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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

ASSURANCE REVIEW MEMORANDUM – [2021/028]

Senator David Van – Travel to and around Queensland from 13 July to 5 September 2021

Date: 28 October 2022

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

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

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

NOTED & ACCEPTED AS CLOSED /

PLEASE DISCUSS



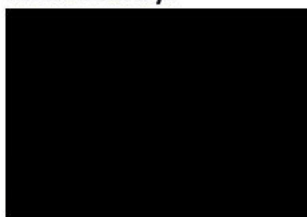
Date: 28 October 2022
Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Prepared by:



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

Reviewed by:



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

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SCOPE

1. This Assurance Review considers travel by Senator David Van, and his spouse, to Proserpine, Brisbane and Townsville, QLD, during the period 13 to 31 July 2021 ('the period in scope').

PURPOSE

2. This Assurance Review aims to assess if:
 - a. the use of parliamentary business resources by Senator Van to travel to Queensland during the period in scope was in accordance with the legislative framework
 - b. in the case of family reunion travel, the use of parliamentary business resources by Senator Van met the three-part test in section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*.

BACKGROUND

3. IPEA conducts regular, systematic checks of transactions made in relation to parliamentarian's use of parliamentary business resources for travel. This ongoing assurance activity includes review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred on dates associated with school holidays, and in desirable destinations. For the purpose of the checks, IPEA considers Queensland to be a desirable destination.
4. In accordance with IPEA's *Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses* protocol ('the Protocol'; **Attachment 1**), IPEA commenced a Preliminary Assessment of parliamentary business resources accessed in relation to travel by all parliamentarians to Queensland between 1 April and 31 July 2021. Expenditure was identified.
5. On 28 September 2021, in accordance with the Protocol, IPEA commenced an Assurance Review into Senator David Van's use of parliamentary business resources during the period in scope.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

6. The relevant legislative framework is:
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* ('PBR Act')
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017* ('the Regulations')
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*
 - *Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2021*.

Obligations

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

Definitions

8. 'Parliamentary business' has the 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* as 'parliamentary duties', 'electorate duties', 'party political duties' and 'official duties'.

9. Family reunion travel must meet the three-part test set out in section 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.*

10. Section 31 of the PBR Act dictates that *'the Commonwealth must pay the travel allowances for a member ... at the rates determined from time to time by the Remuneration Tribunal'*.

Commercial Rates

The nightly commercial Travel Allowance rates are listed in Schedule B of the *Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2021*.

For the purpose of this Assurance Review, the commercial rates payable to Senator Van (per night) are:

<i>Unspecified locations</i>	<i>\$276.00</i>
<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>\$421.00</i>
<i>Townsville</i>	<i>\$307.00</i>

Non-commercial Rates

Point 5.4 of the *Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2021* establishes the formula for calculating non-commercial rates.

Where a member, including the Prime Minister or Acting Prime Minister, stays in non-commercial accommodation, the rate of travel allowance for the night is one-third of the rate ... rounded up to the nearest \$1.

11. Where a contravention of the PBR Act occurs, a penalty may be incurred under section 38:
- (4) The member is liable to pay the Commonwealth, by way of penalty for the contravention of section 26, 27 or 28, an amount equal to 25% of the amount to which this section applies.*
 - (5) The amount of the penalty:*
 - (a) is a debt due to the Commonwealth by the member; and*
 - (b) may be recovered, on behalf of the Commonwealth, by the resources provider who provided the public resources, by action in a relevant court.*

ANALYSIS

12. During the period in scope, Senator Van accessed parliamentary business resources to travel to, from and within Queensland. This expenditure is detailed in **Attachment 2**.
13. On 6 January 2022, IPEA wrote to Senator Van, inquiring about the dominant purpose of his travel, and the nature of his parliamentary business during the period in scope (**Attachment 3**).
14. On 25 January 2022, the Senator responded, providing information and supporting evidence (**Attachment 4**).
15. On review of the information provided by Senator Van, it was determined that a meeting with the Senator would be beneficial to clarify the details of the travel.

16. On 24 May 2022, IPEA met with the Senator and his staff, at his electorate office in Cheltenham, VIC. The Senator was advised that there were discrepancies between the information provided by him, and the parliamentary business resources used. Four matters were discussed.
- i. The dominant purpose of travel from 21 July to 31 July 2021
 - ii. COMCAR travel by the Senator's spouse on 14 July 2021
 - iii. The Senator's claim for Travel Allowance for eight nights from 13 July 2021
 - iv. The Senator's claim for Travel Allowance for six nights from 25 July 2021

i. The dominant purpose of travel from 21 July to 31 July 2021

17. On 8 June 2022, in response to discussion at the meeting, Senator Van's office provided additional evidence supporting his use of parliamentary business resources during the period in scope; correspondence between the Senator's office and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (**Attachment 5**). IPEA notes that the correspondence supported the Senator's advice that the dominant purpose of his travel from 21 July to 31 July 2021 was parliamentary business.
18. On 12 July 2022, IPEA advised the Senator that it considered the review of the dominant purpose of the Senator's travel from 21 July to 31 July 2021 to be finalised. In that communication, IPEA also addressed the remaining three matters under consideration (**Attachment 6**).

