MOP(S) Act staff during the period in scope was to Canberra on occasions when Parliament was sitting and was found to be consistent with the legislative framework.

Scope of Assurance Review

24. The scope of this Assurance Review is travel by Mr Violi and his family members to Hobart between 11 and 18 April 2023 and travel by Mr Violi to Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023.

Method

25. The data confirmed Mr Violi and his family travelled to Hobart between 11 and 18 April 2023 and Mr Violi travelled to Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023. Travel expenses incurred included domestic air travel, COMCAR and domestic travel allowance.

Assessment of work expenses

Summary of findings

Analysis

26. IPEA considered the legislative framework and applied the following questions to the travel by Mr Violi and his family members to Hobart between 11 and 18 April 2023:
 - a. What was Mr Violi’s dominant purpose for the travel to Hobart?
 - b. What was the nature of the parliamentary business in Hobart?
 - c. Did the travel by Mr Violi’s family members meet the three part test in section 6 of the Regulations?
 - i. Was Mr Violi travelling for the dominant purpose of conducting his parliamentary business?
 - ii. Was Mr Violi’s family members accompanying him on his travel?
 - iii. Was Mr Violi’s family member’s travel for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life?
27. IPEA conducted the Assurance Review by examining and assessing:
 - a. Information obtained from the Audit and Assurance Dashboard
 - b. Publicly available information
 - c. Travel bookings and other records contained in PEMS
 - d. Responses and any additional information provided by Mr Violi.
28. The available information confirmed Mr Violi and his family members travelled from Melbourne to Hobart on 11 April 2023. Mr Violi received domestic travel allowance for seven nights in Hobart. Mr Violi and his family then flew from Hobart to Melbourne on 18 April 2023.
29. Mr Violi travelled from Melbourne to Adelaide on 18 April 2023, spending two nights in Adelaide before returning to Melbourne on 20 April 2023.
30. On 6 September 2023, IPEA wrote to Mr Violi providing details of his and his family member’s Commonwealth-funded travel during the period in scope. Mr Violi was asked to confirm the dominant purpose of his travel to Melbourne and Adelaide, advise the nature of his parliamentary business and advise whether his family member’s travel expenses meet the three-part test in section 6 of the Regulations.
31. In his response of 20 September 2023, Mr Violi confirmed the dominant purpose of his travel to Melbourne was parliamentary business as part of his role as a member of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture and the Select Committee on Workplace Australia Employment Services. Mr Violi advised his family accompanied him on his travel to Hobart to spend the weekend together.
32. In relation to his travel to Adelaide, Mr Violi confirmed this was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business to attend site visits as a member of the Housing Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Conclusion

33. Having regard to the available information, including the response provided by Mr Violi, IPEA is satisfied Mr Violi's use of Parliamentary business resources for travel to Hobart and Adelaide was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business and was consistent with the legislative framework. IPEA is also satisfied the use of parliamentary business resources for his family members to accompany him on his travel to Hobart met the three-part test in section 6 of the Regulations and was consistent with the legislative framework.

[REDACTED]

From: Assurance
Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2023 7:19 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HPE CM: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 3000 - IPEA letter to Mr Violi - 7 September 2023.pdf; Attachment A - Parliamentary Business Determination.pdf

OFFICIAL

Mr Aaron Violi
Member for Casey

Good morning Mr Violi

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to an Assurance Review of travel by you and your family to Hobart between 11 and 18 April 2023 and your travel to Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]
Acting Assistant Secretary
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: +61 2 6215 3000
Assurance@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au & www.ipea.gov.au/ed

Classification: OFFICIAL
Classified by: assurance@ipea.gov.au on: 7/09/2023 7:18:28 AM

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

REF: IPEA 23/1/10 IDOC/233933

6 September 2023

Mr Aaron Violi MP
Member for Casey
PO Box 40
CHIRNSIDE VIC 3116

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Violi

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has responsibility under the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* to review work expenses accessed by parliamentarians, and travel expenses incurred by parliamentarians' family members and staff.

IPEA's assurance activities include reviewing the use of work expenses to travel to desirable destinations, family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to travel by you and your family to Hobart between 11 and 18 April 2023 and your travel to Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023. Please note IPEA publishes completed Assurance Reviews on the website www.ipea.gov.au.

Division 2 of Part 3 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act) sets out the principles parliamentarians are to apply when utilising public resources.

As you would be aware, under the principles-based scheme parliamentarians have an obligation to be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business (subsection 25(3) of the PBR Act). Parliamentarians also have an obligation to ensure that expenses that are incurred, or allowances or other public resources that are claimed, in relation to the conduct of the member's parliamentary business provide value for money, taking into account the need to conduct the member's parliamentary business (section 27 of the PBR Act). Parliamentarians are personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources.

