



Australian Government

**Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority**

Assurance Review 2025/004

Hon Scott Buchholz MP

Member for Wright

Family reunion travel

1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023

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Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) conducted an Assurance Review of Hon Scott Buchholz MP's use of parliamentary work resources for family reunion purposes (family reunion travel resources) between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023 (the 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 Buchholz and his family 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 Mr Buchholz

4. IPEA engaged with Mr Buchholz on three occasions to understand the nature of the travel undertaken by him and his family during the relevant period. These interactions are detailed in the Assessment section below and can also be found at **Attachments 1 to 6**.

Assurance Review Findings

5. Having regard to the information made available from Mr Buchholz, 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 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. 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 PBR Act 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
 - d. Parliamentary Business Resources (Commonwealth Transport) Determination 2017
10. 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 Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 determines the activities which fall within the four duty streams set out in section 6 of the PBR Act.

14. 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 through a combination of regular transaction sampling and review of publicly available information.
- 17. In 2024, IPEA commenced a Preliminary Assessment into travel by Mr Buchholz 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 Buchholz during the period in scope.
- 19. On 5 February 2025, IPEA commenced an Assurance Review of Mr Buchholz's family reunion travel.

Scope of Assurance Review

- 20. The scope of this Assurance review is family reunion travel undertaken by Mr Buchholz and his family members 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 expenses

Summary of findings

Analysis

- 24. Mr Buchholz and his spouse undertook one trip using parliamentary work resources for which IPEA required additional information to assess whether their use of family reunion travel was consistent with the legislative framework.
- 25. Mr Buchholz and his spouse flew from Brisbane to Sydney on 16 July 2022. Parliamentary work resources were used for flights, ground transport and one night of travel allowance in Sydney.
- 26. Mr Buchholz and his spouse then flew from Sydney to Brisbane on 17 July 2022. Parliamentary work resources were used for flights and ground transport.
- 27. On 5 February 2025, IPEA wrote to Mr Buchholz detailing the requirements of the legislative framework and identifying the travel using parliamentary work resources for the period in scope (**Attachment 1**). Mr Buchholz was asked about the dominant purpose of his travel and the nature of his parliamentary business, with reference to the Determination. Mr Buchholz was also asked to advise whether his spouse's travel met the three-part test in Section 6 of the PBR Regulations. A response was requested by 28 February 2025.
- 28. On 10 February 2025, Mr Buchholz's office responded to IPEA (**Attachment 2**).
- 29. In the response, Mr Buchholz's staff member advised:
"Scott is part of the Australian parliament Sport Club, he took this trip as he was attending match, Christine his partner accompanied him to Sydney. I have attached the diary note."
- 30. The response included evidence (an invitation from the Australian Parliamentary Sports Club).
- 31. On 11 April 2025, IPEA replied to Mr Buchholz (**Attachment 3**). IPEA advised that the questions in the original correspondence had not been addressed in the response provided. IPEA requested that a response to these questions be provided by 28 April 2025.
- 32. On 15 April 2025, Mr Buchholz's staff member responded (**Attachment 4**).
- 33. In the response, Mr Buchholz' staff member provided:
 - 1. *"Q., what is the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney from 16 to 17 July 2022.*
A: Scott is part of the Australian parliament Sport Club, he took this trip as he was attending match, Christine his partner accompanied him to Sydney.

2. Q. With reference to the determination of attachment A what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 16 to 17 July
 - A. Scott was in Sydney with the Parliamentary Sports Club to play a match between Parliamentarians and Sydney Invitational Barbarians team. (previously supplied)
3. Scott's partner Christine was travelling with him while he conducted his parliamentary business family time together is important for the family unit and facilitation family life."
34. On 24 July 2025, IPEA replied to Mr Buchholz (**Attachment 5**). IPEA requested that Mr Buchholz provide additional information about how his attendance at the event was consistent with parliamentary business as described in the Determination.
35. On 30 July 2025, Mr Buchholz responded (**Attachment 6**).
36. In his response, Mr Buchholz advised:

This travel was undertaken entirely in my capacity as Co-Chair of the Australian Parliamentary Sports Club and as Co-Chair of the formal Parliamentary Friends of Rugby group. The purpose of the visit was to support and participate in a representative sporting fixture that forms part of the work these groups undertake to promote physical activity, community engagement, and cross-party relationship building through sport. Meetings were also held with high level officials from Rugby Australia regarding showcase educational programs which relate to Indigenous and Pacific Island communities.