ii. COMCAR travel by the Senator's spouse on 14 July 2021

19. On 14 July 2021, Senator Van's spouse travelled from St Kilda to Melbourne Airport by COMCAR. On 15 July 2021, a no-show fee was also incurred for another COMCAR booking, also made in his spouse's name.
20. Under section 25 of the Regulations, the costs of incidental travel (such as that undertaken by Senator Van's spouse) may only be met by the Commonwealth under specific conditions. That is, where the travel is for the purpose of commencing or completing a journey for the purpose of family reunion travel, as defined under section 6 of the Regulations.
21. Neither COMCAR booking made under the name of Senator Van's spouse met the relevant provisions of the Regulations; they did not mark the start or end of family reunion travel.
22. Senator Van was provided with invoices for the recovery of the COMCAR travel costs. The invoices totalled \$161.70. The Senator was also required to pay a 25 per cent penalty loading, in accordance with section 38 of the PBR Act.

iii. Claim for Travel Allowance for eight nights from 13 July 2021

23. Senator Van claimed and was paid Travel Allowance, at the commercial rate, for staying in Proserpine for the period 13 to 21 July 2021. On 25 January 2022, the Senator provided IPEA with a receipt for commercial accommodation for the night of 13 July 2021 only, and evidence of a trip aboard the Young Endeavour from 14 to 20 July 2021.
24. Under the provisions of section 10 of the Regulations, an allowance to cover the costs of accommodation, meals and incidental expenses is prescribed for each night a member stays in accommodation that is not the member's home base.
25. The *Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2021* requires that a member who claims an allowance for commercial accommodation must produce a receipt for accommodation or certify that such a receipt can be produced upon request.

26. IPEA notes that as the Senator spent the nights of 14 to 20 July 2021 aboard the Young Endeavour, as a guest of the Australian Defence Force, he claimed Travel Allowance in excess of that allowable. The non-commercial rate should have been claimed.
27. IPEA requested that Senator Van submit a revised Travel Allowance claim to correct the error, to allow for adjustment of the Travel Allowance rate. IPEA received the documentation on 26 July 2022.

iv. Claim for Travel Allowance for six nights from 25 July 2021

28. Senator Van claimed and was paid six nights Travel Allowance, at the commercial rate, for staying in Brisbane for the period 25 to 31 July 2021. In his first response to IPEA on 25 January 2022, the Senator provided a receipt for commercial accommodation in Townsville for the night of 28 July 2021 and advised he had sought an invoice from the Hyatt Regency, Brisbane.
29. In the meeting of 24 May 2022, the Senator confirmed he stayed in Townsville on 28 July 2021, not Brisbane as originally indicated on his Travel Allowance claim form.
30. In the letter of 12 July 2022, IPEA advised Senator Van that once a receipt for Brisbane was provided, an adjustment of \$145.00 would be required as the Travel Allowance rate for Brisbane is higher than for Townsville (see **Attachment 6**).
31. On 27 July 2021, the receipt for the Senator's Brisbane accommodation at the Hyatt Regency, was provided to IPEA.

Invoices for Travel Allowance

32. On 27 September 2022, IPEA provided Senator Van with invoices for the recovery of both instances of incorrectly claimed Travel Allowance (**Attachment 7**). The invoices reflected the corrected Travel Allowance claims for the periods 14 to 20 July and 25 to 31 July 2021, and totalled \$1,242.00. Senator Van was also required to pay a 25 per cent penalty loading, in accordance with section 38 of the PBR Act.
33. In its letter of 27 September 2022, IPEA also advised the Senator that it considered the review of his use of parliamentary business resources to be finalised (see **Attachment 7**).

CONCLUSION

34. Based on the information available to IPEA, including Senator Van's responses, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of the travel by Senator Van was parliamentary business, under section 6 of the PBR Act.
35. For instances where the Senator's use of parliamentary business resources was found to be inconsistent with the Legislative Framework, invoices have been raised and provided to Senator Van.
36. Following engagement with this Assurance Review, Senator Van's office has also sought further education and training.



