



**Australian Government**  
**Independent Parliamentary  
Expenses Authority**

# **Assurance Review 2025/047**

Hon Linda Reynolds CSC - family reunion travel

May and June 2025

Independent Parliamentary  
Expenses Authority

# Contents

Executive summary	3
IPEA’s statutory audit function	4
Legislative framework	4
Review process	5
Conclusion	6

# Hon Linda Reynolds CSC - family reunion travel

## Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) conducted an assurance review of Hon Linda Reynolds CSC's use of work resources for family reunion purposes (family reunion travel resources) for the period May and June 2025 (the period in scope).

## Scope

2. The scope of this assurance review is family reunion travel by Ms Reynolds' nominee in May and June 2025. The purpose of the assurance review was to determine whether the family reunion travel resources were used in accordance with the legislative framework.

## Reason for review

3. IPEA undertakes routine post payment checks on several expense types.
4. While undertaking the routine staff business class post payment check for the April to June 2025 quarter, IPEA found that Ms Reynolds' nominee for family reunion travel had flown unaccompanied in business class on several occasions. Subsequent enquiries identified that the travel was related to the family reunion provision of the Parliamentary Business Resources Framework.

## Outcome\*

5. IPEA found that:
  - a. The use of family reunion travel resources for Ms Reynolds' nominee to travel from Perth to Melbourne on 9 May 2025, 30 May 2025 and 21 June 2025 was not consistent with the legislative framework. IPEA has concluded that Ms Reynolds contravened section 28 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act).
  - b. The use of family reunion travel resources for Ms Reynolds' nominee to travel to Canberra on 11 May 2025, 1 June 2025, and 23 June 2025 was consistent with the legislative framework.
6. Ms Reynolds was invoiced a total of \$8,778.01 to recover the cost of COMCAR travel and airfares for her nominee for the specified travel, including a 25% penalty loading under Section 38 of the PBR Act.

### \*Potential outcomes

There are three potential outcomes of an assurance review:

#### 1. Consistent with the framework (rules)

IPEA finds that the use of the relevant travel resource complied with the law.

This means the available evidence, including information provided by the member, clearly shows that all obligations under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* were met.

#### 2. Not inconsistent with the framework (rules)

IPEA finds that the use of the relevant travel resource was not shown to be against the law.

This means IPEA has accepted the member's explanation that they met their obligations under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*, and IPEA has not found any evidence to the contrary.

#### 3. Not consistent with the framework (rules)

IPEA finds that the use of the relevant travel resource did not comply with the law.

This means there has been a misuse of a parliamentary work resource under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*. Where misuse is found, the value of the resource will be recovered, including any applicable penalty.

## IPEA's statutory audit function

7. IPEA audits parliamentarians' use of 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 conducts assurance reviews to assess the use of resources against the legislative framework to determine if there has been misuse.

## Legislative framework

8. Section 6 of the PBR Act provides the following meaning of **parliamentary business**:

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).

9. 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.

10. Section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 (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.

11. 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.

## Review process

12. Following an initial review of business class flights undertaken by Ms Reynolds' nominee, IPEA noted that there were three occasions where he had travelled from Perth to Melbourne using family travel resources where the travel did not appear to meet the conditions of family reunion travel.
13. IPEA corresponded with Ms Reynolds and her nominee a number of occasions (**Attachments 1-4**). IPEA provided Ms Reynolds with a schedule of Commonwealth funded travel within scope. Ms Reynolds was asked to advise how her nominee's travel met the three-part test in section 6 of the PBR Regulations.
14. Ms Reynolds advised IPEA that her nominee "... travelled on the three occasions referred by you (9/05/2025; 30/05/2025; and 21/06/2025) to Canberra to join me via stopovers in Melbourne to see and stay with his son".
15. For the two instances of travel in May 2025, at the time that Ms Reynolds' nominee began his travel, Ms Reynolds had not begun her travel for her parliamentary business. Therefore, her nominee could not access the family reunion travel provisions for his travel to Melbourne as the first part of the test was not met.
16. In all three instances of travel, Ms Reynolds' parliamentary business was in Canberra, not Melbourne. This means that her nominee's travel to Melbourne was not to accompany or join Ms Reynolds. Instead, he travelled for the predominant purpose, as stated by Ms Reynolds in her correspondence, of spending time with their son. The family reunion travel provisions under the PBR Regulations are for the purpose of spending time and facilitating family life with the member, not broader family. Therefore, all instances of travel to Melbourne did not meet the third part of the test.
17. Section 28(1) of the PBR Act outlines the parliamentarian's obligation not to make claims, or incur expenses, under the Act in relation to public resources if:
  - a. one or more conditions must be met (whether or not by the member) for the public resources to be provided in relation to the claim or expenses; and
  - b. not all of the conditions have been met.
18. Section 38(4) provides that the parliamentarian is liable to pay the Commonwealth, by way of penalty for the contravention of section 26, 27 or 28, an amount equal to 25% of the amount to which this section applies.
19. Consequently, IPEA raised invoices to recover \$8,778.01, comprised of \$8,598.99 recovering three airfares and \$179.02 recovering two COMCAR trips for Ms Reynolds' nominee, including respective penalty loadings.
20. IPEA advised Ms Reynolds of the outcome of the assurance review and provided the invoices on 8 October 2025 (**Attachment 5**).
21. Although Ms Reynolds has corresponded further with IPEA (**Attachments 6-8**), the correspondence has not changed the outcome of the review.

## Conclusion

---

22. Having regard to its records, publicly available information and the information provided by Ms Reynolds and her nominee, IPEA found that:
  - a. The use of family reunion travel resources for Ms Reynolds' nominee to travel from Perth to Melbourne on 9 May 2025, 30 May 2025 and 21 June 2025 was not consistent with the legislative framework. IPEA has concluded that Ms Reynolds contravened section 28 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act).
  - b. The use of family reunion travel resources for Ms Reynolds' nominee to travel to Canberra on 11 May 2025, 1 June 2025 and 23 June 2025 was consistent with the legislative framework.
23. Ms Reynolds was invoiced a total of \$8,778.01 to recover the cost of COMCAR travel and airfares for her nominee for the specified travel, including a 25% penalty loading under Section 38 of the PBR Act. The invoices have been repaid in full.

