



**Australian Government**  

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**Independent Parliamentary  
Expenses Authority**

Audit Report

Ms Emma Husar MP

Member for Lindsay

Travel expenses for the period

2 July 2016 to 31 July 2018

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## Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (**IPEA**) has conducted an audit of travel expenses of Ms Emma Husar MP for the period 2 July 2016 to 31 July 2018 (the **audit period**). The purpose of the audit was to determine if Ms Husar’s travel expenses conformed to relevant legislative provisions.

### **Relevant Provisions for Parliamentarians’ Expenses**

2. Following the 2016 Independent Entitlements System Review<sup>1</sup> (the **Review**) the previous rules-based approach to parliamentarians’ expenses was replaced by the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017 (PBR Act)* which commenced operation on 1 January 2018 and is a contemporary principles-based system that has reduced many of the complexities of the old rules-based system previously in effect.
3. The Principles require parliamentarians to act in good faith in making decisions about whether expenditure is incurred for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business and whether it represents value for money. In particular, parliamentarians must not seek to disguise as ‘parliamentary business’ an activity whose dominant purpose is personal or commercial.

### **Ms Husar’s Parliamentary Service**

4. At the commencement of the audit period, Ms Husar was a newly elected parliamentarian and the relevant system for dealing with expenses was the previous parliamentary entitlements framework. Soon after Ms Husar was elected, two officers of Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance (**M&PS**) met with Ms Husar and a member of her staff for the purpose of her induction. Matters discussed during this meeting included Ms Husar’s expense and travel entitlements. Shortly after the meeting, M&PS provided her with a document entitled “Senators and Members Getting Started Guide” (**Guide**) which had formed the basis of discussion in the meeting and contained information relating to parliamentarians’ travel entitlements.
5. With some minor exceptions, all of the expenses claimed by Ms Husar related to her parliamentary business. The Guide noted that a parliamentarian could not generally claim for car-with-driver services at Government expense within the city in which a member resides. Pre 1 January 2018 it was a requirement that parliamentarians comply with the framework and certify their compliance every six months and post 1 January 2018, this occurs quarterly. Ms Husar certified that all her expenditure was in accordance with the legislated provisions.
6. During the period to 2 April 2017 M&PS administered the car-with-driver regime on the basis that Penrith was part of the Sydney metropolitan area. Between 3 April 2017 and 31 December 2017 IPEA<sup>2</sup> administered the regime in a manner consistent with the approach of M&PS.

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<sup>1</sup> An Independent Parliamentary Entitlements System – Review – February 2016

<sup>2</sup> IPEA first as an executive agency from 3 April 2017, and then as a statutory authority from 1 July 2017.

## **Summary Conclusion**

### Overall Finding

7. IPEA found that 21 out of 86 claims relating to travel expenses were not made in accordance with the relevant legislative framework during the audit period. All other travel expenses met the required provisions. These 21 claims all related to the pre 1 January 2018 legislative framework and had a total value of \$2,333.70.<sup>3</sup>

### Summary Details

8. The audit found 21 non-compliant and certified transactions in Ms Husar's expenses in the pre 1 January 2018 period.
9. The majority of the claims that did not comply with the previous framework related to the use of car-with-driver services between Penrith and Sydney CBD and travel within the Sydney CBD. Recovery will be sought for \$1,907.15.
10. Other claims that IPEA seeks to recover include transactions relating to parking expenses and personal travel, to the value of \$426.55.
11. In total, therefore, the amount being sought from Ms Husar as a result of this audit is \$2,333.70. Separately, IPEA seeks to recover \$269.00 from an overpayment due to an administrative error.
12. Following the conclusion of the audit, Ms Husar was provided with the draft audit report on three occasions and was invited to comment. IPEA considered Ms Husar's comments, including comments relating to publication, before finalising this report.
13. These findings have been made on the basis of quality assurance on records held by IPEA, interviews and documentation from Ms Husar and third-party verification.

