



Australian Government

**Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority**

Assurance Review 2025/017

Mr Llew O'Brien MP

Member for Wide Bay

Family reunion travel

1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023

Contents

Executive summary	3
Scope and Purpose	3
Engagement with parliamentarian	3
Assurance Review Findings	3
Audit and Assurance function	3
IPEA's statutory audit function	3
Legislative framework	4
Assurance Review methodology	5
Background	5
Scope of Assurance Review	5
Method	5
Assessment of work resources	6
Summary of findings	6

Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) conducted an Assurance Review of Mr Llew O'Brien MP's use of parliamentarians' travel and work resources for family reunion purposes (family reunion travel resources) between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023 (period in scope). The Assurance Review forms part of IPEA's 3 Year Assurance Plan.

Scope and Purpose

2. The scope of this Assurance Review is family reunion travel by Mr Llew O'Brien and his spouse between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023.
3. The purpose of the Assurance Review was to determine whether the family reunion travel resources were used in accordance with the legislative framework.

Engagement with parliamentarian

4. IPEA engaged with Mr O'Brien on one occasion to understand the nature of his, and his family member's travel. The details of this interaction are described in the Assessment section below and can also be followed at Attachments 1 and 2.

Assurance Review Findings

5. Having regard to the information made available from Mr O'Brien, IPEA found that the use of family reunion travel resources was consistent with the legislative framework.

Audit and Assurance function

IPEA's statutory audit function

6. IPEA audits parliamentarians' use of their parliamentary business work resources and the use of travel resources by their staff under section 12 of the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* (IPEA Act). IPEA conducts Assurance Reviews to assess the use of resources against the legislative framework to determine if there has been a misuse.
7. 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, or

- e. referral to the National Anti-Corruption Commission, where there is clear evidence of serious or systemic corrupt conduct.

Legislative framework

8. IPEA applied the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act) and its associated instruments as the relevant legislation for this Assurance Review. The Parliamentary Business Resources framework is a principles-based framework (legislative framework) that requires parliamentarians to ensure expenditure is incurred for the 'dominant purpose' of conducting parliamentary business and in a manner that represents 'value for money'.
9. The legislation relevant to this Assurance Review is:
 - a. *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act)
 - b. Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 (the PBR Regulations)
 - c. Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 (the Determination)
 - d. Parliamentary Business Resources (Commonwealth Transport) Determination 2017.
10. Obligations: The principles-based legislative framework imposes a number of obligations upon parliamentarians in relation to their use of work resources. In summary, parliamentarians are personally responsible and accountable for their use of work resources. They must be prepared to publicly justify their use of work resources for conducting their parliamentary business, and must act ethically and in good faith in using, and accounting for the use of, those resources.
11. Parliamentarians are not able to claim work resources 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.
12. Section 6 of the PBR Act provides the following 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 to 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 that 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 Determination determines the activities which fall within the four duty streams set out in section 6 of the PBR Act.
14. Section 6 of the PBR Regulations 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.
15. Section 4 of the PBR Regulations provides the following meaning of **family member**:
- (a) the member's spouse or nominee;
 - (b) a dependent child of the member;
 - (c) a designated person in relation to the member.

Assurance Review methodology

Background

16. Under IPEA's Assurance program, IPEA conducts ongoing, systematic analysis of the parliamentary business resources accessed by parliamentarians and their staff via a combination of regular transaction sampling and review of publicly available information.
17. In 2024, IPEA commenced a Preliminary Assessment into family reunion travel by Mr Llew O'Brien and his family members during the period in scope.
18. After excluding family travel to and from Canberra, the Preliminary Assessment found that parliamentary business resources were used by Mr O'Brien during the period in scope.
19. On 4 February 2025, IPEA commenced an Assurance Review of Mr O'Brien's family reunion travel.

Scope of Assurance Review

20. The scope of this Assurance Review is family reunion travel by Mr Llew O'Brien and his spouse between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023. Family travel to and from Canberra to reunite family with the parliamentarian is excluded.

Method

21. IPEA considered the legislative framework and applied the following questions:
- a. What was the dominant purpose of the travel?
 - b. What was the nature of the parliamentary business?
 - c. Did the travel by the family members meet the three-part test under section 6 of the PBR Regulations?