**From:** Assurance  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 September 2025 11:35 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@aph.gov.au  
**Cc:** Assurance  
**Subject:** CM: Clarification in relation to use of business class travel expenses [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Letter - IPEA to [REDACTED] - 3 September 2025.pdf

**OFFICIAL**

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Senior Assurance Officer  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603  
T: +61 2 6215 3000  
E: [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)  
W: [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au)  
Social: [LinkedIn](#) / [X](#)

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to Land, Waters and Community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures, and the elders past, present and emerging.





**Australian Government**  
**Independent Parliamentary**  
**Expenses Authority**

3 September 2025

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@aph.gov.au

Dear [REDACTED]

**Clarification in relation to use of business class travel expenses**

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) undertakes routine post-payment checks for a number of travel-related expenses incurred by parliamentarians and their staff.

One of these checks looks at staff use of business class travel.

The information available to IPEA indicates that you travelled on the following flights at business class:

Date	Departure	Arrival	Class	Flight #	Ticket #
9/05/2025	Perth	Melbourne	Business	QF0780	CTM98359754
11/05/2025	Melbourne	Canberra	Business	QF1214	CTM98359753
13/05/2025	Canberra	Perth	Business	QF0857	CTM98437756
30/05/2025	Perth	Melbourne	Business	QF0780	CTM98744278
1/06/2025	Melbourne	Canberra	Business	QF1280	CTM98653894
5/06/2025	Canberra	Perth	Business	QF0857	CTM99075257
21/06/2025	Perth	Melbourne	Business	QF0774	CTM99482589
23/06/2025	Melbourne	Canberra	Business	QF1274	CTM99482591
27/06/2025	Canberra	Perth	Business	QF0857	CTM99740396

These flights have been processed by our travel provider, CTM, and are currently associated with your staff travel profile number linked to your employment with [REDACTED].

Previously, when contacted in relation to the staff business class post payment check, you have indicated to IPEA that business class flights should be associated with the travel profile number linked to your partner, Hon Linda Reynolds, for the purpose of family reunion travel.

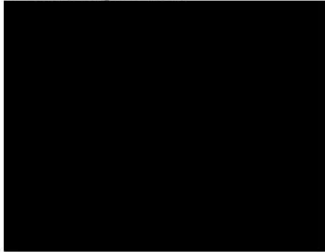
**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

For each of the transactions, please confirm whether this was official staff travel as directed by your previous employer, [REDACTED], or family reunion travel to accompany your partner, Hon Linda Reynolds.

Please provide a written response via email to [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au), by close of business on **Friday 12 September 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



---

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

**From:** [REDACTED]@aph.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 September 2025 12:04 PM  
**To:** Assurance  
**Subject:** CM: RE: Clarification in relation to use of business class travel expenses [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED]  
Many thanks.

As I have often informed IPEA, ANY business class travel I have undertaken over the last four years has been under the rules associated with family, reunion travel. None of these flights were organised by me using the travel number associated with my employment with [REDACTED]. Rather, all were organised and booked by the office of the Hon. Linda Reynolds under family, reunion travel.

---

**From:** Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 September 2025 11:35 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@aph.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Clarification in relation to use of business class travel expenses [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Senior Assurance Officer  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603  
**T:** +61 2 6215 3000  
**E:** [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)  
**W:** [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au)  
**Social:** [LinkedIn](#) / [X](#)

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to Land, Waters and Community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures, and the elders past, present and emerging.



**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.

**From:** Assurance  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 September 2025 5:26 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Assurance  
**Subject:** CM: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** First Letter - IPEA to Hon Linda Reynolds.pdf; Attachment A - IPEA to Hon Linda Reynolds.pdf

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

---

**Nicole Pearson**

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

**E:** [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

**W:** [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)



**Australian Government**  
**Independent Parliamentary**  
**Expenses Authority**

19 September 2025

Hon Linda Reynolds

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Reynolds

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

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has a 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](http://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 in May and June of this year.

**Legislative framework**

Section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act) and the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (the Determination) define the four streams of parliamentary business.

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

As you would be aware, under section 26(3) of the PBR Act, a parliamentarian must not use public resources provided by the Commonwealth other than for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business. Further, under the principles-based scheme parliamentarians have an obligation to be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business (section 25(3) of the PBR Act). Parliamentarians also have an obligation to ensure that expenses that are incurred, or allowances or other public resources that are claimed, in relation to the conduct of the member's parliamentary business provide value for money, taking into account the need to conduct the member's parliamentary business (section 27 of the PBR Act).

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

*A family member of a member travels for **family reunion purposes** if:*

- (a) the member is travelling within Australia for the dominant purpose of conducting the member's parliamentary business; and*
- (b) the family member travels to accompany or join the member; and*
- (c) the travel by the family member is for the dominant purpose of facilitating the family life of the member's family.*

Please note that there are no provisions in the legislation for personal stopovers when travelling for family reunion purposes.

**Attachment A** details all flights for yourself and your nominee, [REDACTED] for the relevant period. The flights related to IPEA's questions are listed in the table below.

The information available to IPEA indicates that [REDACTED] travelled on the following flights using family reunion travel resources. On each occasion, he appears to have stayed for two nights in Melbourne without you, before joining you in Canberra:

Date	Departure	Arrival	Class	Flight #	Ticket #
9/05/2025	Perth	Melbourne	Business	QF0780	CTM98359754
30/05/2025	Perth	Melbourne	Business	QF0780	CTM98744278
21/06/2025	Perth	Melbourne	Business	QF0774	CTM99482589

In order to progress this matter, please advise IPEA how your nominee's travel to Melbourne meets the family travel three-part test outlined above.