## Audit function

### IPEA's statutory audit function

14. According to subsection 12(1)(i) of the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017 (IPEA Act)*, IPEA has the authority to audit parliamentarians' work and travel resources and the travel resources of staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 (MOP(S) Act)*. Parliamentarians' work and travel resources were administered by M&PS prior to the establishment of IPEA<sup>4</sup>, and the commencement of the PBR Framework on 1 January 2018. IPEA has the power to audit periods where the expenses were administered by M&PS.
15. Any use of work expenses may be subject to assessment or audit by IPEA. Subsection 53(2) of the IPEA Act provides IPEA the statutory power to request and be provided with information from parliamentarians and their offices. Penalties can be incurred for non-compliance.

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<sup>3</sup> Refer to Appendix A for a detailed list of all contravened transactions. For the purpose of this audit report, all transactions are quoted as exclusive of goods and services tax.

<sup>4</sup> As an executive agency on 3 April 2017 and then as a statutory authority on 1 July 2017.

16. The audit was conducted in accordance with the IPEA Act. The authority to undertake an audit has been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of IPEA. This audit report was prepared under that delegation.

## Targeted audit

17. The CEO initiated an audit of Ms Husar's travel expenses on 9 August 2018. The audit scope was travel expenses incurred from 2 July 2016 to 31 July 2018.
18. The audit period covered different legislative frameworks and saw significant changes in the legislative regime regulating parliamentary travel expenses.
19. The primary change occurred on 1 January 2018 with the commencement of the PBR Act and its associated instruments. Prior to 1 January 2018, relevant legislation under the previous framework were the *Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990 (PE Act)* and Remuneration Tribunal Determinations.
20. The Members of the Authority approve the publication of this audit.

## Responsibilities of IPEA

21. For the purposes of this audit report, the term 'audit' has its ordinary meaning, defined by the Macquarie Dictionary as 'an official examination of accounts and records, especially of financial records'.<sup>5</sup>
22. Formal auditing and assurance standards as issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, specifically *Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000: Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews or Historical Financial Information* and *Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3100: Compliance Engagements* contain detailed requirements for the audit team, quality control, conduct, documentation and reporting of these types of audits.
23. While noting the ordinary meaning of audit, IPEA undertakes its activities in a manner that is consistent with these professional standards to the fullest extent reasonably possible for IPEA. As such, IPEA does not seek to re-interpret historical policies, procedures or practice rather, IPEA's role is to audit parliamentarian's use of work expenses against the relevant frameworks and legislative provisions as they applied during the audit period.

## Certification by members of parliament

24. Certification is an accountability mechanism requiring parliamentarians to certify that their use of parliamentary work expenses, including travel expenses, is consistent with the legislative framework.
25. As part of the certification process, preliminary reports are provided to parliamentarians to confirm their transactional information. If an amendment is advised, IPEA checks the transaction against the source data, reconciles and adjusts records as appropriate. If required, copies of amendments are provided to the parliamentarian.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.macquariedictionary.com.au/features/word/search/?word=audit&search\\_word\\_type=Dictionary](https://www.macquariedictionary.com.au/features/word/search/?word=audit&search_word_type=Dictionary)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ipea.gov.au/reporting/background-expenditure-reporting>

26. The audit confirmed Ms Husar's regular certifications of all her travel expenses and travelling allowances claimed during the audit period.