My attendance was wholly consistent with the approved purpose of schedule 1, subsection 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. " Both the Australian Parliamentary Sports Club and the Parliamentary Friends of Rugby are formal groups established to foster bipartisan engagement through sport and to strengthen ties with sporting organisations and communities across Australia.

This rugby fixture was an organised event bringing together members of Parliament and invited players, providing an opportunity for informal diplomacy, outreach, and promotion of sport as an integral part of Australian society. The match, and related activities, directly supported the objectives of the groups I represent in my official roles.
37. IPEA notes Mr Buchholz's advice that the dominant purpose of the travel undertaken to Sydney in July 2022 was parliamentary business, and that his spouse accompanied him for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.

Conclusion

38. Having regard to the information made available from Mr Buchholz, IPEA found that the use of family reunion travel resources was not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

[REDACTED]

From: Assurance
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 10:58 AM
To: 'Buchholz, Scott (MP)'
Cc: Assurance
Subject: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Attachment A - Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination.pdf; Letter - IPEA to Hon Schott Buchholz MP - 5 February 2025.pdf; Attachment B - Hon Scott Buchholz MP Travel Data.pdf

OFFICIAL

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright

Dear Mr Buchholz

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

5 February 2025

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright
PO Box 628
Beauresert, QLD, 4285

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Buchholz

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].

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

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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	In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament: a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise; b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose; c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member; d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function; e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio; f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates; g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose; h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function; i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. <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>

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

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

Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

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

Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Official duties
All office holders and Ministers of State	In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be): 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
COMCAR	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Woolloongabba	16/07/2022	08:30 AM	Brisbane A/P	16/07/2022	08:51 AM	\$133.34
Airfare – Virgin Australia Self	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Brisbane	16/07/2022	10:05 AM	Sydney	16/07/2022	11:40 AM	\$561.50
Airfare – Virgin Australia Spouse	[REDACTED]	Brisbane	16/07/2022	10:05 AM	Sydney	16/07/2022	11:40 AM	\$407.33
COMCAR	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Mascot	16/07/2022	11:40 AM	Lilyfield	16/07/2022	02:34 PM	\$194.18
Travel Allowance – 1 night – commercial	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Brisbane	16/07/2022		Sydney	16/07/2022	09:00 AM	\$415.00
COMCAR	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Lilyfield	16/07/2022	03:00 PM	Paddington	16/07/2022	03:51 PM	\$122.40
COMCAR	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Surry Hills	17/07/2022	08:22 AM	Mascot	17/07/2022	08:41 AM	\$122.40
Airfare – QANTAS Self	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Sydney	17/07/2022	11:05 AM	Brisbane	17/07/2022	12:35 PM	\$834.46
Airfare – QANTAS Spouse	[REDACTED]	Sydney	17/07/2022	11:05 AM	Brisbane	17/07/2022	12:35 PM	\$1,057.92
COMCAR	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Brisbane A/P	17/07/2022	12:35 PM	Woolloongabba	17/07/2022	12:58 PM	\$139.49

Attachment B

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

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney from 16 to 17 July 2022?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 16 to 17 July 2022?
3. Please advise whether your spouse's 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 member was travelling to accompany or join you; and
 - c. Your family member's travel was for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.

From: [REDACTED] (S. Buchholz, MP) [REDACTED] on behalf of Buchholz, Scott (MP)
Sent: Monday, 10 February 2025 12:02 PM
To: Assurance
Subject: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] APSC Rugby Match Sydney
Importance: High

Good morning,

Scott is part of the Australian parliament Sport Club, he took this trip as he was attending match, [REDACTED] his partner accompanied him to Sydney.

I have attached the diary note.

I have checked the entries on attachment B all are correct.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 9:58 AM
To: Buchholz, Scott (MP) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright

Dear Mr Buchholz

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.

[REDACTED]

From: GENLEC Queanbeyan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 4 July 2022 9:39 AM
To: 'GENLEC Queanbeyan'
Subject: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] APSC Rugby Match Sydney

Bonjour members,

A warm welcome to our new members and those who are re-elected. We are looking forward to our game in Sydney on 16/7.

Actions required:

1. We require full names and DOB (as shown on the ID or Drivers License you will use) of each person playing or attending to get you into Victoria Barracks. We must provide a list to Victoria Barracks security. Please provide this to me by COB Friday 8/7.
2. If you haven't paid your accommodation yet, please transfer ASAP to Cips Marketing Account BSB 012-003 Acc 496611381

Our game:

Match22#2 will be in Sydney 16/7/2022 against a Sydney Invitational Barbarians team.