Please provide a written response via email to [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au), by close of business on **Friday 10 October 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]

---

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

**Attachment A**

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

Work Expense	Traveller	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
Airfare – QANTAS Spouse	[REDACTED]	Perth	09/05/2025	4:55 PM	Melbourne	09/05/2025	10:25 PM	\$2,144.36
Airfare – QANTAS Spouse	[REDACTED]	Melbourne	11/05/2025	6:55 PM	Canberra	11/05/2025	8:05 PM	\$1,001.66
Airfare – QANTAS Self	Hon Linda Reynolds	Perth	11/05/2025	1:10 PM	Canberra	11/05/2025	7:00 PM	\$2,287.54
Airfare – QANTAS Spouse	[REDACTED]	Perth	30/05/2025	4:55 PM	Melbourne	30/05/2025	10:25 PM	\$2,795.99
Airfare – QANTAS Spouse	[REDACTED]	Melbourne	01/06/2025	4:55 PM	Canberra	01/06/2025	6:05 PM	\$1,002.74
Airfare – QANTAS Self	Hon Linda Reynolds	Perth	01/06/2025	1:10 PM	Canberra	01/06/2025	7:00 PM	\$2,288.62
Airfare – QANTAS Spouse	[REDACTED]	Perth	21/06/2025	1:10 PM	Melbourne	21/06/2025	6:40 PM	\$1,313.46
Airfare – QANTAS Self	Hon Linda Reynolds	Perth	21/06/2025	1:10 PM	Canberra	21/06/2025	7:00 PM	\$2,355.65
Airfare – QANTAS Spouse	[REDACTED]	Melbourne	23/06/2025	8:00 AM	Canberra	23/06/2025	9:15 AM	\$1,031.19

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Linda Reynolds [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 27 September 2025 9:45 PM  
**To:** Assurance  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CM: Re: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** First Letter - IPEA to Hon Linda Reynolds.pdf

Dear Ms Pearson,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 September 2025 referring to Family Reunion Travel taken by my partner [REDACTED]. In particular, I note your questions relating to [REDACTED] spending two nights in Melbourne while travelling from Perth to Canberra to join me for approved events.

I believe my office at the time did make inquiries into the entitlement and the advice was it was within guidelines for the following reasons.

[REDACTED] travelled on the three occasions referred by you (9/05/2025; 30/05/2025; and 21/06/2025) to Canberra to join me via stopovers in Melbourne to see and stay with his son, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a much loved member of our extended family. He is my (defacto) stepson and as such was listed as a family member on my family travel register and has travelled in that capacity.

[REDACTED] left Perth a couple of years ago to work in the office of a Victorian Senator. As [REDACTED] is my partner's son and an integral member of our family, I believe that [REDACTED] stopping over in Melbourne on his way to Canberra was clearly to facilitate our family life and therefore meets requirement (c) of the Regulations.

Given work my commitments I was not always able to take the time to do so on my way to Canberra. However, we believed it was important for [REDACTED] to do so. This was particularly important given the high profile (and false) 2021 workplace allegations made against me (and subsequently [REDACTED]). They were highly traumatic for all our family members and [REDACTED] and I were concerned to ensure that [REDACTED] and his sister were ok and that our family unit remained strong.

██████'s travel to join me in Canberra for official events also meets requirement (a) and (b).

Thank you for your inquiry about these matters.

Hon. Linda Reynolds CSC.

On 19 Sep 2025, at 15:26, Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

**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.

**Nicole Pearson**

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

E: [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

W: [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)



The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to Land, Waters and Community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures, and the elders past, present and emerging.



**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.



**Australian Government**  
**Independent Parliamentary**  
**Expenses Authority**

19 September 2025

Hon Linda Reynolds

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Reynolds

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

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has a 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](http://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 in May and June of this year.

**Legislative framework**

Section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act) and the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (the Determination) define the four streams of parliamentary business.

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

As you would be aware, under section 26(3) of the PBR Act, a parliamentarian must not use public resources provided by the Commonwealth other than for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business. Further, under the principles-based scheme parliamentarians have an obligation to be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business (section 25(3) of the PBR Act). Parliamentarians also have an obligation to ensure that expenses that are incurred, or allowances or other public resources that are claimed, in relation to the conduct of the member's parliamentary business provide value for money, taking into account the need to conduct the member's parliamentary business (section 27 of the PBR Act).

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

*A family member of a member travels for **family reunion purposes** if:*

- (a) the member is travelling within Australia for the dominant purpose of conducting the member's parliamentary business; and*
- (b) the family member travels to accompany or join the member; and*
- (c) the travel by the family member is for the dominant purpose of facilitating the family life of the member's family.*

Please note that there are no provisions in the legislation for personal stopovers when travelling for family reunion purposes.

**Attachment A** details all flights for yourself and your nominee, [REDACTED] for the relevant period. The flights related to IPEA's questions are listed in the table below.

The information available to IPEA indicates that [REDACTED] travelled on the following flights using family reunion travel resources. On each occasion, he appears to have stayed for two nights in Melbourne without you, before joining you in Canberra:

Date	Departure	Arrival	Class	Flight #	Ticket #
9/05/2025	Perth	Melbourne	Business	QF0780	CTM98359754
30/05/2025	Perth	Melbourne	Business	QF0780	CTM98744278
21/06/2025	Perth	Melbourne	Business	QF0774	CTM99482589

In order to progress this matter, please advise IPEA how your nominee's travel to Melbourne meets the family travel three-part test outlined above.

Please provide a written response via email to [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au), by close of business on **Friday 10 October 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]

---

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

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Assurance  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 October 2025 3:43 PM  
**To:** 'Linda Reynolds'; Assurance  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CM: RE: Re: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Second Letter - IPEA to Hon Linda Reynolds.pdf; COMCAR Invoice The Hon Linda Reynolds 2025.pdf; Reynolds, Linda\_claim\_xx0020311845.pdf

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

---

**Nicole Pearson**

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

**E:** [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

**W:** [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)

---

**From:** Linda Reynolds [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 27 September 2025 9:45 PM  
**To:** Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CM: Re: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Ms Pearson,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 September 2025 referring to Family Reunion Travel taken by my partner [REDACTED]. In particular, I note your questions relating to [REDACTED] spending two nights in Melbourne while travelling from Perth to Canberra to join me for approved events.

I believe my office at the time did make inquiries into the entitlement and the advice was it was within guidelines for the following reasons.

██████████ travelled on the three occasions referred by you (9/05/2025; 30/05/2025; and 21/06/2025) to Canberra to join me via stopovers in Melbourne to see and stay with his son, ██████████ ██████████ is a much loved member of our extended family. He is my (defacto) stepson and as such was listed as a family member on my family travel register and has travelled in that capacity.