## Legislative framework

### Prior to 1 January 2018

27. The legislative instruments relevant to the audit prior to 1 January 2018 are:
- *Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990 (PE Act);*
  - *Parliamentary Entitlements Regulations 1997;*
  - *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973;*
  - Determinations of the Remuneration Tribunal; and
  - Decisions of the Special Minister of State.
28. The PE Act was in force from 24 May 1990 to 31 December 2017. The PE Act ceased on 31 December 2017 and, on 1 January 2018, the PBR Act commenced.
29. The Remuneration Tribunal shall ‘inquire into, and determine’ benefits paid to members, office holders and ministers (section 7 *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*). The main Determinations governing relevant entitlements during 2 July 2016 to 31 December 2017 were:
- *Determination 2012/04 - Members of Parliament - Entitlements;*
  - *Determination 2016/08 - Members of Parliament - Travelling Allowance;*
  - *Determination 2017/13 - Members of Parliament - Entitlements; and*
  - *Determination 2017/16 - Members of Parliament - Travelling Allowance.*

### From 1 January 2018

30. The key instruments relevant to the audit from 1 January 2018 are:
- *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017;*
  - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017;*
  - *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 (PBR Regulations);*
  - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017;*
  - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Commonwealth Transport) Determination 2017;*
  - *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2017/23;*
  - *Determination 2017/16 - Members of Parliament - Travelling Allowance; and*
  - Decisions of the Special Minister of State.
31. Parliamentarians are not able to claim public resources, including the travel expenses prescribed in the PBR Regulations, unless their travel:
- is for the dominant purpose of conducting their parliamentary business;
  - represents value for money; and
  - meets the relevant conditions connected to the travel claim or expense.

## Audit methodology

### Planning

32. In accordance with its protocol, 'Dealing with Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses'<sup>7</sup>, IPEA commenced a review of a number of travel expenses incurred by Ms Husar on 30 July 2018.
33. On 1 August 2018, Ms Husar wrote to IPEA requesting a review of all her parliamentary expenses since her election in 2016. While IPEA acknowledges Ms Husar's request, there is no capacity for self-referral.
34. On 9 August 2018, consistent with the protocol, the CEO commenced an audit of Ms Husar's use of travel resources under subsection 12(1)(i) of the IPEA Act.

### Scope

35. The scope of the audit is Ms Husar's travel and travel related claims for the period 2 July 2016 to 31 July 2018.
36. Included in this scope is travelling allowance, domestic scheduled fares (commercial airfares), family travel costs, Commonwealth funded private plated vehicle, car-with-driver services (taxi and COMCAR) and parking costs.

### Background

37. Ms Husar was elected to Parliament as the Member for Lindsay on 2 July 2016 and remains the elected member at the date of publication of this report.
38. Since election, Ms Husar has held the following roles and positions:
  - Member, Australian Labor Party (**ALP**) Caucus Committee:
    - Social Policy;
    - International and Legal Affairs;
    - Status of Women;
    - Australian Jobs Taskforce;
    - First Nations; and
    - Medicare.
  - Member, House of Representatives Standing Committee:
    - Employment, Education and Training; and
    - Social Policy and Legal Affairs.
  - Member, Joint Standing Committee:
    - National Disability Insurance Scheme (JSC NDIS).

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.ipea.gov.au/sites/default/files/dealing\\_with\\_misuse\\_of\\_parliamentary\\_work\\_expenses.pdf](https://www.ipea.gov.au/sites/default/files/dealing_with_misuse_of_parliamentary_work_expenses.pdf)



## Audit criteria

39. For the purpose of this audit, ‘transactions’ refer to the use of Commonwealth resources incurred in relation to travel expenses in connection with the parliamentarian’s official duties. This can include the use of COMCAR, taxis and/or domestic flights, which may occur as a singular event or as a series of consecutive events.
40. In relation to travel expenses incurred prior to 1 January 2018, IPEA has considered the legislative framework applicable to that period and applied the following threshold questions to Ms Husar’s travel:
- Was the travel undertaken for official parliamentary business?
  - Was the means of travel allowable within the framework?
  - In relation to travelling allowance, was the overnight stay in a place other than the home base<sup>8</sup> primarily occasioned by parliamentary business?
41. For travel expenses incurred from 1 January 2018, IPEA has considered the relevant legislative framework and applied the following threshold questions to Ms Husar’s travel:
- Was the dominant purpose for travel to conduct parliamentary business?
  - Did the travel represent value for money?
  - Has the parliamentarian met the relevant conditions attached to the claim?
  - Has the parliamentarian acted in good faith and did not seek to disguise a personal or commercial activity as ‘parliamentary business’?