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

Protocol—Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses

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

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

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

Possible misuse

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

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

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

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

Publication of audits

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

As approved by the Members of the Authority: October 2020

Senator David Van

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Expense Type	Entitlee	Departure Date	Departure Time	Departure Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Arrival Location	# Nights	Amount (GST Exclusive)
Parliamentarians Travel Allowance	VAN, David Allan				13/07/2021		Proserpine	8	\$2,208.00
COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	14/07/2021	3:30 PM	St Kilda	14/07/2021	4:11 PM	Melbourne Airport		\$86.70
COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	14/07/2021	7:50 PM	Gunyarra	14/07/2021	8:39 PM	Airlie Beach		\$83.30
COMCAR (Cancelled/No Show)	Spouse	15/07/2021	12:15 PM	St Kilda	15/07/2021	12:15 PM	Melbourne Airport		\$60.30
COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	21/07/2021	12:00 PM	South Mission Beach	21/07/2021	7:00 PM	Aeroglen		\$663.50
Travel Provider Qantas Airways	Spouse	25/07/2021	6:10 PM	Cairns	25/07/2021	8:10 PM	Brisbane		\$264.38
Travel Provider Qantas Airways	VAN, David Allan	25/07/2021	6:10 PM	Cairns	25/07/2021	8:10 PM	Brisbane		\$264.36
COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	25/07/2021	8:10 PM	Brisbane Airport	25/07/2021	9:00 PM	Brisbane City		\$132.41
Parliamentarians Travel Allowance	VAN, David Allan				25/07/2021		Brisbane	6	\$2,526.00
COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	28/07/2021	2:00 PM	Brisbane City	28/07/2021	2:45 PM	Brisbane Airport		\$96.11
Travel Provider Qantas Airways	VAN, David Allan	28/07/2021	3:20 PM	Brisbane	28/07/2021	5:15 PM	Townsville		\$209.84
COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	28/07/2021	5:15 PM	Garbutt	28/07/2021	5:30 PM	North Ward		\$76.82
Travel Provider Virgin Australia	VAN, David Allan	29/07/2021	5:00 PM	Townsville	29/07/2021	6:55 PM	Brisbane		\$194.67
COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	29/07/2021	6:35 PM	Brisbane Airport	29/07/2021	7:13 PM	Brisbane City		\$82.53
COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	31/07/2021	2:30 PM	Brisbane City	31/07/2021	2:35 PM	Brisbane Airport		\$120.60
Travel Provider Qantas Airways	Spouse	31/07/2021	1:15 PM	Brisbane	31/07/2021	3:40 PM	Melbourne		\$239.07
COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	31/07/2021	5:30 PM	Canberra International Airport	31/07/2021	6:38 PM	Canberra		\$120.60



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

6 January 2022

Senator David Van
Senator for Victoria
18 Park Road
Cheltenham, VIC, 3192

Dear Senator

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has responsibility under the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* (IPEA Act) to review work expenses accessed by parliamentarians.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to your travel to Proserpine, Brisbane and Townsville, QLD during the period 13 to 31 July 2021 (the relevant period).

At **Attachment A** are details of your Commonwealth-funded travel during the relevant period. We have set out questions below the details, to which we seek your response to assist in our review.

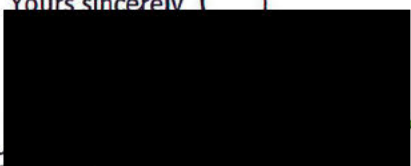
Division 2 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act) sets out the principles parliamentarians are to apply when utilising public resources.

'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*.

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au by close of business on 21 January 2022, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time to respond.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on 02 6215 2829.

Yours sincerely,



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

Attachment A
 Senator David Van
 Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Expense Type	Traveller	Departure Date	Departure Time	Departure Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Arrival Location	# Nights	Amount (GST Exclusive)
Parliamentarians Travel Allowance	VAN, David Allan				13/07/2021		Proserpine	8	\$2,208.00
COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	14/07/2021	3:30 PM	St Kilda	14/07/2021	4:11 PM	Melbourne Airport		\$86.70
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COMCAR (No Show fee incurred)	Spouse	15/07/2021	12:15 PM	St Kilda	15/07/2021	12:15 PM	Melbourne Airport		\$60.30
COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	21/07/2021	12:00 PM	South Mission Beach	21/07/2021	7:00 PM	Aeroglen		\$663.50
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COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	29/07/2021	6:35 PM	Brisbane Airport	29/07/2021	7:13 PM	Brisbane City		\$82.53
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COMCAR	VAN, David Allan	31/07/2021	5:30 PM	Canberra International Airport	31/07/2021	6:38 PM	Canberra		\$120.60

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Attachment A

Senator David Van

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

1. *Please provide confirmation of the nature and timing of your involvement in the ADF Parliamentary Programme from 15 to 21 July 2021?*
2. *Please provide details in relation to the basis for your claim of travel allowance in Proserpine, QLD for the period 13 to 21 July 2021?*
 - a. *Please provide a copy of the tax invoice or receipt supporting your travel allowance claim?*
3. *Please confirm who accessed COMCAR from St Kilda to Melbourne Airport on 14 July 2021?*
4. *Please explain the COMCAR booking for 15 July 2021, for which a no-show fee was incurred.*
5. *What was the dominant purpose of your travel from Cairns to Brisbane for the period 25 to 31 July 2021?*
6. *With reference to the definition given by section 6 of the PBR Act, what was the nature of your parliamentary business for each day in Brisbane for the period 25 to 31 July 2021?*
7. *What was the dominant purpose of travel from Brisbane to Townsville for the period 28 to 29 July 2021?*
8. *With reference to the definition given by section 6 of the PBR Act, what was the nature of your parliamentary business for each day in Townsville for the period 28 to 29 July 2021?*

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: [Van, David \(Senator\)](#)
To: [Assurance](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] (Sen D. Van)
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator David Van [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 25 January 2022 10:16:29 AM
Attachments: [STS Young Endeavour - V0821.msg](#)
[FW Young Endeavour Activity SECOFFICIAL.msg](#)
[Guest Statement 12-JAN-22 15-39-42.pdf](#)
[Guest Statement 12-JAN-22 17-11-55.pdf](#)
[Visit to GBRMPA SECOFFICIAL.msg](#)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the Queensland travel undertaken in July 2021. Please see below for answers to your questions and attached as referenced.

