



Australian Government
**Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority**

Assurance Review 2025/001

Senator Wendy Askew - family reunion travel

1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023

Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

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Senator Wendy Askew - family reunion travel

Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) conducted an assurance review of Senator Wendy Askew's use of work resources for family reunion purposes (family reunion travel resources) for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023 (the period in scope).

Scope

2. The scope of this assurance review is family reunion travel by Senator Askew and her 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.

Reason for review

4. As part of IPEA's review of parliamentarians' use of family reunion travel resources, IPEA undertook a preliminary assessment into family reunion travel by Senator Askew and her family members during the period 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023. After excluding family travel to and from Canberra, the preliminary assessment found that family reunion travel resources had been used for travel to Melbourne on 3 March 2023, and travel to Canberra on 5 March 2023.
5. On 4 February 2025, IPEA commenced an assurance review of Senator Askew's family reunion travel.

Outcome*

6. IPEA found that the use of family reunion travel resources was consistent with the legislative framework.

*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 *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (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 (the Determination) 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. Senator Askew travelled from Launceston to Melbourne, while her spouse travelled from his home base of Canberra to Melbourne, on 3 March 2023, using parliamentary business resources for flights and ground transport.
13. Senator Askew and her spouse travelled from Melbourne to Canberra on 5 March 2023, again using parliamentary business resources for flights and ground transport.
14. IPEA corresponded with Senator Askew on a number of occasions (**Attachments 1 to 6**). Senator Askew was asked about the dominant purpose of her travel and the nature of her parliamentary business with reference to the Determination. Senator Askew was also asked to advise whether her family member's travel met the three-part test in Section 6 of the PBR Regulations.
15. Senator Askew stated that she travelled to Melbourne in her capacity as member of the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs and as the Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Multiple Sclerosis, attending the Austin Hospital Neuroimmunology clinic to meet with nurses and patients. The Senator advised that she also attended a private stakeholder meeting the same day. Although Senator Askew initially advised that her husband accompanied her in a volunteer capacity as her photographer/staffer, she went on to confirm that her spouse travelled with her to facilitate their family life.
16. Senator Askew provided copies of emails arranging the hospital visit, photos and social media posts, and a run sheet of her stakeholder meeting in support of her response.
17. Senator Askew advised that she and her spouse remained in Melbourne for the weekend in a personal capacity, and then both flew to Canberra on Sunday 5 March 2023 prior to the parliamentary sitting week.
18. IPEA notes that no expenses were claimed following the completion of Senator Askew's parliamentary business on 3 March 2023, until 5 March 2023 when she and her spouse travelled to Canberra for the sitting week.
19. Based on the information provided by Senator Askew, IPEA notes that the dominant purpose of the travel undertaken by Senator Askew to Melbourne and Canberra in March 2023 was parliamentary business, and that her spouse accompanied her for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.

Conclusion

20. Based on IPEA's records, publicly available information and the information provided by Senator Askew, IPEA found that the use of family reunion travel resources was consistent with the legislative framework.

[REDACTED]

From: Assurance
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 11:01 AM
To: [REDACTED]
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 Senator Wendy Askew - 5 February 2025.pdf; Attachment B - Senator Wendy Askew Travel Data.pdf

OFFICIAL

Senator Wendy Askew
Senator for Tasmania

Dear Senator Askew

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

Senator Wendy Askew
Senator for Tasmania
PO Box 97
Launceston, TAS, 7250

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

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

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

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

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

Legislative framework

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

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

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

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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

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

Action Required

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

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

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

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 Member (or class)	Column 2 Parliamentary duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	<p>In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise;b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose;c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member;d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function;e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio;f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates;g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose;h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function;i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. <p><i>Note: For Ministers representing the Government or Australia in their capacity as a Minister, this would be part of the member's official duties (see Schedule 4).</i></p>

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

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

Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

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

Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Official duties
All office holders and Ministers of State	In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be): <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Exercising the powers or functions, or performing the duties, of the member's office, or activities engaged in for the purposes of doing so;b) Attending an event to which the member has been invited in their official capacity;c) Other activities directly related to, and engaged in for the purposes of, performing the member's official role.