## Procedures

42. IPEA conducted the audit by making such enquiries and performing such procedures that IPEA considered reasonable, including examination and assessment of:
- Ms Husar’s electronic parliamentary diary;
  - direct communication with and information provided by Ms Husar;
  - publicly available material;
  - internal records held by IPEA;
  - records held by M&PS and IPEA of contact or queries from Ms Husar and her office that related to travel expenses;
  - COMCAR records maintained by M&PS;
  - travel bookings maintained by IPEA’s external service provider; and
  - engagement with other agencies with expertise.
43. IPEA gathered data from its internal corporate sources and compiled it in such a manner as to provide a meaningful and detailed list of Ms Husar’s travel during the audit period. On 4 August, 10 August and 22 October 2018, detailed travel lists were presented together with questions to Ms Husar, allowing her to provide supporting documentation and explanations where needed.

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<sup>8</sup> ‘Home Base’ means the parliamentarian’s principal place of residence which must be nominated to the Special Minister of State. Ms Husar’s nominated home base is Penrith, NSW.

44. Ms Husar provided initial responses to IPEA's queries on 26 September 2018. That was followed by a meeting with IPEA's officers to discuss further questions, audit progress and preliminary findings on 4 October 2018.
45. No further in-person meetings were held with Ms Husar, although she continued to maintain contact with IPEA and provide further information as requested.
46. For all travel, IPEA corroborated information, obtained external confirmation from third party sources and evaluated all responses.

## Communication

47. Ms Husar was provided with a copy of the findings and the draft audit report on 13 November 2018, 7 January and 12 February 2019. Ms Husar was invited to comment on findings and publication, correct factual errors and forward any additional information relevant and material to the audit.
48. Ms Husar submitted comments to the draft audit report and its possible publication. These were considered by IPEA, together with further information provided by Ms Husar in response to follow up questions.

## Assessment of travel expenses

Prior to 1 January 2018

### Summary of findings

49. IPEA examined Ms Husar's 62 instances of travel expenses incurred from 2 July 2016 to 31 December 2017 and found 21 transactions not considered to be in accordance with the relevant legislative framework in force during that period. Of these 21 transactions (to the value of \$2,333.70), 15 related to 'car-with-driver expenses', three related to 'parking expenses' and three related to 'personal travel'.<sup>9</sup> These transactions contravened the following provisions:
- *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2012/04 Members of Parliament – Entitlements* (RTD 2012/04), Part 4;
  - *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2017/13 Members of Parliament – Entitlements* (RTD 2017/13), Part 4; and
  - *Guidelines on Provision of Private-Plated Vehicles for Senators and Members 2012*, section 9.
50. All other travel expenses prior to 1 January 2018 met the required legislative provisions. This included Ms Husar's domestic air travel and travelling allowance instances in 2016 and 2017 reviewed by IPEA.
51. The legislative and administrative arrangements for car transport expenses prior to 1 January 2018 were complex. IPEA notes that Ms Husar had a face-to-face meeting with senior M&PS staff on 18 July 2016 and acknowledged receipt of a detailed information pack for new parliamentarians, which included car transport arrangements, shortly after her successful election.
52. The obligation falls on the parliamentarian to seek to understand the legal environment in which they are operating, particularly when it relates to taxpayer funds. The 25 per cent penalty that applies post 1 January 2018 does not apply to Ms Husar's 21 transactions pre 1 January 2018. On this basis IPEA seeks to recover only the direct cost of these transactions.