1. Please provide confirmation of the nature and timing of your involvement in the ADF Parliamentary Programme from 15 to 21 July 2021?

- a. Youth Development Voyage in Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour. Join young Australians aged 16-23, as they gain their sea legs and develop leadership aboard Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour
https://defence.gov.au/ADFPP/docs/ADFPP_2021.pdf page 13 + 26
- b. Refer email: STS Young Endeavour - V08/21
- c. Refer email: Young Endeavour Activity

2. Please provide details in relation to the basis for your claim of travel allowance in Proserpine, QLD for the period 13 to 21 July 2021?

- a. 13th July travel from home (ComCar Reference 110881 + flight [REDACTED] to Airlie Beach; overnight accommodation in Airlie Beach Hotel
- b. 14th July embarked Young Endeavour at Airlie Beach
- c. 15th July aboard Young Endeavour
- d. 16th - 21st July aboard Young Endeavour
- e. 21st July disembarked Young Endeavour; travel (ComCar reference 110882) to Cairns Airport

3. Please provide a copy of the tax invoice or receipt supporting your travel allowance claim?

- a. Airlie Beach: attached pdf 'Guest Statement 12-Jan-22 15-39-42'
- b. Brisbane: Hyatt Regency Brisbane, 72 Queen St, Brisbane City QLD 4000, Australia. Invoice requested, waiting for response.
- c. Townsville: attached pdf 'Guest Statement 12-Jan-22 17-11-55'

4. Please confirm who accessed COM CAR from St Kilda to Melbourne Airport on 14 July 2021?

- a. Spouse [REDACTED] partner

5. Please explain the COMCAR booking for 15 July 2021, for which a no-show fee was incurred.

- a. Human error. Office Manager had originally booked a ComCar for spouse [REDACTED] for 15th July to travel from home to airport. Due to last minute rescheduling a new booking was made over the phone and the original web portal booking was not cancelled.

6. What was the dominant purpose of your travel from Cairns to Brisbane for the period 25 to 31 July 2021?

As discussed with [REDACTED] refer email: [REDACTED]
My wife and I have been separated for substantial periods of time over the past year

or more due to both my work commitments and Covid restrictions and lockdowns by state and territory governments.

My travel to Brisbane was from Cairns as that is the closest airport to the end of my ADFPP work.

As I had Committee hearings that could only be done from an EO, APH or CPO, I could not travel to Victoria as I would have been subject to quarantine and thereby unable to access my EO.

My wife could not travel to Canberra as she had been in Victoria during a restricted period and would be subject to quarantine and therefore unable to work.

Furthermore as I had work travel within Queensland that week (Townsville), travel to and from Brisbane presented the best value for money destination

This also allowed my wife to accompany me while I performed my parliamentary duties and that this, I believe, the reason why the family reunion provisions exist.

7. With reference to the definition given by section 6 of the PBR Act, what was the nature of your parliamentary business for each day in Brisbane for the period 25 to 31 July 2021?

- a. Brisbane CPO booked 26th – 30th
- b. 26th July: originally had meetings with 2 Ministers booked, these were cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Worked from Brisbane CPO preparing for JSCTIG hearing
- c. 27th + 28th July: JSCTIG hearing attended teleconference from Brisbane CPO. Flew to Townsville 5:00 pm 28th.
- d. 29th July: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority – scientist briefing, re E&C committee work. Flew back to Brisbane. *Refer email: Visit to GBRMPA*
- e. 30th July: FISM hearing, attended via Teleconference from Brisbane CPO.

8. What was the dominant purpose of travel from Brisbane to Townsville for the period 28 to 29 July 2021?

- a. Dominant purpose: meeting with GBRMPA scientists for briefing and site visits, re work undertaken for E&C committee *refer email: Visit to GBRMPA*

9. With reference to the definition given by section 6 of the PBR Act, what was the nature of your parliamentary business for each day in Townsville for the period 28 to 29 July 2021?

- a. Parliamentary business: committee work. Suggest reviewing IPEA advice as above, *refer email: Visit to GBRMPA*
- b. 28th July: arrived in Townsville 5:30 pm after participating in JSCTIG hearing in Brisbane CPO
- c. 29th July: briefing and aerial monitoring mission by Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority scientific team, led by [REDACTED] Director. Itinerary attached, *refer email: Visit to GBRMPA*
- d. 29th July: flew back to Brisbane 5:00 pm



Senator David Van

Senator for Victoria

Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices

4 Treasury Place

East Melbourne VIC 3002

T: 03 9660 6660

Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

From: [Young Endeavour Youth Scheme](#)
To: [Young Endeavour Youth Scheme](#)
Subject: STS Young Endeavour - V08/21
Date: Tuesday, 6 July 2021 1:28:37 PM

Ahoy there Youth Crew of V08/21!