Venue: Victoria Barracks, Moore Park Rd, Sydney.

Times: 12H30 -13H00 arrive at base entrance to clear security at gate. 13H30 getting ready for warm up. 14H30 kick-off.

More about venue and arrangements:

There are shower facilities at the base. We intend to have a short function after our game and then walk over to the SCG to go watch the test. Go Wallabies!!! Those who ordered tickets, Andy have our tickets. If you have not paid yet, please pay Andy ASAP.

NOTE: We are not allowed to bring are vehicles onto the base anymore. You will have to find a park somewhere else or use other means of transport. We are arranging for a safe place to store our kit after the game while we will be attending the test.

Dress Regs:

No1s after our game. If you do not have No1s as yet, please wear Blazer and Tie.

Accommodation:

We have arranged for accommodation at [REDACTED] with the following types of rooms available.

1. For night of 16/7, Room with 2 x King Single Beds (\$292 for Room or \$146 per person sharing).
2. For night of 16/7, Room with King Bed (\$292 for Room for couples).
3. For night of 16/7, Family Room with Double Bed and 2 x Singles (\$380 for Room).
4. For nights 15/7 and 16/7, Room with King Bed (\$480 for Room both nights for those who wants to take it easy and travel to Sydney on the Friday).

Prices are for room only but include the merchant fee. We did not book breakfasts as there are a variety of places available in the area. Please do not use mini-bar or charge any extras to your room. It only complicates the billing.

Check In: Hotel is happy for us to drop bags on the Saturday morning at concierge for late check-in after test that night. Check-in can only happen after 14H00 on the day. We will have rooms allocated to names ready for check-in.

Parking at hotel: Parking at Hotel is \$55 per night and at a first come first serve basis. Parking cannot be booked. The hotel is at Central Station and about 20 minutes warm-up walk to Victoria Barracks and SCG.

Our Club Looking Forward:

We will organise a game in Canberra for 31 July. It is in the middle of a two-week parliamentary sitting to allow our politicians to participate. We will also organise a game in Bowral mid September with other sport festivities to follow in November. We are looking at a few contact games against good, strong opposition throughout the year to prepare us for PRWC France23. We welcome suggestions from members.

Warmest regards and 'a bientot'.

[REDACTED]

Australian Parliament Sports Club

[REDACTED]

From: Assurance
Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 2:57 PM
To: 'Buchholz, Scott (MP)'
Cc: Assurance
Subject: CM: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Hon Scott Buchholz MP - Second Correspondence.pdf; Hon Scott Buchholz MP - First Correspondence.pdf

OFFICIAL

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright

Dear Mr Buchholz

Attached please find further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Chief of Transparency, Integrity 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

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 10:58 AM
To: 'Buchholz, Scott (MP)' [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright

Dear Mr Buchholz

Attached please find correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely


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

11 April 2025

Hon Scott Buchholz MP

Member for Wright

PO Box 628

Beaudesert, QLD, 4285

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Buchholz

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

Thank you for the response to IPEA's letter of 5 February 2025. As advised in our original correspondence, IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources accessed in relation to your family reunion travel between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023.

In our original correspondence (attached), IPEA outlined three questions for your response, which have not been addressed in the response received from your staff member.

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

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

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Nicole Pearson
Chief of Transparency, Integrity and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

5 February 2025

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright
PO Box 628
Beauresert, QLD, 4285

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Buchholz

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]

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

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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	In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament: a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise; b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose; c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member; d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function; e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio; f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates; g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose; h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function; i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. <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>

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

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

Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

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

Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Official duties
All office holders and Ministers of State	In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be): 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
COMCAR	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Woolloongabba	16/07/2022	08:30 AM	Brisbane A/P	16/07/2022	08:51 AM	\$133.34
Airfare – Virgin Australia Self	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Brisbane	16/07/2022	10:05 AM	Sydney	16/07/2022	11:40 AM	\$561.50
Airfare – Virgin Australia Spouse	[REDACTED]	Brisbane	16/07/2022	10:05 AM	Sydney	16/07/2022	11:40 AM	\$407.33
COMCAR	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Mascot	16/07/2022	11:40 AM	Lilyfield	16/07/2022	02:34 PM	\$194.18
Travel Allowance – 1 night – commercial	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Brisbane	16/07/2022		Sydney	16/07/2022	09:00 AM	\$415.00
COMCAR	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Lilyfield	16/07/2022	03:00 PM	Paddington	16/07/2022	03:51 PM	\$122.40
COMCAR	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Surry Hills	17/07/2022	08:22 AM	Mascot	17/07/2022	08:41 AM	\$122.40
Airfare – QANTAS Self	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Sydney	17/07/2022	11:05 AM	Brisbane	17/07/2022	12:35 PM	\$834.46
Airfare – QANTAS Spouse	[REDACTED]	Sydney	17/07/2022	11:05 AM	Brisbane	17/07/2022	12:35 PM	\$1,057.92
COMCAR	Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Brisbane A/P	17/07/2022	12:35 PM	Woolloongabba	17/07/2022	12:58 PM	\$139.49