Attachment B

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

Work Resource	Traveller	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Total Amount
COMCAR	Senator Wendy Askew	Prospect Vale	3/03/2023	05:15 AM	Western Junction	3/03/2023	06:05 AM	\$86.50
Airfare – Virgin Australia Self	Senator Wendy Askew	Launceston	3/03/2023	06:30 AM	Melbourne	3/03/2023	07:35 AM	\$299.61
Taxi – designated person	[REDACTED]	Griffith	3/03/2023		Canberra A/P	3/03/2023		\$31.24
Airfare – Virgin Australia Designated person	[REDACTED]	Canberra	3/03/2023	07:15 AM	Melbourne	3/03/2023	08:25 AM	\$176.58
COMCAR	Senator Wendy Askew	Melbourne A/P	3/03/2023	08:45 AM	Melbourne	3/03/2023	11:28 AM	\$364.08
COMCAR	Senator Wendy Askew	Melbourne	5/03/2023	10:12 AM	Melbourne A/P	5/03/2023	10:44 AM	\$125.70
Airfare – Virgin Australia Self	Senator Wendy Askew	Melbourne	5/03/2023	11:50 AM	Canberra	5/03/2023	12:55 PM	\$176.58

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Melbourne between 3 and 5 March 2023?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Melbourne between 3 and 5 March 2023?

Attachment B

Audit of travel and travel-related expenses – Family Reunion Travel

3. Please advise whether your family member'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.

[REDACTED]

From: Askew, Wendy (Senator) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:51 AM
To: Assurance
Subject: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 2025-02-25 Sen ASKEW Assurance Review Response.pdf

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached my response to your correspondence dated 5 February 2025 relating to Family Reunion Travel undertaken in March 2023.

Regards

Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501
Parliament House: [REDACTED] Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 11:01 AM
To: Askew, Wendy (Senator) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Senator Wendy Askew
Senator for Tasmania

Dear Senator Askew

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

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Senator Wendy Askew

Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

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

25 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 5 February 2025 in relation to an Assurance Review of Family Reunion Travel undertaken in March 2023.

In response, I can confirm that the dominant purpose of my travel to Melbourne was in relation to both my membership of the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs and as the Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Multiple Sclerosis.

I had been trying to facilitate a visit to the Austin Hospital Neuroimmunology clinic to meet with the MS Nurses and some of their MS patients since late 2022, and this was the earliest opportunity I had had, so decided to arrange the visit via a stopover in Melbourne in transit to Canberra for the parliamentary sitting week commencing on Monday 6 March 2022.

Rather than take a staff member with me, my husband flew to Melbourne and accompanied me to the Austin Hospital visit, in a volunteer capacity as photographer/staffer.

Copies of emails arranging the visit, together with photos taken on the day and social media posts confirming the visit are attached.

I also attended a private stakeholders meeting later that day, together with one of my Senate colleagues.

As my husband had joined me in Melbourne, rather than continue on to Canberra later that evening we decided to stay in Melbourne as we had not seen each other for some time due to our work commitments. We then flew together to Canberra on Sunday 5 March so I could prepare for the upcoming sitting week.

I therefore believe that the purpose of his travel does meet the three-part test set out in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 –

- I was travelling for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business;
- My husband travelled to join me in Melbourne; and
- His travel allowed us to spend time together as a couple, thus facilitating family life.

I can also confirm that I did not claim travel allowance for the two nights in Melbourne.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards



Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senat



11:50

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< ms australia

All Posts People Videos Groups F

 **MS Australia**
14 Mar 2023 · 🌐

Senator Wendy Askew recently visited the MS Clinic at Austin Health in Melbourne to discuss the current crisis for people living with MS in accessing MS Nurse care.

Senator Askew has been an active supporter of MS care through her role as Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of MS group and is interested in finding solutions.

 **Senator Wendy Askew** ●
Posted by Caitlin Jarvis
14 Mar 2023 · 🌐

As Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Multiple Sclerosis, I have a keen interest in learning about the advance... See more



Senator Wendy Askew ●

Posted by Caitlin Jarvis
14 Mar 2023 · 🌐

As Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Multiple Sclerosis, I have a keen interest in learning about the advancements in care and medicine being developed at [Austin Health](#) through the NCRESS MS Service.

Recently, I had the opportunity to tour Austin Health and meet with some patients along with Belinda Bardsley (NCRESS Unit Manager, RN), Therese Burke (MS Australia), Dr Marion Simpson, Professor Richard Macdonell and Renae Gamble (RN).

It was an educational experience to see first-hand the crucial work being done every day from the centre.