We expect you are already fully excited, we will see you soon.

COVID Safe Voyaging. [Have a read of this link if you haven't already done so.](#)

Boarding

Your voyage will board at 3pm on Thursday 15 July, with the ship scheduled to sail at 4pm.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, **family and friends are not able come aboard to see you off.**

The ship will be at anchor off Abell Point, you will be collected from the entrance to the Coral Sea Marina, Shingely Drive, Airlie Beach.

[Here is a Google Map marker for the Marina.](#)

Additional information for your voyage

The ship has been made a non-smoking area during voyages, so if you are a smoker you are encouraged to leave your tobacco products at home.

Cold weather voyage – this voyage may well experience quite cool conditions, we strongly recommend that you bring a good jumper and warm clothing for use at night.

Floral Fridays – a recent trend aboard is to celebrate Friday at sea by wearing a flowery shirt. You are most welcome to join in the fun!

Seasickness – If you haven't already done so, please have a read of this page:

<https://youngendeavour.gov.au/seasickness>

Video Tips – if you haven't watched these yet, you may gain some useful tips:

<https://youngendeavour.gov.au/voyage-tips>

Disembarking

Your voyage will terminate at 10am on Sunday 25 July.

There will be short ceremony to mark the end of the voyage. **Due to COVID-19 restrictions family and friends are not able to join you aboard for it.**

The ceremony is normally wrapped up and everyone is on their way home by 11am.

The voyage is currently expected to terminate at the Trinity Wharf in Cairns.

Please let us know who will be coming to meet you, so if this location changes we can let them know.

[Here is a Google Map marker for the Wharf.](#)

If any of the above information changes, we will send you all another email.

Bon voyage!

Young Endeavour Youth Scheme

Toll Free 1800 020 444

Fax (02) 9359 3591

mail@youngendeavour.gov.au

www.youngendeavour.gov.au

www.facebook.com/YoungEndeavourYouthScheme

Visit our website to subscribe to our e-newsletter.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Van, David \(Private\)](#)
Subject: FW: Young Endeavour Activity [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: [Health Screening of Civilian Personnel Embarking in HMA Ships and Submarines.pdf](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 24 June 2021 5:08 PM
To: Van, David (Senator)
Subject: Young Endeavour Activity [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Senator Van

The details of our phone discussion.

- There is a vacancy for you to participate in the Young Endeavour voyage Departing Airlie Beach Thu 15 Jul, disembark Mission beach Wed 21 Jul. This will provide you with a good experience of the scheme as the youth crew will be fully bonded and crewing the ship by day 6 / 7.
- Attached is the Medical Self-Assessment which will need to be completed ASAP
- If you could confirm your availability by tomorrow as I will need to provide your details with the Sailing Manager to get you kit and all the admin details forwarded to your office early next week.
- As the ship will be crewed by the youth your arrival time in Mission Beach may not be able to confirmed until the day prior. But the date will be Wed 21 Jul.

Instructions from YEYS on the Health Screening:

Please ensure that you sign at the top of page three, complete the declaration on page four and acknowledge the Privacy Statement on page six.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Executive Officer, ADF Parliamentary Program

[REDACTED] Russell Offices

PO Box 7902, CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

[REDACTED]
Group Email: [REDACTED]

Webpage: www.defence.gov.au/adfop

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

Townsville QLD 4810

January 12, 2022
Tax Invoice

Sen David Van

Folio ID: 447688
Arrives: 28-JUL-21
Departs: 29-JUL-21
Unit No: XD0508
Guests: 1
Nights: 1

Date	Transaction Name	Receipt	Type	UpTo	Charges	Payments	Balance
28-JUL-21	Accommodation				155.00		155.00
28-JUL-21	Deposit Mastercard	427338	Credit	29/7		155.00	0.00
Items:	2				155.00	155.00	0.00

Includes GST to the value of 0.00

No GST has been charged in relation to the supply of accommodation. Accommodation services are provided for and on behalf of the owner of the unit with the manager acting as agent. The supply is input taxed in accordance with GSTR 2012/5

The accommodation component is GST exempt as Strata unit owners do not exceed GST threshold.

"unless otherwise specified, in this tax invoice, the date of issue is the date of departure".

I have examined the above account and agree that it accurately reflects the details of my stay at the Aquarius on the Beach.

Signed.....

Date/...../.....

Company Name.....

****THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO STAY AT THE**

Account Details:

7 Day Account
Email remittance to

January 12, 2022

Airlie Beach QLD 4802

Tax Invoice

David VAN

VIC 3000
Australia

Folio ID: 44233
Arrives: 14-JUL-21
Departs: 15-JUL-21
Unit No: 232
Guests: 1
Nights: 1
Order No: BB2107121048819

Date	Transaction Name	Receipt	Type	UpTo	Charges	Payments	Balance
13-JUL-21	Credit Card Commissions				3.36		3.36
13-JUL-21	Deposit Mastercard	32698	Credit	15/7		227.36	-224.00
14-JUL-21	Accommodation				224.00		0.00
Items:	3				227.36	227.36	0.00

Includes GST to the value of 20.67

No GST has been charged in relation to the supply of accommodation.
Accommodation services are provided for and on behalf of the owner of the unit with the manager acting as agent. The supply is input taxed in accordance with GSTR 2012/5

PLEASE DEPOSIT PAYMENT TO

REFERENCE PLEASE USE BOOKING NUMBER

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Van, David \(Senator\)](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] ([Sen D. Van](#))
Subject: Visit to GBRMPA [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 10:41:24 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Dear Senator Van

As discussed with Linda earlier today, we have arranged for our Chief Scientist, [REDACTED] to give you a briefing on the status of the Reef, Reef health and World Heritage. In addition, you have timed your visit exceptionally well and we will be able to take you out on one of our regularly scheduled aerial monitoring missions. Our acting General Manager for Reef Protection, [REDACTED] and I will accompany you on the aerial monitoring mission. Please find the proposed program outlined below:

1025	Arrive GBRMPA office headquarters	'Northtown' 280 Flinders Street, Townsville	Met by [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
1030	Briefing by GBRMPA Chief Scientist on Reef Health	GBRMPA boardroom	[REDACTED]
1130	Opportunity to obtain lunch and transfer to Townsville airport (1)	GBRMPA vehicle	[REDACTED]
1230	Convene at Townsville airport to join aerial monitoring mission team		[REDACTED]
1300	Depart on aerial monitoring mission (2)	B3 Squirrel (A350)	[REDACTED]
1500	Aerial monitoring mission completed		
1515-1530	Transfer to Townsville domestic airport passenger terminal	GBRMPA vehicle	[REDACTED]
1700	Advised time of flight from Townsville to Brisbane		

- 1) We can also take the opportunity to check in any luggage you have prior to your flight to Brisbane.
- 2) In the two hour surveillance mission the aircraft can cover approximately 240nm, which may allow for coverage of the Palm Island Group, Halifax Bay, Offshore Townsville Reefs and possible Bowling Green Bay and Cape Cleveland. The surveillance mission will be targeting high risk locations within what is forecasted to be a high risk time. Targeted activities will be unlawful – recreational fishing, hunting, commercial line (mackerel and reef-line) and possibly commercial netting activities in areas prone to net based interactions with vulnerable species (dugong and snubfin dolphin). This will be a legitimate surveillance mission but will provide an opportunity talk through the management activities and facts relating to what's damaging the reef, reef health, COTs, World Heritage etc. It will also provide a sense of the scale of the Park, very good sight of both inshore and offshore habitat, potential sightings of species of interest and an

overview of the many different uses/users of the Park.

Logistics:

- Advise to wear Jeans and light weight shirt for Comfort.
- Limited storage within the aircraft, back pack is suffice
- All safety equipment including lifejacket and headset to communicate in flight.
- Will be best for individuals to bring a water bottle for the flight.
- Bring Cap and polarised sunglasses.

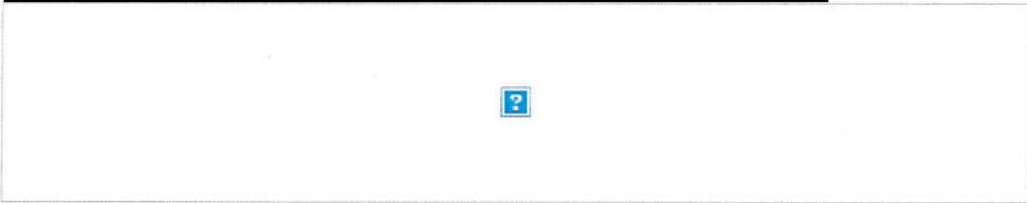
Best



Director - Strategic Direction & Partnerships

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

John Gorton Building | King Edward Terrace | Parkes ACT 2600



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Important: Meeting request - Senator David Van [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 15 July 2021 10:46:35 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Importance: High

UNOFFICIAL

Dear [REDACTED]
I received a call this morning from Senator David Van (Member of the Environment and Communications Standing Committee) seeking a briefing on the state of the reef with [REDACTED] in Cairns next Thursday 22 July 2021. I explained that [REDACTED] was travelling and that we would consider options for a briefing and liaise with his office to firm up the arrangements.

Senator Van is travelling on a naval vessel which departs Airlie Beach today, arriving into Cairns 21 July. He mentioned the vessel may stopover in Townsville one or two days before their arrival into Cairns.

I have spoken with [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]'s absence today and [REDACTED] explained that a briefing in Townsville, if a stopover can be arranged, would be the best option as [REDACTED] won't be in a position to travel to Cairns on 22 July due to the World Heritage Committee meeting taking place at that time (ie between 20-23/7/21). If the Townsville briefing does go ahead, it may also be possible to arrange a field management briefing/field trip in Cairns. [REDACTED] could you discuss options with [REDACTED]?

[REDACTED] has agreed to liaise with [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] from Senator's office once options have been finalised.