██████████ left Perth a couple of years ago to work in the office of a Victorian Senator. As ██████████ is my partner's son and an integral member of our family, I believe that ██████████ stopping over in Melbourne on his way to Canberra was clearly to facilitate our family life and therefore meets requirement (c) of the Regulations.

Given work my commitments I was not always able to take the time to do so on my way to Canberra. However, we believed it was important for ██████████ to do so. This was particularly important given the high profile (and false) 2021 workplace allegations made against me (and subsequently ██████████). They were highly traumatic for all our family members and ██████████ and I were concerned to ensure that ██████████ and his sister were ok and that our family unit remained strong.

██████████ travel to join me in Canberra for official events also meets requirement (a) and (b).

Thank you for your inquiry about these matters.

Hon. Linda Reynolds CSC.

On 19 Sep 2025, at 15:26, Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

**Be careful with this message**

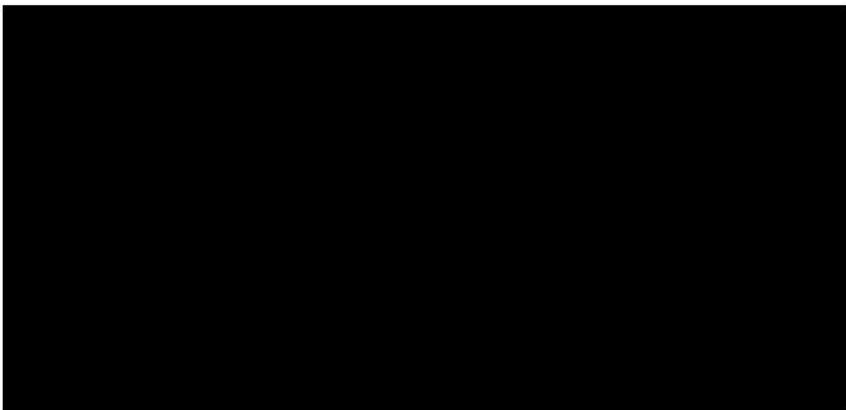
External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

**Nicole Pearson**

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

**E:** [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

**W:** [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)



The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to Land, Waters and Community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures, and the elders past, present and emerging.



**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.



**Australian Government**  
**Independent Parliamentary**  
**Expenses Authority**

---

23 October 2025

**Hon Linda Reynolds**

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Reynolds

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

Thank you for the response to IPEA's letter of 19 September 2025, in relation to the travel of [REDACTED] in May and June of 2025.

You have advised that "[REDACTED] travelled on three occasions... to Canberra to join me via stopovers in Melbourne to see and stay with his son...".

The family reunion travel provisions are prescribed by the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*. In relation to travel to Canberra and within local area, regulation 16 prescribes:

- (1) ... transport costs for family members of a member to travel between any of the following for family reunion purposes:
  - (a) the family member's home base;
  - (b) the members home base;
  - (c) Canberra;
  - (d) places in the State or Territory:
    - (i) for which the member is a senator; or
    - (ii) in which the member's electorate is located

In accordance with these arrangements, [REDACTED] may travel between Perth and Canberra. The legislation does not make provision for breaks in the journey or "stopovers".

Further, the meaning of family reunion purposes is defined by regulation 6.

*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.*

As advised by you, ██████'s travel from Perth to Melbourne on 9 May 2025, 30 May 2025 and 21 June 2025 was not to accompany or join you. You have advised that it was for the purpose of staying with his son. IPEA notes that on two of these occasions you departed Perth two days after ██████ and flew direct to Canberra.

On the basis of the above, ██████'s travel from Perth to Melbourne is not claimable because he did not travel to accompany or join you and the travel thus failed to meet the definition of family reunion travel. ██████'s subsequent travel from Melbourne to Canberra is claimable because on each occasion that travel was to join you in Canberra where you were engaged in parliamentary business.

Under section 28 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act):

*(1) A parliamentarian must not make a claim, or incur expenses, under this Act in relation to public resources if:*

- (a) one or more conditions must be met (whether or not by the member) for the public resources to be provided in relation to the claim or expenses; and*
- (b) not all of the conditions have been met.*

From the information you have provided to IPEA, it appears that ██████'s travel from Perth to Melbourne on 9 May, 30 May and 21 June 2025, including the associated ground transport, is in contravention of section 28 of the PBR Act as it fails to meet all of the conditions of claiming the expense. Those expenses must therefore be recovered. Section 38(4) of the PBR Act provides that the member is liable to pay the Commonwealth, by way of penalty for the contravention of section 26, 27 or 28, an amount equal to 25% of the amount to which this section applies.

Two invoices totalling \$8,778.01 (inc. GST) are attached, for the recovery of the three airfares and two COMCARs for ██████, and the 25% penalty loading.

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Your response of 27 September indicates that you believe your office “*made inquiries and the advice was that it was within the guidelines...*”. IPEA retains records of all personal advice provided to parliamentarians and their staff. An extensive search of these has found no records of advice sought by your office, or by [REDACTED] in relation to this matter.

Please note that IPEA publishes completed assurance reviews on the website at [www.ipea.gov.au/assurance-audit/published-assurance-reviews](http://www.ipea.gov.au/assurance-audit/published-assurance-reviews).

Yours sincerely



---

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



ABN 61 970 632 495

**TAX INVOICE**

**Invoice To:**

Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds



**Document Date:** 21.10.2025  
**Contact officer:** Accounts Receivable

**Phone number:** 1800 680 103  
**Fax number:** (02) 6123 5379

**Payment Reference:** 2800102033

**Customer No:** 90014982

**Payment Due Date:** 10.11.2025

On any correspondence,  
please quote: 2800102033

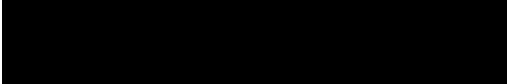
Payment is required by the due date above, otherwise interest may be charged on any overdue amounts. If this invoice is not paid by the due date it may be referred to a debt collection agency.