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] (Sen W. Askew)
Subject: Re: Enquiry from Senator Askew regarding visit to Austin Health
Date: Thursday, 9 February 2023 7:39:33 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Hi [REDACTED],

My apologies too; I'm recently back from annual leave and still playing catch-up. There are also a few additional complexities and relevant hospital staff members I need to keep informed when arranging a visit of this nature, so I'm trying to ensure I follow all the hospital guidelines before replying to you!

It will be wonderful to meet Senator Askew on Friday 3rd March around 9.45 am. The Austin Hospital can be a very confusing place, so it might be best if I meet with her at the main entrance and escort her to our clinic and/or N-CRESS office. I will have a think about what's best.

The main entrance of Austin Hospital is located in the Austin Tower building via the Studley Road entrance at 145 Studley Road, Heidelberg. There is a forecourt area with a drop-off zone right outside the main entrance doors.

My mobile number is [REDACTED]. If there are any changes in Senator Askew's arrival time or any confusion about the meeting place please don't hesitate to call me.

Thanks again for helping to make the arrangements to meet Senator Askew. I'll let you know if the hospital has any suggested changes in meeting place, etc.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (Sen W. Askew) <[REDACTED]@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:16 AM
To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@austin.org.au>
Subject: RE: Enquiry from Senator Askew regarding visit to Austin Health

BE ALERT: Do not click links, open attachments or reply, unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you, we are in our first week back at parliament so it has been quite a busy few days!

A visit to your Neuroimmunology clinic to see the team in action as well as to meet some of the nurses and patients sounds perfect. Senator Askew has about an hour available at this stage and will arrive at the clinic at 9.45am. She is flying into Melbourne in the morning so hopefully we encounter no delays!

Where is the best place for her to meet you?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

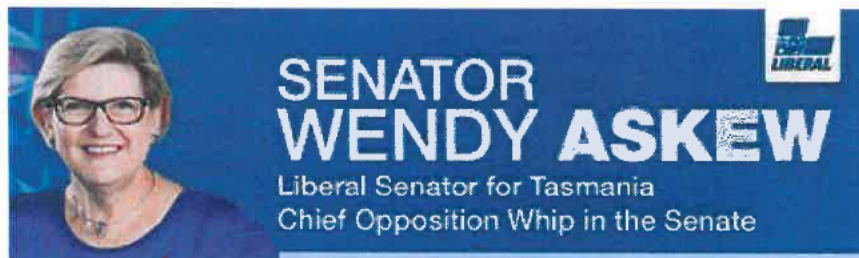
Warm regards,

██████████ | Diary Manager

Office of Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania | Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate
Email: ██████████@aph.gov.au

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501

Parliament House: SG.98 | Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404



From: ██████████, ██████████@austin.org.au
Sent: Friday, 3 February 2023 5:20 PM
To: ██████████ (Sen W. Askew) <██████████@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Enquiry from Senator Askew regarding visit to Austin Health

Dear ██████████,

I would be thrilled to meet with Senator Askew on the morning of Friday 3rd March. We run our Neuroimmunology clinic at that time so if she is interested it may even be possible for her to visit the clinic and see our team in action and perhaps meet some of our MS patients.

I'd love her to meet my team of MS Nurses and demonstrate the importance of our role, both in the clinical care of MS and in providing them with the opportunity to participate in research and clinical trials.

How much time will she have to spend with us on that morning? I'll make the appropriate arrangements.

Please thank her for following up on our discussion; I'm so grateful for her interest.

Have a lovely weekend,

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED] (Sen W. Askew) <[REDACTED]@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 9:50 am
To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@austin.org.au>
Subject: RE: Enquiry from Senator Askew regarding visit to Austin Health

BE ALERT: Do not click links, open attachments or reply, unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning [REDACTED]

Lovely to hear from you. I hope you enjoyed your time off!

I have forwarded the below report as well as your best wishes regarding Senator Askew's brother to the Senator and she very much appreciates your comments.

Senator Askew is travelling to Melbourne early on Friday 3rd March and has some time at 9.30am or 10am to visit you at Austin Health if that is a suitable time for you?