Contact details for Senator Van:

Senator David Van [REDACTED] (intermittent phone signal 15-21/7/21)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[Senator David Van – Parliament of Australia](#)

[Senator David Van - website](#)

Thanks very much.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

280 Flinders Street Townsville | PO Box 1379 Townsville QLD 4810

[REDACTED]

[cid:image001.png@01D30483.45E3F2F0](#)



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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

12 July 2022

Senator David Van
Senator for Victoria
18 Park Road
Cheltenham VIC 3192

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator Van

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Thank you for meeting with my colleagues and me on 24 May 2022, and for the subsequent email of 8 June 2022 providing additional information in relation to the Assurance Review of your travel and travel-related expenses.

You have provided IPEA with a copy of correspondence between your office and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). That correspondence indicates that your intention to visit the Marine Park in the course of your parliamentary business was first discussed with GBRMPA on 15 July 2022. IPEA notes that this supports your advice that the dominant purpose of your travel from 21 July to 31 July 2021 was parliamentary business. We consider this element of the Assurance Review finalised.

During our meeting with you, we discussed three other matters arising from your travel, and that of your spouse, over the period under review.

COMCAR travel by your spouse on 14 July 2021

Your spouse travelled by COMCAR from St Kilda to Melbourne Airport on 14 July 2021. A no-show fee was also incurred for a COMCAR booking made in your spouse's name for 15 July 2021. Under the provisions of section 25 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017* (the Regulations), the costs of incidental travel such as this may only be met where the travel is for the purpose of commencing or completing a journey that is covered by the family reunion travel provisions of the Regulations.

As the two COMCAR bookings in question were not made for the purpose of connecting with covered travel, the costs of \$95.37 and \$66.33 are required to be recovered, together with a 25 per cent penalty loading in accordance with section 38 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Claim for Travel Allowance for eight nights from 13 July 2021

You claimed and were paid eight nights Travel Allowance, at the commercial rate, for staying in Proserpine from 13 to 21 July 2021. In response to IPEA's letter to you of 6 January 2022, you provided a receipt for commercial accommodation for the night of 13 July 2021 only.

Under the provisions of section 10 of the Regulations, an allowance to cover the costs of accommodation, meals and incidental expenses is prescribed for each night a member stays in accommodation that is not the member's home base. *The Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2021* requires that a member who claims an allowance for commercial accommodation must produce a receipt for accommodation or certify that such a receipt can be produced upon request.

Noting that you spent the nights of 14 to 20 July 2021 aboard the Young Endeavour, you have claimed Travel Allowance in excess of that allowable. We ask that you submit a revised Travel Allowance claim, following which the amount to be recovered will be calculated.


Claim for Travel Allowance for six nights from 25 July 2021


You claimed and were paid six nights Travel Allowance, at the commercial rate, for staying in Brisbane from 25 to 31 July 2021. In your email of 25 January 2022 to IPEA, you advised that you had sought an invoice from the Hyatt Regency, Brisbane, to provide as supporting documentation in relation to this claim. I would be grateful if you could pursue this documentation and provide it to IPEA as soon as possible. You have, however, provided us with an invoice for accommodation in Townsville for the night of 28 July 2021. As you have been paid Travel Allowance at the higher Brisbane rate for this night, an adjustment of \$145.00 will be required.

I have attached an invoice for \$198.45, representing the COMCAR costs of 14 and 15 July 2021, plus a 25 per cent penalty loading (**Attachment A**). Repayments arising from your Travel Allowance claims in Proserpine and Brisbane will be calculated and advised following your submission of a revised claim (in relation to Proserpine) and an accommodation receipt (in relation to Brisbane).

Thank you for the cooperation shown by you and your office in this matter.

Yours sincerely



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




ABN 61 970 632 495

TAX INVOICE

Invoice To:
Senator David Van
18 Park Road
Cheltenham VIC 3192

Document Date: 07.07.2022
Contact officer: Accounts Receivable
Phone number: [REDACTED]
Fax number: [REDACTED]
Payment Reference: 2800035677
Customer No: [REDACTED]
Payment Due Date: 27.07.2022
On any correspondence,
please quote: 2800035677

Payment is required by the due date above, otherwise interest may be charged on any overdue amounts. If this invoice is not paid by the due date it may be referred to a debt collection agency.

Item Description	Net Amount	GST Amount	Total Amount
001 Recovery of COMCAR trip 110881 14/07/21	\$86.70	\$8.67	\$95.37
002 Recovery of COMCAR trip 111094 15/07/21	\$60.30	\$6.03	\$66.33
003 25% loading	\$36.75		\$36.75

Total Supply: **\$183.75** **\$14.70** **\$198.45**

Page: 1 of 1

1. Payment by Direct Debit

Please send remittance to accountsreceivable@sdo.gov.au

2. Mailing your payment

All cheques and money orders should be made payable to the Department of Finance.