Attachment B

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

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney from 16 to 17 July 2022?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 16 to 17 July 2022?
3. Please advise whether your spouse's 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 member was travelling to accompany or join you; and
 - c. Your family member's travel was for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.

From: [REDACTED] (S. Buchholz, MP) [REDACTED] on behalf of Buchholz, Scott (MP) <Scott.Buchholz.MP@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 9:34 AM
To: Assurance
Subject: CM: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 2022 - July 16 - TA - Scott Buchholz - Sydney.pdf

Good morning, Nicole,

Sorry I hadn't answered all the question please let me know if there is more, I need to supply.

1. Q., what is the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney from 16 to 17 July 2022.
 A: Scott is part of the Australian parliament Sport Club, he took this trip as he was attending match, [REDACTED] his partner accompanied him to Sydney.
2. Q. With reference to the determination of attachment A what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 16 to 17 July
 A. Scott was in Sydney with the Parliamentary Sports Club to play a match between Parliamentarians and Sydney Invitational Barbarians team. (previously supplied)
3. Scott's partner [REDACTED] was travelling with him while he conducted his parliamentary business family time together is important for the family unit and facilitation family life.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Diary Manager/Personal Assistant
Office of the Hon. Scott Buchholz MP
 Federal LNP Member for Wright

21 William Street (PO Box 628), Beaudesert, QLD 4285

Email. [REDACTED]

Electorate Office. (07) 5541 0150 | **Parliament House.** (02) 6277 4144



From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 2:57 PM

To: Buchholz, Scott (MP) [REDACTED]

Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright

Dear Mr Buchholz

Attached please find further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Chief of Transparency, Integrity 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

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 10:58 AM

To: 'Buchholz, Scott (MP)' [REDACTED]

Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright

Dear Mr Buchholz

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

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PARLIAMENTARIAN'S TRAVEL and/or PRIVATE VEHICLE CLAIM

- Use this form to claim travel allowance from 1 January 2018.
- This form must be lodged within 60 days of the completion of travel.
- Please ensure all relevant fields are completed.
- Incorrect or omitted details will delay processing of this claim.

Returning your completed form

Scan and Email to: forms@ipea.gov.au

Enquiries: Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

Email: enquiries@ipea.gov.au

Phone: (02) 6215 3000

SENATOR / MEMBER

▶ Last name

Buchholz

▶ First name

Scott

TRAVEL & PVA DETAILS

- Non-consecutive nights must be identified by a separate line for each night/group of nights.
- Private Vehicle Allowance (PVA) is only to be claimed for the use of a privately owned vehicle (not a private plated vehicle (PPV)) for travel to and from Canberra, or part way.

Travel details			Accommodation details				Dominant purpose (select one per leg of travel)				PVA
Travel date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Travel from	Travel to	Specific location stayed (i.e. suburb/town)	No. of nights being claimed	Type of accom. (see codes below*)	Receipts attached (if location other than Canberra)**	Parliamentary Duties	Electorate Duties	Party Political Duties	Official Duties	No. of kms if PVA applies to this leg
16/07/2022	Brisbane	Sydney	Sydney	1	C ☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	

* Accommodation codes: Commercial – C Non-commercial – NC Canberra – NR

** If not provided, receipts must be available on request

CERTIFICATION

- I certify that my claim for the expense, allowance or public resource complies with sections 25, 26, 27 and 28 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.
- I acknowledge that I am personally responsible and accountable for my use of public resources and that if section 26, 27 or 28 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* is contravened any amount not repaid within 28 days attracts a 25% penalty and is a debt due to the Commonwealth.
- I understand that knowingly giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995*.
- I have read and understood the Privacy Collection Notice (below)