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### Application of threshold questions

A. Was the travel undertaken for official parliamentary business?

#### *Personal travel:*

53. IPEA noted three transactions where Ms Husar used COMCAR and/or taxis (to the value of \$309.28) for personal reasons. The use of Commonwealth resources for personal benefit is precluded by the requirements of clause 4.1 RTD 2012/04 and RTD 2017/13. These

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<sup>9</sup> Refer to Appendix A.1 and A.2 for details of the transactions.

transactions occurred on 19 December 2016, 21 February 2017 and 19 May 2017.<sup>10</sup> Information on these transactions is in Appendices A.1 and A.2.

B. Was the means of travel allowable within the framework?

#### *Car-with-driver expenses*

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54. Transport expenses for car-with-driver services (COMCAR and taxis) within the city in which the parliamentarian resides is generally precluded under the legal framework. Clause 4.1(c) of RTD 2012/04 and RTD 2017/13 (the **RTDs**) states that:

*“A senator or member shall be provided with car transport at government expense when travelling on parliamentary business, but not including party business (other than meetings of a parliamentary political party, or of its executive, or of its committees, and the national conference of a political party, of which he or she is a member):*

- (a) for direct travel between his or her home base, electorate office or place of business and the nearest airport or railway station;*
- (b) in Canberra and locations within a 30 kilometre radius of Parliament House;*
- (c) in other capital cities and regional centres, except within the city/centre in which a senator or member resides or has an electorate office, and between capital cities and regional centres; and*
- (d) on visits in the course of parliamentary committee business.*

55. When initially interviewed for this audit, Ms Husar provided the following reasons for using a car-with-driver service within the Sydney urban area on a number of occasions:

- lengthy travel distance between her electorate and the Sydney Central Business District (**CBD**), where most of her parliamentary business takes place;
- limited mobility post knee operation;
- limited parking availability for her Private Plated Vehicle (**PPV**) at certain events;
- PPV undergoing mechanical service;
- security concerns relating to travelling at night;
- vision difficulties with night driving when tired;
- high costs of parking within Sydney CBD; and
- tight schedules between meetings which can be delayed by driving PPV and finding parking for PPV.

56. These reasons did not create an entitlement for a parliamentarian to use car-with-driver services under clause 4.1(c) of the RTDs. This was conveyed to Ms Husar in the draft audit report provided to her on 13 November 2018 (see paragraph 47 above).

57. Subsequently, Ms Husar contended that Penrith was a regional centre rather than part of Sydney for the purposes of clause 4.1(c), the effect of which was to create an entitlement in many circumstances claimed.

58. IPEA has concluded that Penrith is part of Sydney for the purposes of clause 4.1(c) of the RTDs. In reaching this conclusion, IPEA has had regard to the following:

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<sup>10</sup> Refer to Appendix A, contravened expense #6 (\$15.35), #8 (\$267.84) and #10 (\$26.09) for further detail.

- i. The Australian Electorate Commission (**AEC**) maps of electorate boundaries for the “Sydney Urban” and “Sydney Surrounds” areas include Penrith and the electorate of Lindsay in the “Sydney Urban” area.
- ii. Transport NSW map of the Sydney Trains Network shows a station at Penrith on the western line, before the metropolitan service terminates at Emu Plains.
- iii. Soon after Ms Husar was elected to Parliament she attended a meeting with two officers of M&PS as part of the M&PS induction program for new parliamentarians. The “Senators and Members Getting Started Guide” (**Guide**) was discussed at that meeting. A copy of the Guide was subsequently provided to Ms Husar by email.

The Guide summarised the entitlements framework, including clause 4.1 of the RTDs, and stated that car-with-driver services must not be used within the city in which a member resides or has an electorate office apart from for the purposes of transport to and from the airport, except in certain other circumstances in which case it noted that:

*“as the car transport rules are complex, it is strongly recommended that you discuss these with your [Department of Finance] Entitlements Manager before using car-with-driver services initially, and whenever you are uncertain whether your planned travel is in accordance with the provisions. Costs incurred for any travel outside the rules may be recovered from you as a debt due to the Commonwealth.”*

Car-with-driver services was discussed during the meeting.