Mail payment together with this stub to:
Department of Finance
1 Canberra Avenue FORREST, ACT, 2603

3. Payment by Credit Card

Complete the following and return by mail or fax to (02) 6123 5379

Card Type: Mastercard Visa American Express

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name of Card Holder: _____ Signature: _____

Pmnt Amt: _____ Date: _____ Cust Ref: 2800035677



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

27 September 2022

Senator David Van
Senator for Victoria
18 Park Road
CHELTENHAM VIC 3192

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator Van

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Thank you for your engagement with IPEA's Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to your travel to Proserpine, Brisbane and Townsville, QLD during the period 13 to 31 July 2021.

As requested by your office in emails dated Tuesday, 26 July 2022, invoices amending your travel allowance claims have been raised (**Attachments A and B**). An invoice for a 25 per cent penalty loading has also been raised (**Attachment C**), in accordance with section 38 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*. Payment is due to IPEA by close of business on **Wednesday, 19 October 2022**.

After consideration of the information available to IPEA, including your responses, IPEA is of the view that this travel does not require further consideration. IPEA considers this matter finalised.

We strongly encourage you to continue to seek advice from the IPEA Advice team on (02) 6215 3000 or via email at enquiries@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency Audit & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

Tax Invoice

ABN: 264 247 815 30

To: Senator David Allan VAN

Invoice Reference: 9715579

Invoice Date: 19 Sep 2022

From: Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
 One Canberra Avenue
 FORREST ACT 2603

Contact Officer: Travel Advice and Support
 Contact Phone: (02) 6215 3000

#233516 Travel - TA - Parliamentary Duties (ATTA12)

Description	Qty	Net Amount	GST Amount	Gross Amount
#233516 Travel - TA - Parliamentary Duties (ATTA12)	0	\$114.00	\$0.00	\$114.00
			GST Total	\$0.00
			Gross Total	\$114.00

Please pay within 30 days of the invoice date



1. Payment by Credit Card

Complete the following and return by mail or phone Travel Advice and Support with your credit card details.

- Visa
 MasterCard

Card No

Expiry Date / CVV

Cardholder

Amount \$

Signature

2. Payment by Direct Debit

IPEA Admin Receipts Account.



Reference:
 Invoice Ref: TA233516(4)

3. Mailing your payment

All cheques and money orders made payable to Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Mail payment together with this stub to:

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
 One Canberra Avenue
 FORREST ACT 2603

Invoice Date: 19 Sep 2022
 Tax Invoice No: TA233516(4)
 SAP Supplier ID:



Australian Government
 Independent Parliamentary
 Expenses Authority

Tax Invoice

ABN: 264 247 815 30

To: Senator David Allan VAN
 [REDACTED]

Invoice Reference: 9715538

Invoice Date: 19 Sep 2022

From: Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
 One Canberra Avenue
 FORREST ACT 2603

Contact Officer: Travel Advice and Support

Contact Phone: (02) 6215 3000

#233515 Travel - TA - Parliamentary Duties (ATTA12)

Description	Qty	Net Amount	GST Amount	Gross Amount
#233515 Travel - TA - Parliamentary Duties (ATTA12)	0	\$1,288.00	\$0.00	\$1,288.00
			GST Total	\$0.00
			Gross Total	\$1,288.00

Please pay within 30 days of the invoice date



1. Payment by Credit Card

Complete the following and return by mail or phone Travel Advice and Support with your credit card details.

- Visa
 MasterCard

Card No

Expiry Date / CVV

Cardholder

Amount \$

Signature

2. Payment by Direct Debit

IPEA Admin Receipts Account.



Reference:
 Invoice Ref: TA233515(2)

3. Mailing your payment

All cheques and money orders made payable to Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Mail payment together with this stub to:

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
 One Canberra Avenue
 FORREST ACT 2603

Invoice Date: 19 Sep 2022

Tax Invoice No: TA233515(2)

SAP Supplier ID: [REDACTED]



ABN 26 424 781 530

TAX INVOICE

Invoice To:

Senator David Van
Parliament House
PO BOX 6022
4 Treasury Place
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Invoice Date:	19.09.2022
Phone number:	(02) 6215 3000
Invoice Reference:	20018367
Payment Reference:	3100002004
Customer No:	[REDACTED]
Payment Due Date:	19.10.2022
Email:	[REDACTED]

On any correspondence,
please quote the Invoice Reference.

Please pay within 30 days of the invoice date

Item Description	Net Amount	GST Amount	Total Amount
001 *Recovery of 25% loading for travel allowance from	\$322.00		\$322.00
002 *Recovery of 25% loading for travel allowance on 2	\$28.50		\$28.50

Total: **\$350.50** **\$0.00** **\$350.50**

Page: 1 of 1

✂
1. Payment by Direct Debit
IPEA Administered Receipts A/C
[REDACTED] Payment Ref: 3100002004

2. Mailing your payment
All cheques and money orders should be made payable to the IPEA.
Mail payment together with this stub to:

IPEA
1 Canberra Avenue FORREST, ACT, 2603

3. Payment by Credit Card
Complete the following and return by email to finance@ipea.gov.au or contact the IPEA Help Desk on (02) 6215 3000 with your credit card details.

Card Type: Mastercard Visa

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____ CCV _____

Name of Card Holder: _____ Signature: _____

Payment Amount: _____ Date: _____ Payment Ref: 3100002004