Item Description	Net Amount	GST Amount	Total Amount
001 Trip 308993 Perth	\$65.10	\$6.51	\$71.61
002 Trip 311473 Perth	\$65.10	\$6.51	\$71.61
003 25% loading penalty	\$35.80		\$35.80

**Total Supply: \$166.00 \$13.02 \$179.02**

**1. Payment by Direct Debit**

Please send remittance to [accountsreceivable@sdo.gov.au](mailto:accountsreceivable@sdo.gov.au)



**2. Mailing your payment**

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

Mail payment together with this stub to:

Department of Finance  
1 Canberra Avenue FORREST, ACT, 2603

**3. Payment by Credit Card**

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

Card Type:  Mastercard  Visa  American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Pmnt Amt: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cust Ref: 2800102033



## TAX INVOICE

### Invoice To:

Senator Linda Reynolds CSC  
 Parliament House  
 PO BOX 6022



**Invoice Date:** 21.10.2025  
**Phone number:** (02) 6215 3000  
**Invoice Reference:** 20311845  
**Payment Reference:** 3100003468  
**Customer No:** 84270939  
**Payment Due Date:** 20.11.2025  
**Email:** finance@ipea.gov.au

On any correspondence,  
 please quote the Invoice Reference.

Please pay within 30 days of the invoice date

Item Description	Net Amount	GST Amount	Total Amount
001 *Recovery of Airfare 9 May 25	\$2,144.36	\$214.44	\$2,358.80
002 *25 per cent penalty loading between 9 May and 21	\$1,719.80		\$1,719.80
003 *Recovery of Airfare 21 Jun 25	\$1,313.45	\$131.35	\$1,444.80
004 *Recovery of Airfare 30 May 25	\$2,796.00	\$279.59	\$3,075.59

**Total:** **\$7,973.61** **\$625.38** **\$8,598.99**

### 1. Payment by Direct Debit



### 2. Mailing your payment

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

IPEA  
 1 Canberra Avenue FORREST, ACT, 2603

### 3. Payment by Credit Card

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

Card Type:  Mastercard  Visa

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Ref: 3100003468

██████████

---

**From:** Linda Reynolds ██████████  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 November 2025 2:06 PM  
**To:** Assurance  
**Cc:** ██████████  
**Subject:** Re: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Nicole

Thank you for your follow up.

It appears we are in agreement that ██████████ was travelling to Canberra to join me, which he indeed did and he would not have travelled otherwise. I think it is also agreed that it is entirely routine for Members, Senators and their Families from Perth to take the flight to Canberra via Melbourne as ██████████ did on these occasions. It is also entirely routine (and in fact is advised by IPEA) that stopovers are permitted for no more than two nights en-route which is also the case for staff, which is what ██████████ did. This stopover was for the purpose of welfare checks on his son and my listed dependent.

In any event, this stopover did not cost the taxpayer a cent more than had he not stopped over in Melbourne and got a direct connecting flight to Canberra. I understand my office contacted IPEA to confirm this.

You mention in your letter that ██████████ travelled to Canberra before me, however, it is quite common for spouses and partners to travel separately. I do not believe that there are any rules relating to a spouse or partner having to travel either with, or later than, their MP or Senator. The rule clearly says that they travel to join the member, which he did.

The travel was demonstrably for approved purposes as per the three criteria you have cited and I reproduced below.

“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.”

Therefore, I would ask that you reconsider this decision as ██████████ travelled to Canberra to join me in accordance with the above, it did not cost the taxpayer any extra to make the stopover, and as advised by IPEA that a two-night stopover was allowable and entirely routine.

I would be grateful for your advice on how this routine travel to join me falls outside of the guidelines and in any event, why, when there was no financial cost to the taxpayer, it must all be paid back with a penalty, when he travelled to join me.

Many thanks, Linda Reynolds

On 23 Oct 2025, at 3:43 pm, Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

<image001.png>

**Nicole Pearson**

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

**E:** [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

**W:** [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)

---

**From:** Linda Reynolds [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 27 September 2025 9:45 PM  
**To:** Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CM: Re: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Ms Pearson,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 September 2025 referring to Family Reunion Travel taken by my partner [REDACTED]. In particular, I note your questions relating to [REDACTED] spending two nights in Melbourne while travelling from Perth to Canberra to join me for approved events.

I believe my office at the time did make inquiries into the entitlement and the advice was it was within guidelines for the following reasons.

██████████ travelled on the three occasions referred by you (9/05/2025; 30/05/2025; and 21/06/2025) to Canberra to join me via stopovers in Melbourne to see and stay with his son, ██████████. ██████████ is a much loved member of our extended family. He is my (defacto) stepson and as such was listed as a family member on my family travel register and has travelled in that capacity.

██████████ left Perth a couple of years ago to work in the office of a Victorian Senator. As ██████████ is my partner's son and an integral member of our family, I believe that ██████████ stopping over in Melbourne on his way to Canberra was clearly to facilitate our family life and therefore meets requirement (c) of the Regulations. Given work my commitments I was not always able to take the time to do so on my way to Canberra. However, we believed it was important for ██████████ to do so. This was particularly important given the high profile (and false) 2021 workplace allegations made against me (and subsequently ██████████). They were highly traumatic for all our family members and ██████████ and I were concerned to ensure that ██████████ and his sister were ok and that our family unit remained strong.

██████████'s travel to join me in Canberra for official events also meets requirement (a) and (b).

Thank you for your inquiry about these matters.

Hon. Linda Reynolds CSC.

On 19 Sep 2025, at 15:26, Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

**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.

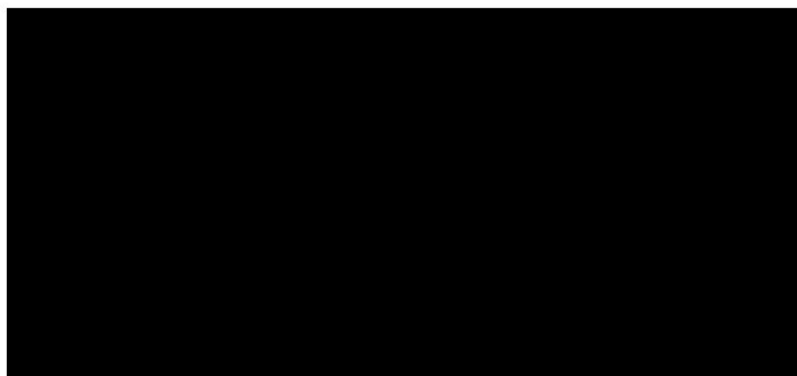
<image001.png>

**Nicole Pearson**

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

E: [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

W: [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)



<image003.jpg>

**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.

<Second Letter - IPEA to Hon Linda Reynolds.pdf>

<COMCAR Invoice The Hon Linda Reynolds 2025.pdf>

<Reynolds, Linda\_claim\_xx0020311845.pdf>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Assurance  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 November 2025 11:53 AM  
**To:** 'Linda Reynolds'; Assurance  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Third Letter - IPEA to Hon Linda Reynolds.pdf; Attachment A - Travel data.pdf; COMCAR Invoice The Hon Linda Reynolds 2025.pdf; Reynolds, Linda\_claim\_xx0020311845.pdf

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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

---

**From:** Linda Reynolds [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 November 2025 2:06 PM  
**To:** Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Nicole

Thank you for your follow up.