- iv. There is no record that Ms Husar sought advice from M&PS or IPEA as to whether Penrith was or was not part of Sydney for the purpose of clause 4.1(c) of the RTDs. It is noted that M&PS, which was responsible for operating the provisions during some of the relevant time, always took the view that Penrith is part of Sydney for these purposes.
  - v. A comparative analysis of current backbench members for other electorates that are shown on AEC electorate maps as being in “Urban” areas of capital cities, indicates that such members have not claimed for car-with-driver services within the relevant Urban Area.
59. Accordingly, IPEA has concluded that, for a backbench member, car-with-driver services at government expense are precluded between Penrith and any other location within the Sydney urban area, except for travel to and from the nearest airport or railway station and travel in the course of parliamentary committee business.
60. As a result of its conclusion that Penrith is part of Sydney for the purpose of clause 4.1(c), IPEA has found that on fifteen occasions Ms Husar used car-with-driver services (to the value of \$1,907.15) at government expense in contravention of the applicable conditions. Information on these transactions is in Appendices A.1 and A.2.

### *Parking related expenses*

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61. IPEA found three parking transactions (to the value of \$117.27) that were not in accordance with section 10.2 of the Guidelines on Provision of Private-Plated Vehicles for Senators and Members 2012, which states:

*“The Commonwealth will cover the costs of parking a private-plated vehicle provided to a Senator or Member under the Determination, where parking entitlement is provided*

*under the Determination, but not otherwise. At the commencement of these Guidelines, the parking entitlements are:*

*Under clause 5.3 of the Determination, where a Senator or Member undertakes travel, as provided by the Determination, from an airport, railway station or similar point of embarkation (a terminus), and uses her or her private vehicle, or private plated vehicle to drive to the terminus, the Senator or Member is entitled to reimbursement of related parking costs up to a maximum of \$240 for each instance.”*

62. Ms Husar’s claims for parking related expenses were not associated with driving to or from an airport, railway station or similar point of embarkation and were therefore in contravention of the applicable conditions. Information on the transactions is in Appendix A.2. Of these three transactions, IPEA noted that one parking transaction<sup>11</sup> was made through an administrative error by Ms Husar’s staff who had submitted a claim for parking costs which Ms Husar did not incur.

C. In relation to travelling allowance, was the overnight stay in a place other than the home base<sup>12</sup> primarily occasioned by parliamentary business?

#### *Travelling allowance*

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63. IPEA reviewed seven instances where Ms Husar claimed travelling allowance in 2017, in accordance with clause 3.11 of *Determination 2017/16: Member of Parliament – Travelling Allowance*.

64. IPEA requested Ms Husar provide evidence of her stays for commercial accommodation.<sup>13</sup> Ms Husar submitted tax receipts and/or invoices which IPEA reviewed and noted the following:

- On 21 September 2017, Ms Husar claimed travelling allowance at a non-commercial accommodation rate of \$135.00 for her stay in Perth. IPEA incorrectly paid Ms Husar the commercial accommodation rate of \$403.00. IPEA considers that Ms Husar has been overpaid \$269.00 through an administrative error by IPEA and is seeking reimbursement;
- On 26 September 2017, Ms Husar claimed travelling allowance at a non-commercial accommodation rate of \$122.00 for her stay in Adelaide. Upon investigation, it was identified that Ms Husar stayed in commercial accommodation and the claim appeared to be incorrect. The commercial accommodation rate was \$366.00. IPEA brought this to Ms Husar’s attention on 24 October 2018 and subsequently paid the balance of \$244.00 the following day.

65. IPEA found four other instances of travel where Ms Husar travelled interstate on parliamentary business and did not claim travelling allowance; consistent with the legislation, these transactions are now not able to be submitted.<sup>14</sup>

66. Apart from the transactions detailed above, no other instances of travel expenses using Commonwealth resources were identified as inconsistent with the legislation in force prior to 1 January 2018.