22. In assessing whether the dominant purpose of the travel was parliamentary business, IPEA considered:
 - a. the parliamentarian's role; and
 - b. any supporting evidence relating to their travel.
23. IPEA conducted the Assurance Review by examining and assessing:
 - a. information held by IPEA, including in the Parliamentary Expenses Management System
 - b. the legislative framework and supporting guidelines
 - c. information provided by the parliamentarian
 - d. the parliamentary sitting timetables from the APH website (www.aph.gov.au).

Assessment of work resources

Summary of findings

Analysis

24. Mr O'Brien and his spouse travelled from Brisbane to Townsville between 3 and 5 March 2023 using parliamentary work resources for flights, ground transport and two nights of travel allowance in Townsville.
25. On 4 February 2025, IPEA wrote to Mr O'Brien detailing the requirements of the legislative framework and identifying the travel funded using parliamentary work resources for the period in scope (**Attachment 1**). Mr O'Brien was asked about the dominant purpose of his travel and the nature of his parliamentary business with reference to the Determination. Mr O'Brien was also asked to advise whether his family members' travel met the three-part test in Section 6 of the PBR Regulations. A response was requested by 28 February 2025.
26. A response was received on 5 February 2025. The response stated that Mr O'Brien travelled to Townsville to attend the Liberal National Party (LNP) State Council meeting between 3 and 5 March 2023, for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business. Mr O'Brien's response notes that his spouse travelled with him for the dominant purpose of facilitating their family life. In support of his response, Mr O'Brien's letter included a copy of the invitation to the LNP State Council meeting (**Attachment 2**).
27. IPEA accepts that the dominant purpose of the travel undertaken by Mr O'Brien was parliamentary business, specifically party political duties, and that his spouse accompanied him for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.

Conclusion

28. Having regard to the information made available from Mr O'Brien, IPEA found that the use of family reunion travel resources was consistent with the legislative framework.

From: [Assurance](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Assurance](#)
Subject: HPE CM: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources – Family Reunion Travel [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 5 February 2025 7:42:50 AM
Attachments: [Correspondence Assurance Review Family reunion travel Mr Llew O'Brien.pdf](#)
[Attachment A Parliamentary Business Resources Determination 2017.pdf](#)

OFFICIAL

Mr Llew O'Brien MP
Member for Wide Bay

Dear Mr O'Brien

Attached please find correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Branch Manager (A/g), Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
E: assurance@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au & www.ipea.gov.au/ed



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

4 February 2025

Mr Llew O'Brien MP
Member for Wide Bay
PO Box 283
Maryborough, QLD, 4650

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr O'Brien

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources – Family Reunion Travel

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has responsibility under the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* to undertake assurance activities in relation to the work expenses of members of parliament..

Please note that IPEA publishes completed assurance reviews on the website at www.ipea.gov.au/assurance-audit/published-assurance-reviews.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources accessed in relation to your family reunion travel between 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023.

Legislative framework

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.*

Section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act) and the Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 (the Determination – **Attachment A**) define the four streams of parliamentary business. These are parliamentary duties, electorate duties, party political duties and official duties.

The principles parliamentarians are to apply when utilising public resources are set out in part 3 - division 2 of the PBR Act.

Action Required

Attachment B details your Commonwealth-funded family reunion travel within the period that is relevant to this Assurance Review, and we have set out questions for your response. Where we have asked about the nature of your parliamentary business, please reference the definition of Parliamentary Business as outlined in the Determination and provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on **28 February 2025**, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

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

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A/g Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603



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	Column 2
Member (or class)	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> <ul 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	<p>In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be):</p> <ul 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.