It appears we are in agreement that [REDACTED] was travelling to Canberra to join me, which he indeed did and he would not have travelled otherwise. I think it is also agreed that it is entirely routine for Members, Senators and their Families from Perth to take the flight to Canberra via Melbourne as [REDACTED] did on these occasions. It is also entirely routine (and in fact is advised by IPEA) that stopovers are permitted for no more than two nights en-route which is also the case for staff, which is what [REDACTED] did. This stopover was for the purpose of welfare checks on his son and my listed dependent.

In any event, this stopover did not cost the taxpayer a cent more than had he not stopped over in Melbourne and got a direct connecting flight to Canberra. I understand my office contacted IPEA to confirm this.

You mention in your letter that [REDACTED] travelled to Canberra before me, however, it is quite common for spouses and partners to travel separately. I do not believe that there are any rules relating to a spouse or partner having to travel either with, or later than, their MP or Senator. The rule clearly says that they travel to join the member, which he did.

The travel was demonstrably for approved purposes as per the three criteria you have cited and I reproduced below.

“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.”

Therefore, I would ask that you reconsider this decision as [REDACTED] travelled to Canberra to join me in accordance with the above, it did not cost the taxpayer any extra to make the stopover, and as advised by IPEA that a two-night stopover was allowable and entirely routine.

I would be grateful for your advice on how this routine travel to join me falls outside of the guidelines and in any event, why, when there was no financial cost to the taxpayer, it must all be paid back with a penalty, when he travelled to join me.

Many thanks, Linda Reynolds

On 23 Oct 2025, at 3:43 pm, Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

<image001.png>

**Nicole Pearson**

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

**E:** [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

**W:** [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)

---

**From:** Linda Reynolds [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 27 September 2025 9:45 PM  
**To:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CM: Re: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Ms Pearson,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 September 2025 referring to Family Reunion Travel taken by my partner [REDACTED]. In particular, I note your questions relating to [REDACTED] spending two nights in Melbourne while travelling from Perth to Canberra to join me for approved events.

I believe my office at the time did make inquiries into the entitlement and the advice was it was within guidelines for the following reasons.

[REDACTED] travelled on the three occasions referred by you (9/05/2025; 30/05/2025; and 21/06/2025) to Canberra to join me via stopovers in Melbourne to see and stay with his son, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a much loved member of our extended family. He is my (defacto) stepson and as such was listed as a family member on my family travel register and has travelled in that capacity.

[REDACTED] left Perth a couple of years ago to work in the office of a Victorian Senator. As [REDACTED] is my partner's son and an integral member of our family, I believe that [REDACTED] stopping over in Melbourne on his way to Canberra was clearly to facilitate our family life and therefore meets requirement (c) of the Regulations. Given work my commitments I was not always able to take the time to do so on my way to Canberra. However, we believed it was important for [REDACTED] to do so. This was particularly important given the high profile (and false) 2021 workplace allegations made against me (and subsequently [REDACTED]). They were highly traumatic for all our family members and [REDACTED] and I were concerned to

ensure that [REDACTED] and his sister were ok and that our family unit remained strong.

[REDACTED]'s travel to join me in Canberra for official events also meets requirement (a) and (b).

Thank you for your inquiry about these matters.

Hon. Linda Reynolds CSC.

On 19 Sep 2025, at 15:26, Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

**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.

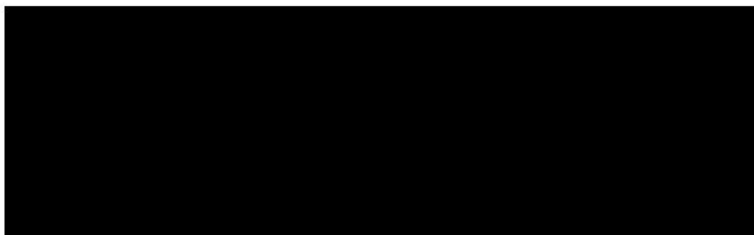
<image001.png>

**Nicole Pearson**

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

**E:** [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

**W:** [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)





<image003.jpg>

**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.

- <Second Letter - IPEA to Hon Linda Reynolds.pdf>
- <COMCAR Invoice The Hon Linda Reynolds 2025.pdf>
- <Reynolds, Linda\_claim\_xx0020311845.pdf>

OFFICIAL



**Australian Government**  
**Independent Parliamentary**  
**Expenses Authority**

18 November 2025

**Hon Linda Reynolds**

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Reynolds

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

Thank you for your email of 3 November 2025, in relation to the travel of your spouse, [REDACTED] in May and June 2025.

You have said that “It is entirely routine (and in fact is advised by IPEA) that stopovers are permitted for no more than two nights en route which is also the case for staff, which is what [REDACTED] did”.

From these comments it would appear that you are not aware that there are two different sets of provisions: one set of provisions covering requirements for the use of parliamentarians’ family reunion travel, and a different set of provisions under which parliamentarians’ staff travel operates.

Both you and [REDACTED] have advised IPEA that the travel in question was parliamentarians’ family reunion travel. The legislation does not make provision for breaks in the journey or “stopovers” **for family members of parliamentarians when travelling under the family reunion travel provisions.**

As mentioned in IPEA’s letter of 23 October 2025, the family reunion travel provisions are prescribed by the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*.