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<sup>11</sup> Refer to Appendix A.2, contravened expense #16, dated 29 June 2017.

<sup>12</sup> ‘Home Base’ means the parliamentarian’s principal place of residence which must be nominated to the Special Minister of State. Ms Husar’s nominated home base is Penrith, NSW.

<sup>13</sup> Commercial accommodation is defined as accommodation in a commercial establishment such as a hotel, motel or serviced apartment (*Determination 2017/16: Members of Parliament – Travelling Allowance*).

<sup>14</sup> *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2017/16: Members of Parliament – Travelling Allowance*, clause 3.1.

From 1 January 2018

## Findings

67. IPEA examined Ms Husar’s 24 instances of travel expenses used from 1 January to 31 July 2018 and found all instances were made in accordance with the current relevant legislation.

### *Travelling allowance*

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68. On 20 September 2018, Ms Husar’s electorate office submitted two travel allowance claims for travel on 13 June and 17 July 2018. IPEA contacted Ms Husar on 28 September 2018 to advise the claims could not be processed as requested as they had been lodged more than 60 days after the completion of the travel. Ms Husar contacted IPEA on 2 October 2018 requesting an extension to the 60-day submission period (cl.3.1 *Determination 2017/16: Members of Parliament – Travelling Allowance*), advising that extenuating circumstances led to the claims not being signed and submitted within 60 days of travel being completed.

69. IPEA considered Ms Husar’s request and the extenuating circumstances and processed the two claims. IPEA paid Ms Husar one night of non-commercial travel allowance in Brisbane of \$140.00 and one night of commercial travel allowance in Melbourne of \$389.00. The total amount paid was \$529.00.

## Conclusion

70. IPEA’s audit of Ms Husar’s travel expenses claims for the period 2 July 2016 to 31 July 2018 has found that certain of her claims contravened the relevant legislative provisions in force at the time.

71. IPEA is seeking to recover \$2,333.70 of expenses. A summary of the identified issues is shown in the table below and more details can be found in Appendix A.

Relevant framework	Expense type	No. of instances	Value (\$)	25% penalty if applicable (\$)	Total (\$)
Pre 1 Jan-2018	Car-with-driver	15	1,907.15	-	1,907.15
Pre 1 Jan-2018	Parking	3	117.27	-	117.27
Pre 1 Jan-2018	Personal travel	3	309.28	-	309.28
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2,333.70</b>	-	<b>2,333.70</b>

72. Separately IPEA is seeking to recover \$269.00 due to an administrative error (see paragraph 64 above).

## Appendix A – Travel expenses inconsistent with the relevant framework

### Appendix A.1 – 2016 Travel expenses inconsistent with framework

Contravened expenses	Date	Travel expense type	Particulars	Administering Agency	Provisions	Cost (\$ exc. GST)
1	12/08/2016	Car-with-driver (taxi)	Used taxis within Sydney CBD.	Department of Finance	RTD 2012/04 - CL 4.1	34.14
2	25/08/2016	Car-with-driver (taxi)	Used taxis within Sydney CBD.	Department of Finance	RTD 2012/04 - CL 4.1	6.05
3	08/09/2016	Car-with-driver (taxi)	Used taxis within Sydney CBD.	Department of Finance	RTD 2012/04 - CL 4.1	4.80
4	26/09/2016	Car-with-driver (taxi & COMCAR)	Used taxi to attend official event. Used COMCAR to return to electorate office.	Department of Finance	RTD 2012/04 - CL 4.1	145.76
5	17/11/2016	Car-with-driver (taxi)	Used taxis within Sydney CBD.	Department of Finance	RTD 2012/04 - CL 4.1	27.63
6	19/12/2016	Personal travel (taxi)	Used taxi to attend a personal appointment.	Department of Finance	RTD 2012/04 - CL 4.1	15.35
			<b>TOTAL - 2016</b>			<b>233.73</b>