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

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Section 6 of the PBR Act also states:

However, an activity is not the parliamentary business of a member if:

- (a) the member carries it out for the dominant purpose of either or both of the following:*
 - (i) providing a personal benefit to the member or another person;*
 - (ii) pursuing commercial purposes of the member or another person; or*
- (b) the activity is determined under subsection (3) for the purposes of this paragraph.*

Further, the use of travel expenses for family reunion must meet the three part test below, set out in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017:

*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.*

Attachment B contains details of the Commonwealth funded travel undertaken by you and your family to Hobart between 11 and 18 April 2023 and your travel to Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023.

To assist with the Assurance Review, please examine the attached list of expenses and provide a written response to the questions via email to Assurance@ipea.gov.au by close of business on **Thursday 21 September 2023**, or advise IPEA prior to the date if you require additional time. Where we have asked about the nature of your parliamentary business, please refer to the definition and consider the examples outlined in the Determination, and provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations, or media reporting.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Acting Branch Manager, Transparency Audit and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
[REDACTED]

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Attachment B - travel details
Mr Aaron Violi MP, Member for Casey

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
COMCAR	Lilydale	11/04/2023	08:09 AM	Melbourne Airport	11/04/2023	09:18 AM	\$316.85
Travel Fares – Virgin Australia	Melbourne	11/04/2023	10:50 AM	Hobart	11/04/2023	12:05 PM	\$269.31
COMCAR	Cambridge	11/04/2023	12:05 PM	Hobart	11/04/2023	12:45 PM	\$108.80
Domestic Travel Allowance		11/04/2023		Hobart – 7 nights			\$2,590.00
Travel Fares – Virgin Australia	Hobart	18/04/2023	12:45 PM	Melbourne	18/04/2023	2:00 PM	\$269.31
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Melbourne	18/04/2023	04:15 PM	Adelaide	18/04/2023	5:05 PM	\$199.35
COMCAR	Adelaide Airport	18/04/2023	05:05 PM	Adelaide	18/04/2023	5:43 PM	\$74.40
Domestic Travel Allowance		18/04/2023		Adelaide – 2 nights			\$764.00
COMCAR	Adelaide	20/04/2023	11:57 AM	Adelaide Airport	20/04/2023	12:15 PM	\$61.20
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Adelaide	20/04/2023	01:45 PM	Melbourne	20/04/2023	03:35 PM	\$645.69
COMCAR	Melbourne Airport	20/04/2023	03:35 PM	Lilydale	20/04/2023	05:57 PM	\$321.24

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Travel expenses

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
Travel Fares – Virgin Australia	Melbourne	11/04/2023	10:50 AM	Hobart	11/04/2023	12:00 PM	\$269.31
							\$269.31
							\$269.31
Travel Fares – Virgin Australia	Hobart	18/04/2023	12:45 PM	Melbourne	18/04/2023	2:00 PM	\$269.31
							\$269.31
							\$269.31
COMCAR	Melbourne Airport	18/04/2023	02:00 PM	Lilydale	18/04/2023	05:57 PM	\$488.65

- Q1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Hobart between 11 and 18 April 2023?
- Q2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Hobart between 11 and 18 April 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response.
- Q3. Please advise whether your family members' travel expenses meet the three-part test in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2027:
- a. You were travelling for the dominant purpose of conducting your parliamentary business; and
 - b. Your family members were travelling to accompany or join you; and
 - c. Your family members' travel was for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.
- Q4. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023.
- Q5. With reference to the Determination, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response.



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.....	1
2 Commencement	1
3 Authority.....	1
4 Interpretation.....	1
5 Parliamentary business of members.....	2
Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties	3
Schedule 2—Electorate duties	4
Schedule 3—Party political duties	4
Schedule 4—Official duties	5

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	<p>In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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. <p><i>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).</i></p>

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	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	Column 2
Member (or class)	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	Column 2
Member (or class)	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): <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 21 September 2023 12:27 PM
To: Assurance
Subject: HPE CM: REF: IPEA 23/1/10 IDOC/233933
Attachments: 20230921 - IPEA - Letter - Travel Audit - SL.pdf

Categories: [REDACTED]

Please find attached correspondence from Mr Violi in response to IPEA letter dated 6th September REF: IPEA 23/1/10 IDOC/233933.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Office of Aaron Violi MP
Federal Member for Casey

Electorate Office | Suite 11, 1 East Ridge Drive, Chirnside Park VIC 3116 | t: 03 9727 0799
Parliament House Office | R1:18, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | t: 02 6277 4968



[REDACTED] w: www.aaronvioli.com.au

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AARON VIOLI MP

Federal Member for Casey

[REDACTED]
Acting Branch Manager, Transparency Audit and Legal
IPEA
1 Canberra Avenue
FORREST ACT 2603

assurance@ipea.gov.au

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 6th September regarding my travel to Hobart and Adelaide in April.