Regulation 6 provides:

*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*

OFFICIAL

*(c) the travel by the family member is for the dominant purpose of facilitating the family life of the member's family.*

Your reference to "routine stopovers permitted en route " relates to arrangements for staff of parliamentarians employed and travelling under different provisions - the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*. As you and [REDACTED] have both confirmed that [REDACTED] was travelling under the family reunion travel provisions for parliamentarians in May and June 2025, the provisions for staff of parliamentarians cannot be applied for those flights.

The situation remains, as indicated previously, that you have advised [REDACTED]'s travel from Perth to Melbourne on 9 May 2025, 30 May 2025 and 21 June 2025 was **not** to accompany or join you in Melbourne, as you did not travel to Melbourne for the purpose of parliamentary business on those dates. The use of Commonwealth resources for [REDACTED] was not therefore consistent with the legislative requirements for family reunion travel and must be repaid to the Commonwealth. I have attached the invoices again for your convenience.

[REDACTED]'s subsequent travel from Melbourne to Canberra on 11 May, 1 June and 23 June 2025 met the conditions of family reunion travel, as he was travelling to join you in Canberra where you had travelled for the purpose of parliamentary business. As the legislation does not allow for breaks in the journey, these must be treated as a separate trips.

You have again mentioned seeking advice from IPEA in your response. IPEA retains records of all personal advice provided to parliamentarians and their staff. An extensive search has found no records of advice sought by you, your office, or by [REDACTED] in relation to this matter.

Please note that IPEA publishes completed assurance reviews on the website at [www.ipea.gov.au/assurance-audit/published-assurance-reviews](http://www.ipea.gov.au/assurance-audit/published-assurance-reviews).

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED]  
A/g Chief, Transparency, Integrity and Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603  
T: 02 6215 3000  
E: [foi@ipea.gov.au](mailto:foi@ipea.gov.au)  
W: [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au)

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive****Attachment A**

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

Work Expense	Traveller	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
COMCAR – Nominee	[REDACTED]	Como	09/05/2025	3:30 PM	Perth Airport	09/05/2025	3:57 PM	\$65.10
Airfare – QANTAS Nominee	[REDACTED]	Perth	09/05/2025	4:55 PM	Melbourne	09/05/2025	10:25 PM	\$2,144.36
Airfare – QANTAS Nominee	[REDACTED]	Melbourne	11/05/2025	6:55 PM	Canberra	11/05/2025	8:05 PM	\$1,001.66
Airfare – QANTAS Self	Hon Linda Reynolds	Perth	11/05/2025	1:10 PM	Canberra	11/05/2025	7:00 PM	\$2,287.54
COMCAR – Nominee	[REDACTED]	Como	30/05/2025	3:22 PM	Perth Airport	09/05/2025	3:49 PM	\$65.10
Airfare – QANTAS Nominee	[REDACTED]	Perth	30/05/2025	4:55 PM	Melbourne	30/05/2025	10:25 PM	\$2,795.99
Airfare – QANTAS Nominee	[REDACTED]	Melbourne	01/06/2025	4:55 PM	Canberra	01/06/2025	6:05 PM	\$1,002.74
Airfare – QANTAS Self	Hon Linda Reynolds	Perth	01/06/2025	1:10 PM	Canberra	01/06/2025	7:00 PM	\$2,288.62
Airfare – QANTAS Nominee	[REDACTED]	Perth	21/06/2025	1:10 PM	Melbourne	21/06/2025	6:40 PM	\$1,313.46
Airfare – QANTAS Self	Hon Linda Reynolds	Perth	21/06/2025	1:10 PM	Canberra	21/06/2025	7:00 PM	\$2,355.65
Airfare – QANTAS Nominee	[REDACTED]	Melbourne	23/06/2025	8:00 AM	Canberra	23/06/2025	9:15 AM	\$1,031.19



**TAX INVOICE**

**Invoice To:**

Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds



**Document Date:** 21.10.2025  
**Contact officer:** Accounts Receivable

**Phone number:** 1800 680 103  
**Fax number:** (02) 6123 5379

**Payment Reference:** 2800102033

**Customer No:** 90014982

**Payment Due Date:** 10.11.2025

On any correspondence,  
 please quote: 2800102033

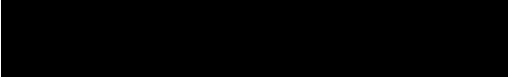
Payment is required by the due date above, otherwise interest may be charged on any overdue amounts. If this invoice is not paid by the due date it may be referred to a debt collection agency.

Item Description	Net Amount	GST Amount	Total Amount
001 Trip 308993 Perth	\$65.10	\$6.51	\$71.61
002 Trip 311473 Perth	\$65.10	\$6.51	\$71.61
003 25% loading penalty	\$35.80		\$35.80

**Total Supply: \$166.00 \$13.02 \$179.02**

**1. Payment by Direct Debit**

Please send remittance to [accountsreceivable@sdo.gov.au](mailto:accountsreceivable@sdo.gov.au)



**2. Mailing your payment**

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

Mail payment together with this stub to:

Department of Finance  
 1 Canberra Avenue FORREST, ACT, 2603

**3. Payment by Credit Card**

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

Card Type:  Mastercard  Visa  American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Pmnt Amt: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cust Ref: 2800102033



## TAX INVOICE

### Invoice To:

Senator Linda Reynolds CSC  
 Parliament House  
 PO BOX 6022



**Invoice Date:** 21.10.2025  
**Phone number:** (02) 6215 3000  
**Invoice Reference:** 20311845  
**Payment Reference:** 3100003468  
**Customer No:** 84270939  
**Payment Due Date:** 20.11.2025  
**Email:** finance@ipea.gov.au

On any correspondence,  
 please quote the Invoice Reference.