Signature

Date

18/7/22

Privacy Collection Notice — Consistent with the *Privacy Act 1988*, the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) uses the personal information provided in this form to facilitate the administration and monitoring of work expenses and allowances for Parliamentarians and their employees under the parliamentary work expenses framework. Details of the related expenditure may be tabled in Parliament, published on the IPEA website, or provided to the Special Minister of State, the Department of Finance, relevant service providers, or publicly, as authorised by law. Further details on the collection, storage and use of personal information is available in the full Privacy Notice at www.ipea.gov.au/privacy-policy

Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017

s25 Obligations in relation to the use of public resources for conducting parliamentary business

s26 Dominant purpose test

s27 Obligation to ensure value for money in incurring expenses or claiming allowances or other public resources

s28 Obligation not to make claims or incur expenses in breach of conditions

From: Assurance
Sent: Thursday, 24 July 2025 4:10 PM
To: 'Buchholz, Scott (MP)'
Cc: Assurance; [REDACTED] (S. Buchholz, MP)
Subject: RE: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Hon Scott Buchholz MP - Third Correspondence.pdf

OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Buchholz

Attached please find further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Chief of Transparency, Integrity 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

From: [REDACTED] (S. Buchholz, MP) [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Buchholz, Scott (MP)
Sent: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 9:34 AM
To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: CM: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning, Nicole,

Sorry I hadn't answered all the question please let me know if there is more, I need to supply.

1. Q., what is the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney from 16 to 17 July 2022.
 A: Scott is part of the Australian parliament Sport Club, he took this trip as he was attending match, [REDACTED] his partner accompanied him to Sydney.
2. Q. With reference to the determination of attachment A what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 16 to 17 July
 A. Scott was in Sydney with the Parliamentary Sports Club to play a match between Parliamentarians and Sydney Invitational Barbarians team. (previously supplied)
3. Scott's partner [REDACTED] was travelling with him while he conducted his parliamentary business family time together is important for the family unit and facilitation family life.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Diary Manager/Personal Assistant

Office of the Hon. Scott Buchholz MP
Federal LNP Member for Wright

21 William Street (PO Box 628), Beaudesert, QLD 4285

Email: [REDACTED]

Electorate Office. (07) 5541 0150 | **Parliament House.** (02) 6277 4144



From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 2:57 PM
To: Buchholz, Scott (MP) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright

Dear Mr Buchholz

Attached please find further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

Nicole Pearson
Chief of Transparency, Integrity 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

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 10:58 AM
To: 'Buchholz, Scott (MP)' [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright

Dear Mr Buchholz

Attached please find correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

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

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

24 July 2025

Hon Scott Buchholz MP

Member for Wright
PO Box 628
Beaudesert, QLD, 4285

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Buchholz

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

Thank you for the response to IPEA's letter of 11 April 2025. As you are aware, IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources accessed in relation to your family reunion travel between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023.

Your staff member's response of 15 April 2025 on your behalf is noted. The response has advised that the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney from 16 to 17 July 2022 was parliamentary business, and that, as a member of the Australian Parliamentary Sports Club, you attended a match between the Australian Parliamentary Sports Club and the Sydney Invitational Barbarians team.

IPEA requires additional information about how your attendance at this match is consistent with parliamentary business as described in the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*. The Determination is at **Attachment A** for your assistance.

Please provide a personal written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on **Friday 1 August 2025**, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

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

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Nicole Pearson
Chief of Transparency, Integrity and 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
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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	In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament: a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise; b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose; c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member; d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function; e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio; f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates; g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose; h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function; i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. <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>

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

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

Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

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

Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Official duties
All office holders and Ministers of State	In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be): 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.

From: [REDACTED] (S. Buchholz, MP) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 July 2025 5:05 PM
To: Assurance
Subject: RE: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 4HQ04378_2025-07-30_1654.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please see attached a letter from the Hon. Scott Buchholz MP.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Chief of Staff & Policy Adviser | Office of the Hon. Scott Buchholz MP
Shadow Minister for Skills and Training | Federal Member for Wright
ACT [REDACTED] | **QLD** 21 William Street, (PO Box 628), Beaudesert QLD 4285
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] (S. Buchholz, MP) [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Buchholz, Scott (MP)
Sent: Wednesday, 30 July 2025 12:51 PM
To: [REDACTED] (S. Buchholz, MP) [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 30 July 2025 12:34 PM
To: Buchholz, Scott (MP) [REDACTED]; Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

Apologies for the oversight – please find attached.