I have attached full written responses to each question submitted.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For your reference, I have also included a short itinerary for both trips.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

AARON VIOLI MP
Member for Casey

20/09/2023

Q1 – What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Hobart between 11th and 18th April?

The dominant purpose of this trip was to attend committee meetings, hearings and site visits.

Q2 – With reference to the Determination at Attachment A, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Hobart between 11th and 18th April?

I am a member of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Agriculture/Committee_Membership

The House Standing Committee on Agriculture held public hearings and site visits in Hobart 12th – 13th April.

I am a member of the Select Committee on Workforce Australia Employment Services.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Workforce_Australia_Employment_Services/Committee_Membership

The Select Committee on Workforce Australia Employment Services is conducting an inquiry into Workforce Australia Employment Services.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Workforce_Australia_Employment_Services/WorkforceAustralia

The Select Committee on Workplace Australia Employment Services conducted site visits in Hobart on 17th April.

Q3 Please advise whether your family members' travel expenses meet the three part test in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations:

- a) You were travelling for the dominant purpose of conducting your parliamentary business – YES
- b) Your family members were travelling to accompany or join you – YES
- c) Your family members' travel was for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.

YES. I have a family

When I was notified of these committee meetings and site visits interstate, my family and I were disappointed as I had already been away in Canberra for five weeks in first term. The committee meetings fell on the school holidays which was even more disappointing as we could not spend extra time together.

My office investigated the possibility of the family accompanying me to Hobart so we could at least spend the weekend together. They checked with IPEA who advised that the situation we described would meet the three part test.

Q4 - What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Adelaide between 18th and 20th April?

The dominant purpose of the trip was to attend House Standing Committee on Agriculture site visits. The House Standing Committee on Agriculture is conducting an inquiry into food security.

I am a member of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Agriculture/Committee_Membership

The House Standing Committee on Agriculture is conducting an inquiry into food security.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Agriculture/FoodsecurityinAustrali

Q5 – With reference to the Determination at Attachment A, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Adelaide between 18th and 20th April?

The House Standing Committee on Agriculture conducted site visits and public hearings in Adelaide 19th & 20th April.

ITINERARY

Tues 11th April

I travelled from [REDACTED] in Lilydale to the Melbourne airport via COMCAR with my family.

We flew Virgin VA1320 from Melbourne to Hobart.

We travelled from the airport to our accommodation in COMCAR. We checked in to [REDACTED] and worked on preparation for the committee public hearing and private meeting the next day.

I am a member of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Agriculture/Committee_Membership

The House Standing Committee on Agriculture is conducting an inquiry into food security.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Agriculture/FoodsecurityinAustrali

Wed 12th April

After further preparation I attended the House Standing Committee on Agriculture Public Hearing & Private Meeting in Committee Room 1, Parliament House, Hobart & 1 Franklin Wharf, Hobart and the offices of Tasmanian company [REDACTED] as part of their submission to the inquiry.

Thurs 13th April

At 7.20am, I departed for Triabunna & Okehampton Bay, Tasmania for a site inspection with the committee. This concluded at 3pm.

Friday 14th April – Sunday 16th April Spending time in Hobart with my family.

Monday 17th April

I am a member of the Joint Select Committee on Workforce Australia Employment Services.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Workforce_Australia_Employment_Services/Committee_Membership

The Select Committee on Workforce Australia Employment Services is conducting an inquiry into Workforce Australia Employment Services.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Workforce_Australia_Employment_Services/WorkforceAustralia

I attended site visits in Hobart with the Committee.

Tuesday 18th April

I flew home with my family on Virgin VA1323 to Melbourne. They used COMCAR to return home to [REDACTED]

I stayed at the airport and immediately boarded QF691 to Adelaide.

I landed in Adelaide and used COMCAR to travel from the airport to my accommodation.

Wednesday 19th April

Starting at 5.30am, I with the House Standing Committee on Agriculture travelled to several different sites in Adelaide and surrounds as part of the Inquiry into food security. These visits and meetings concluded at 4.30pm.

Thursday 20th April

Attended the House Standing Committee on Agriculture public hearings at the James Spence Room, Adelaide Town Hall, 128 King William Street.

I then travelled directly to the airport and flew Qantas QF0686 from Adelaide to Melbourne.

I travelled using COMCAR from Melbourne Airport to home.