Please pay within 30 days of the invoice date

Item Description	Net Amount	GST Amount	Total Amount
001 *Recovery of Airfare 9 May 25	\$2,144.36	\$214.44	\$2,358.80
002 *25 per cent penalty loading between 9 May and 21	\$1,719.80		\$1,719.80
003 *Recovery of Airfare 21 Jun 25	\$1,313.45	\$131.35	\$1,444.80
004 *Recovery of Airfare 30 May 25	\$2,796.00	\$279.59	\$3,075.59

**Total:** **\$7,973.61** **\$625.38** **\$8,598.99**

-----  
**1. Payment by Direct Debit**



**2. Mailing your payment**

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

IPEA  
 1 Canberra Avenue FORREST, ACT, 2603

**3. Payment by Credit Card**

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

Card Type: [ ] Mastercard [ ] Visa

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Ref: 3100003468

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Linda Reynolds [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 November 2025 12:05 PM  
**To:** Assurance  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Assurance  
**Subject:** Re: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks for your response, it is appreciated.

This situation appears patently ridiculous to me. [REDACTED] travelled to Canberra to be reunited with me and there was no additional cost to the taxpayer. Even if there had been, surely what would be repayable should be any cost difference with the direct flight from perth to Canberra (which can be more expensive).

I would be grateful if you could identify for my lawyers where in the legislation it says that reunion flights to and from canberra are completely voided by a stop over.

Can you also please advise us the process to appeal this decision should it become necessary.

Many thanks, Linda

On 19 Nov 2025, at 11:52, Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

<image001.png>

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

---

**From:** Linda Reynolds [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 November 2025 2:06 PM

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

Cc: [REDACTED]

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

Hi Nicole

Thank you for your follow up.

It appears we are in agreement that [REDACTED] was travelling to Canberra to join me, which he indeed did and he would not have travelled otherwise. I think it is also agreed that it is entirely routine for Members, Senators and their Families from Perth to take the flight to Canberra via Melbourne as [REDACTED] did on these occasions. It is also entirely routine (and in fact is advised by IPEA) that stopovers are permitted for no more than two nights en-route which is also the case for staff, which is what [REDACTED] did. This stopover was for the purpose of welfare checks on his son and my listed dependent.

In any event, this stopover did not cost the taxpayer a cent more than had he not stopped over in Melbourne and got a direct connecting flight to Canberra. I understand my office contacted IPEA to confirm this.

You mention in your letter that [REDACTED] travelled to Canberra before me, however, it is quite common for spouses and partners to travel separately. I do not believe that there are any rules relating to a spouse or partner having to travel either with, or later than, their MP or Senator. The rule clearly says that they travel to join the member, which he did.

The travel was demonstrably for approved purposes as per the three criteria you have cited and I reproduced below.

“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.”

Therefore, I would ask that you reconsider this decision as [REDACTED] travelled to Canberra to join me in accordance with the above, it did not cost the taxpayer any extra to make the stopover, and as advised by IPEA that a two-night stopover was allowable and entirely routine.

I would be grateful for your advice on how this routine travel to join me falls outside of the guidelines and in any event, why, when there was no financial cost to the taxpayer, it must all be paid back with a penalty, when he travelled to join me.

Many thanks, Linda Reynolds

On 23 Oct 2025, at 3:43 pm, Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

<image001.png>

**Nicole Pearson**

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

**E:** [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

**W:** [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)

---

**From:** Linda Reynolds [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, 27 September 2025 9:45 PM

**To:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** CM: Re: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Ms Pearson,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 September 2025 referring to Family Reunion Travel taken by my partner [REDACTED]. In particular, I note your questions relating to [REDACTED] spending two nights in Melbourne while travelling from Perth to Canberra to join me for approved events.

I believe my office at the time did make inquiries into the entitlement and the advice was it was within guidelines for the following reasons.

██████████ travelled on the three occasions referred by you (9/05/2025; 30/05/2025; and 21/06/2025) to Canberra to join me via stopovers in Melbourne to see and stay with his son, ██████████. ██████████ is a much loved member of our extended family. He is my (defacto) stepson and as such was listed as a family member on my family travel register and has travelled in that capacity.

██████████ left Perth a couple of years ago to work in the office of a Victorian Senator. As ██████████ is my partner's son and an integral member of our family, I believe that ██████████ stopping over in Melbourne on his way to Canberra was clearly to facilitate our family life and therefore meets requirement (c) of the Regulations.

Given work my commitments I was not always able to take the time to do so on my way to Canberra. However, we believed it was important for ██████████ to do so. This was particularly important given the high profile (and false) 2021 workplace allegations made against me (and subsequently ██████████). They were highly traumatic for all our family members and ██████████ and I were concerned to ensure that ██████████ and his sister were ok and that our family unit remained strong.

██████████ travel to join me in Canberra for official events also meets requirement (a) and (b).

Thank you for your inquiry about these matters.

Hon. Linda Reynolds CSC.

On 19 Sep 2025, at 15:26, Assurance  
<[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Ms Reynolds,

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to an Assurance Review into travel and travel-related expenses.

Yours sincerely

**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.

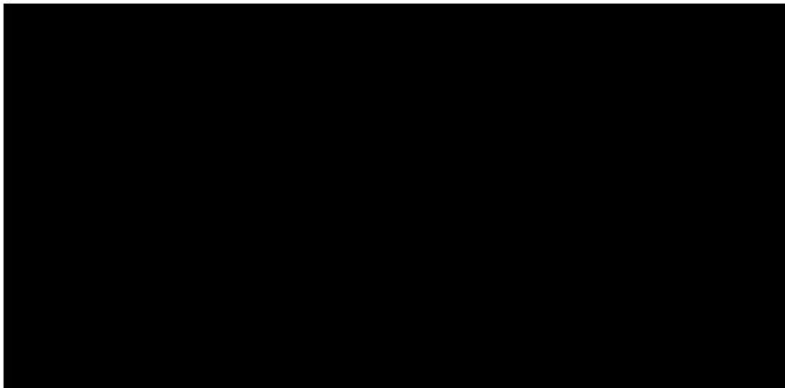
<image001.png>

**Nicole Pearson**

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

**E:** [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

**W:** [www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)



<image003.jpg>

**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.

<Second Letter - IPEA to Hon Linda Reynolds.pdf>

<COMCAR Invoice The Hon Linda Reynolds 2025.pdf>

<Reynolds, Linda\_claim\_xx0020311845.pdf>

<Third Letter - IPEA to Hon Linda Reynolds.pdf>

<Attachment A - Travel data.pdf>

<COMCAR Invoice The Hon Linda Reynolds 2025.pdf>

<Reynolds, Linda\_claim\_xx0020311845.pdf>