Attachment B
Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources – Family Reunion Travel

Work Resource	Traveller	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Total Amount
Travel Expenses - Parking	Mr Llew O'Brien				Brisbane Airport	3 March 2023		\$39.00
Travel fares – Virgin Australia Airlines - Self	Mr Llew O'Brien	Brisbane	3 March 2023	2:20pm	Townsville	3 March 2023	4:20pm	\$499.10
Travel fares- Virgin Australia Airlines - Spouse		Brisbane	3 March 2023	2:20pm	Townsville	3 March 2023	4:20pm	\$499.10
Travel expenses - CabCharge	Mr Llew O'Brien	Townsville	3 March 2023		Townsville	3 March 2023	5:08pm	\$17.96
Travel Allowance – Commercial (2 nights)	Mr Llew O'Brien	Gympie			Townsville	3 March 2023		\$788.00
Travel fares – Qantas Airways – Spouse		Townsville	5 March 2023	12:10pm	Brisbane	5 March 2023	2:00pm	\$265.36
Travel fares – Qantas Airways - Self	Mr Llew O'Brien	Townsville	5 March 2023	12:10pm	Brisbane	5 March 2023	2:00pm	\$310.85

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Townsville between 3-5 March 2023?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Townsville between 3-5 March 2023?
3. Please advise whether your family members' travel expenses meet the three-part test in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017:
 - 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.

From: [REDACTED] (L. O'Brien, MP)
To: [Assurance](#)
Cc: [O'Brien, Llew \(MP\)](#)
Subject: HPE CM: FW: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources – Family Reunion Travel [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 5 February 2025 9:37:01 AM
Attachments: [SRF082M0125020508270.pdf](#)

Hi

Please find attached the completed assurance review as requested.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] | Chief of Staff
Office of Llew O'Brien MP
Federal Member for Wide Bay
P 07 4121 2936 | M [REDACTED]
E [REDACTED] | W www.llewobrien.com.au

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 February 2025 6:43 AM
To: O'Brien, Llew (MP) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources – Family Reunion Travel [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Mr Llew O'Brien MP
Member for Wide Bay

Dear Mr O'Brien

Attached please find correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
Branch Manager (A/g), Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
E: assurance@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au & www.ipea.gov.au/ed

Be careful with this message

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



LLEW O'BRIEN MP
Federal Member for Wide Bay

Postal: PO Box 283, Maryborough 4650

Toll free: 1300 301 968

P: (07) 4121 2936

F: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]

W: www.llewobrien.com.au

LOB / SK

5 February 2025

[REDACTED]
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue
FORREST ACT 2603

Assurance@ipea.gov.au

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for correspondence in relation to the use of travel expenses for family reunion purposes.

I travelled to Townsville on 3 March 2023 and returned on 5 March 2023 to attend a meeting of the State Council of the Liberal National Party. I confirm that I was travelling for the sole purpose of conducting Parliamentary business and the travel was undertaken in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017.

I was accompanied by my wife, [REDACTED] who travelled with me for the sole purpose of facilitating family life.

I have enclosed a copy of the agenda of the State Council meeting for your reference.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please contact me again if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
LLEW O'BRIEN MP
Federal Member for Wide Bay

AGENDA

Friday, 3 March 2023

TICKETED EVENT

5:30pm -
7:00pm

Welcome Function
Hosted by the Young LNP

Drinks & Canapes
Venue: Splash Lawns, [REDACTED]

Saturday, 4 March 2023

DAY ONE / SESSION ONE : OPEN SESSION

8:00am

Registration Opens

State Council Delegates, Alternate Delegates,
Proxies and Observers

**URGENCY RESOLUTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE AGENDA COMMITTEE CHAIR,
[REDACTED] BY NO LATER THAN 12PM SATURDAY 4 MARCH 2023**

9:00am

Official Opening

[REDACTED] LNP President
[REDACTED]

9:10am

Prayer
National Anthem

[REDACTED]
Townsville Choral Society

9:20am

Agenda Committee Report

[REDACTED] Chair,
Agenda Committee

9:25am

Minutes of Previous Meeting
Business Arising
State Executive Resolutions
for Ratification

State Council 26 - 27 November 2022

9:40am

President's Report

[REDACTED] LNP President

9:55am

Open Session Resolutions

10:30am

Morning Tea

DAY ONE / SESSION TWO : OPEN SESSION

11:00am

Open Session Resolutions

11:30am

Federal Report

[REDACTED]

