



Australian Government

Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

Assurance Review 2025/045

Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price – travel to
Melbourne

15 to 17 August 2024

Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

Contents

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

Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price – travel to Melbourne

Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) conducted an assurance review of Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price's use of travel resources between 15 and 17 August 2024 (the period in scope), following her declaration on the Register of Senators' Interests for the 47th Parliament (Register of Interests) that she had been sponsored by the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) to attend an event in Melbourne at that time.

Scope

2. The scope of this assurance review is travel between 15 and 17 August 2024 by Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price.
3. The purpose of the assurance review was to determine whether the travel resources were used in accordance with the legislative framework.

Reason for review

4. Following Senator Nampijinpa Price's declaration on the Register of Interests that she had been sponsored by the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) for flights and accommodation to attend an event in Melbourne between 15 and 17 August 2024, IPEA noted that Senator Price had used parliamentary work resources to stay in Canberra between 12 and 18 August, a period which appeared to overlap the sponsored travel to Melbourne.
5. On 31 October 2025, IPEA commenced an assurance review of Senator Nampijinpa Price's use of travel resources during the period in scope.

Outcome*

6. IPEA found that the use of travel resources in Canberra on 15 August 2024 was not consistent with the legislative framework, contravening section 28 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017 (PBR Act) in that a claim was made for travel allowance in Canberra for a period when the Senator was in Melbourne.
7. Senator Nampijinpa Price was invoiced a total of \$387.50 to recover the costs of her travel allowance in Canberra on 15 August 2024, including a 25% penalty loading under section 38 of the PBR Act. The expenses have been repaid.

*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

8. 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 conducts assurance reviews to assess the use of resources against the legislative framework to determine if there has been misuse.

Legislative framework

9. Section 28 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017 states:

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

(1) A member 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.

Note: A person who contravenes this section may be liable to pay a loading under section 38.

(2) A contravention of subsection (1) in relation to a claim or expenses incurred does not of itself prevent public resources from being provided in relation to the claim or expenses.

Review process

10. Parliamentarians may be invited by sponsors to attend/or speak at events relating to the parliamentarian's portfolio responsibilities. Sponsors may provide financial support for some expenses for officially-invited parliamentarians and/or their staff at these events.
11. IPEA identified that Senator Nampijinpa Price claimed travel resources for her accommodation in Canberra on 15 August 2024, when she had declared on the Register of Interests that the IPA had sponsored her flights and accommodation to and from Melbourne between 15 and 17 August 2024. IPEA confirmed that travel resources were not claimed for her flights between Canberra and Melbourne.
12. IPEA wrote to Senator Nampijinpa Price on 31 October 2025 detailing the requirements of the legislative framework and identifying the travel resources used during the period in scope. IPEA asked Senator Nampijinpa Price to review her travel movements on 15 August 2024 and indicate whether she accepted the IPA's sponsored accommodation in Melbourne.
13. Senator Nampijinpa Price responded on 14 November 2025, confirming that she used the IPA's sponsored accommodation in Melbourne for the night of 15 August 2024, and indicating that the claim for travel allowance in Canberra for that night had been an oversight. Senator Nampijinpa Price requested that an invoice be raised to reimburse the expense.
14. Based on the information provided by Senator Nampijinpa Price, IPEA found that Senator Nampijinpa Price's claim for travel allowance in Canberra on 15 August 2024 was not consistent with the legislative framework.
15. IPEA's correspondence with Senator Nampijinpa Price in relation to the assurance review is at Attachments 1 to 6.

Conclusion

16. Based on the information made available by Senator Nampijinpa Price, IPEA found that Senator Nampijinpa Price's use of travel resources in Canberra on 15 August 2024 was not consistent with the legislative framework, contravening section 28 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017 (PBR Act) in that a claim was made for travel allowance in Canberra for a period when the Senator was in Melbourne.
17. Senator Nampijinpa Price was invoiced a total of \$387.50 to recover the costs of her travel allowance in Canberra on 15 August 2024, including a 25% penalty loading under section 38 of the PBR Act. The expenses have been repaid.