## Appendix A.2 – 2017 Travel expenses inconsistent with framework

Contravened expenses	Date	Travel expense type	Particulars	Administering Agency	Provisions	Cost (\$ exc. GST)
7	03/02/2017	Car-with-driver (COMCAR)	Used COMCAR for return travel from electorate.	Department of Finance	RTD 2012/04CL 4.1	193.81
8	21/02/2017	Personal travel (COMCAR)	Used COMCAR for return travel from electorate to attend a personal meeting in the Sydney CBD.	Department of Finance	RTD 2012/04 CL 4.1(c)	267.84
<b>03/04/2017</b>			<b>IPEA Executive Agency Established under Public Service Act and has no formal legislative powers.</b>			
9	04/05/2017	Parking ticket	Cost of parking in Sydney CBD.	IPEA (Executive Agency)	Guidelines on Provision of PPV for Senators and Members 2012 CL 10.2	58.18
10	19/05/2017	Personal travel (taxi)	Used taxis to travel from Sydney CBD to attend personal meetings.	IPEA (Executive Agency)	RTD 2012/04 CL 4.1(c)	26.09
11	20/05/2017	Car-with-driver (taxi)	Used taxis to travel in and around Sydney city centre.	IPEA (Executive Agency)	RTD 2012/04 CL 4.1(c)	39.81
12	21/05/2017	Car-with-driver (taxi)	Used taxis to travel in and around Sydney city centre.	IPEA (Executive Agency)	RTD 2012/04 CL 4.1(c)	45.37
13	27/05/2017	Car-with-driver (taxi)	Used taxi to travel in and around Sydney CBD.	IPEA (Executive Agency)	RTD 2012/04 CL 4.1(c)	12.66
14	09/06/2017	Car-with-driver (taxi)	Used taxi within the electorate of Lindsay.	IPEA (Executive Agency)	RTD 2012/04 CL 4.1(c)	27.43
15	27/06/2017	Car-with-driver (COMCAR)	Used COMCAR to travel from home to three separate events in and around Sydney CBD.	Department of Finance	RTD 2012/04 CL 4.1(c)	590.96

## Appendix A.2 – 2017 Travel expenses inconsistent with framework (continued)

Contravened expenses	Date	Travel expense type	Particulars	Administering Agency	Provisions	Cost (\$ exc. GST)
16	29/06/2017	Parking ticket	Cost of parking at Sydney Airport. This was an incorrect claim made by Ms Husar's staff.	IPEA (Executive Agency)	Guidelines on Provision of PPV for Senators and Members 2012 CL 10.2	40.91
<b>01/07/2017</b>		<b>IPEA established as a Statutory Authority under the IPEA Act with formal legislative powers.</b>				
17	02/07/2017	Parking ticket	Cost of parking at Homebush Stadium.	IPEA (Statutory Authority)	Guidelines on Provision of PPV for Senators and Members 2012 CL 10.2	18.18
18	17/07/2017	Car-with-driver (taxi)	Used taxis to travel in and around Sydney CBD.	IPEA (Statutory Authority)	RTD 2017/13 CL 4.1(c)	32.22
19	24/08/2017	Car-with-driver (COMCAR)	Used COMCAR for return travel from home base to Sydney CBD.	Department of Finance	RTD 2017/13 CL 4.1(c)	285.60
20	23/11/2017	Car-with-driver (taxi)	Drove PPV into Sydney CBD and used taxis to attend an event at Hyde Park.	IPEA (Statutory Authority)	RTD 2017/13 CL 4.1(c)	23.31
21	11/12/2017	Car-with-driver (COMCAR)	Used COMCAR for return travel from home base to Sydney CBD and other official events.	Department of Finance	RTD 2017/13 CL 4.1(c)	437.60
<b>01/01/2018</b>		<b>Parliamentary Business Resources Framework commences – introducing new principles-based system</b>				
			<b>TOTAL - 2017</b>			<b>2,099.97</b>