11:50am

Open Session Resolutions

12:30pm

Lunch
During the Lunch Break: "In the Room"
Young LNP Policy Panel series

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

AGENDA

DAY ONE / SESSION THREE : CLOSED SESSION

1:20pm	Election of Regional Vice President	
1:50pm	Q&A Session with the State Parliamentary Leader and State Team	██████████ Leader of the Opposition, State Parliamentary Team
2:30pm	State Treasurer's Report	██████████ LNP State Treasurer
2:35pm	LNP Women President's Report	██████████ President, LNP Women
2:40pm	Closed Session Resolutions	
3:00pm	Afternoon Tea	

DAY ONE / SESSION FOUR : CLOSED SESSION

3:30pm	Young LNP President's Report	██████████ President, Young LNP
3:35pm	State Director's Report	██████████ LNP State Director
3:50pm	President's Panel	██████████ LNP President
4:20pm	Closed Session Resolutions (includes Closed Session Urgency Resolutions)	
5:00pm	Adjourn Day 1	
6:00pm	Ticketed Event Dinner & Drinks	Pavilion Rooms, ██████████ With Guest Speaker ██████████

Sunday, 5 March 2023

DAY TWO / SESSION FIVE : OPEN SESSION

7:00am – 8:00am	Clean Up Australia Day event with ██████████	Strand Park, 37-43 The Strand, North Ward QLD 4810
9:00am	State Council Reconvenes	
9:00am	Open Session Resolutions	
10:10am	State Report	██████████ Leader of the Opposition
10:30am	Morning Tea	
10:55am	Open Session Resolutions (including Urgency Resolutions)	
12:00pm	President's Closing Remarks March 2023 State Council Concludes	██████████ LNP President

Note: This Agenda may be subject to change



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

4 February 2025

Mr Llew O'Brien MP
Member for Wide Bay
PO Box 283
Maryborough, QLD, 4650

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr O'Brien

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources – Family Reunion Travel

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has responsibility under the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* to undertake assurance activities in relation to the work expenses of members of parliament..

Please note that IPEA publishes completed assurance reviews on the website at www.ipea.gov.au/assurance-audit/published-assurance-reviews.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources accessed in relation to your family reunion travel between 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023.

Legislative framework

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.*

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act) and the Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 (the Determination – **Attachment A**) define the four streams of parliamentary business. These are parliamentary duties, electorate duties, party political duties and official duties.

The principles parliamentarians are to apply when utilising public resources are set out in part 3 - division 2 of the PBR Act.

Action Required

Attachment B details your Commonwealth-funded family reunion travel within the period that is relevant to this Assurance Review, and we have set out questions for your response. Where we have asked about the nature of your parliamentary business, please reference the definition of Parliamentary Business as outlined in the Determination and provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on **28 February 2025**, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

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

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
A/g Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

Attachment B

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources – Family Reunion Travel

Work Resource	Traveller	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Total Amount
Travel Expenses - Parking	Mr Llew O'Brien				Brisbane Airport	3 March 2023		\$39.00
Travel fares – Virgin Australia Airlines - Self	Mr Llew O'Brien	Brisbane	3 March 2023	2:20pm	Townsville	3 March 2023	4:20pm	\$499.10
Travel fares- Virgin Australia Airlines - Spouse		Brisbane	3 March 2023	2:20pm	Townsville	3 March 2023	4:20pm	\$499.10
Travel expenses - CabCharge	Mr Llew O'Brien	Townsville	3 March 2023		Townsville	3 March 2023	5:08pm	\$17.96
Travel Allowance – Commercial (2 nights)	Mr Llew O'Brien	Gympie			Townsville	3 March 2023		\$788.00
Travel fares – Qantas Airways – Spouse		Townsville	5 March 2023	12:10pm	Brisbane	5 March 2023	2:00pm	\$265.36
Travel fares – Qantas Airways - Self	Mr Llew O'Brien	Townsville	5 March 2023	12:10pm	Brisbane	5 March 2023	2:00pm	\$310.85

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Townsville between 3-5 March 2023?
2. With reference to the Determination at Attachment A, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Townsville between 3-5 March 2023?
3. Please advise whether your family members' travel expenses meet the three-part test in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017:
 - 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.