Sincerely

Assistant Director | Audit and Assurance

E: assurance@ipea.gov.au

From: [REDACTED] (S. Buchholz, MP) [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Buchholz, Scott (MP)
Sent: Wednesday, 30 July 2025 9:57 AM
To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Can you please send me attachment A referred to in the letter

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Diary Manager/Personal Assistant
Office of the Hon. Scott Buchholz MP
Federal LNP Member for Wright
Shadow Minister for Skills and Training

21 William Street (PO Box 628), Beaudesert, QLD 4285

[REDACTED]
Electorate Office. (07) 5541 0150 | Parliament House. (02) 6277 4144



A banner for Scott Buchholz MP. On the left, a blue background contains the text "Scott BUCHHOLZ MP" in large yellow and white letters, followed by "MEMBER FOR WRIGHT" and "SHADOW MINISTER FOR SKILLS AND TRAINING" in smaller white text. In the center is a portrait of Scott Buchholz, a man with glasses wearing a blue and white checkered shirt. On the right, a yellow background contains contact information: a house icon for "21 William Street Beaudesert QLD 4285", an envelope icon for "PO Box 628, Beaudesert QLD 4285", a phone icon for "(07) 5541 0150", and social media icons for Facebook and Instagram with handles "SBuchholzMP" and "ScottBuchholzmp". At the bottom right is the Australian Coat of Arms.

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 24 July 2025 4:10 PM
To: Buchholz, Scott (MP) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>; [REDACTED] (S. Buchholz, MP) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Buchholz

Attached please find further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Chief of Transparency, Integrity 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

From: [REDACTED] (S. Buchholz, MP) [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Buchholz, Scott (MP)
Sent: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 9:34 AM
To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: CM: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning, Nicole,

Sorry I hadn't answered all the question please let me know if there is more, I need to supply.

1. Q., what is the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney from 16 to 17 July 2022.
A: Scott is part of the Australian parliament Sport Club, he took this trip as he was attending match, [REDACTED] his partner accompanied him to Sydney.
2. Q. With reference to the determination of attachment A what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 16 to 17 July
A. Scott was in Sydney with the Parliamentary Sports Club to play a match between Parliamentarians and Sydney Invitational Barbarians team. (previously supplied)
3. Scott's partner [REDACTED] was travelling with him while he conducted his parliamentary business family time together is important for the family unit and facilitation family life.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Diary Manager/Personal Assistant
Office of the Hon. Scott Buchholz MP
Federal LNP Member for Wright

21 William Street (PO Box 628), Beaudesert, QLD 4285

Email: [REDACTED]

Electorate Office. (07) 5541 0150 | **Parliament House.** (02) 6277 4144



From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 2:57 PM
To: Buchholz, Scott (MP) [REDACTED]

Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright

Dear Mr Buchholz

Attached please find further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Chief of Transparency, Integrity 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

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 10:58 AM

To: 'Buchholz, Scott (MP)' [REDACTED]

Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright

Dear Mr Buchholz

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

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THE HON SCOTT BUCHHOLZ MP

Federal Member for Wright
Shadow Minister for Skills and Training

Ms Nicole Pearson
Chief of Transparency, Integrity and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue
FORREST, ACT 2603

Ms Pearson,

Nicole

I write to provide clarification regarding my travel to Sydney on 16–17 July 2022 to participate in a rugby match between Parliamentarians and the Sydney Invitational Barbarians team.

This travel was undertaken entirely in my capacity as Co-Chair of the Australian Parliamentary Sports Club and as Co-Chair of the formal Parliamentary Friends of Rugby group. The purpose of the visit was to support and participate in a representative sporting fixture that forms part of the work these groups undertake to promote physical activity, community engagement, and cross-party relationship building through sport. Meetings were also held with high level officials from Rugby Australia regarding showcase educational programs which relate to Indigenous and Pacific Island communities.

My attendance was wholly consistent with the approved purpose of schedule 1, subsection 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."* Both the Australian Parliamentary Sports Club and the Parliamentary Friends of Rugby are formal groups established to foster bipartisan engagement through sport and to strengthen ties with sporting organisations and communities across Australia.

This rugby fixture was an organised event bringing together members of Parliament and invited players, providing an opportunity for informal diplomacy, outreach, and promotion of sport as an integral part of Australian society. The match, and related activities, directly supported the objectives of the groups I represent in my official roles.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you require any further information regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Scott Buchholz MP
Federal Member for Wright