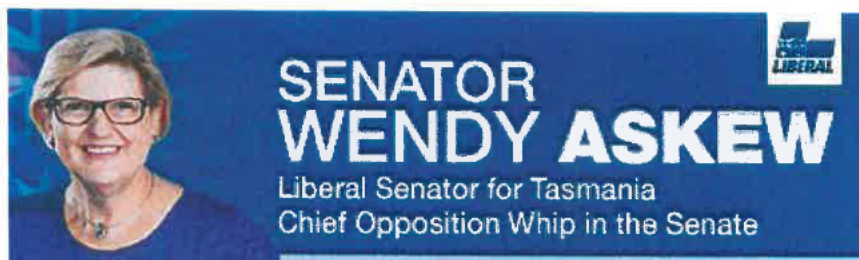
Looking forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED] | Diary Manager

Office of Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania | Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate
Email: [REDACTED]@aph.gov.au

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501
Parliament House: SG.98 | Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404



From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@austin.org.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 31 January 2023 5:38 PM

To: [REDACTED] (Sen W. Askew) <[REDACTED]@aph.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Enquiry from Senator Askew regarding visit to Austin Health

Dear [REDACTED]

I have just returned from annual leave to hear about Senator Askew's interest in visiting our service, N-CRESS at Austin Health, which cares for people with Multiple Sclerosis and other Neuro-Immunological conditions.

I had the good fortune of sitting beside Senator Askew during MS Australia's 50th Anniversary Dinner last November.

We spoke a little about the role of an MS Nurse and about the findings of recent research which highlighted the important role that MS Nurses have in improving the health outcomes of people with MS, and in reducing healthcare costs. I promised to send her the link to the MS Nurse Care in Australia report, so your email is timely!

https://www.msaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/msa_ms-nurses-report_web.pdf

I would be absolutely thrilled to meet with her and to introduce her to the N-CRESS team at Austin Health in Heidelberg.

I understand she would like to visit us in March, is that correct?

I recall that Senator Askew's brother was undergoing surgery at the time of the dinner, so I hope that he is fully recovered now. Please pass on my best wishes to Senator Askew and her brother on my behalf.

Thank you so much for getting in touch with me.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Ph: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Manager, N-CRESS

From: Assurance
Sent: Wednesday, 25 June 2025 1:41 PM
To: 'Askew, Wendy (Senator)'
Cc: Assurance
Subject: CM: RE: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]; 2025-02-25 Sen ASKEW Assurance Review Response.pdf

OFFICIAL

Good morning Senator,

Thank you for your email, and I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I refer to the previous correspondence regarding the IPEA Assurance Review of your use of family travel – attached for convenience.

Could you please provide any evidence, such as diary entries, invitations or media articles, in relation to your stakeholder meeting outlined in your response of 25 February 2025?

Sincerely

Director, Audit and Assurance
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: + 61 2 6215 3000
E: assurance@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au

From: Askew, Wendy (Senator) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:51 AM
To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Dr Winternitz

Please find attached my response to your correspondence dated 5 February 2025 relating to Family Reunion Travel undertaken in March 2023.

Regards

Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 11:01 AM
To: Askew, Wendy (Senator) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Senator Wendy Askew
Senator for Tasmania

Dear Senator Askew

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: Assurance
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 11:01 AM
To: [REDACTED]
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 Senator Wendy Askew - 5 February 2025.pdf; Attachment B - Senator Wendy Askew Travel Data.pdf

OFFICIAL

Senator Wendy Askew
Senator for Tasmania

Dear Senator Askew

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

Senator Wendy Askew
Senator for Tasmania
PO Box 97
Launceston, TAS, 7250

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

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

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

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

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

Legislative framework

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

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

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

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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

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

Action Required

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

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

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

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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3 Authority.....	1
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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 Member (or class)	Column 2 Parliamentary duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	<p>In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise;b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose;c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member;d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function;e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio;f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates;g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose;h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function;i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. <p><i>Note: For Ministers representing the Government or Australia in their capacity as a Minister, this would be part of the member's official duties (see Schedule 4).</i></p>

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

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

Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

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

Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Official duties
All office holders and Ministers of State	In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be): <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Exercising the powers or functions, or performing the duties, of the member's office, or activities engaged in for the purposes of doing so;b) Attending an event to which the member has been invited in their official capacity;c) Other activities directly related to, and engaged in for the purposes of, performing the member's official role.

Attachment B

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

Work Resource	Traveller	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Total Amount
COMCAR	Senator Wendy Askew	Prospect Vale	3/03/2023	05:15 AM	Western Junction	3/03/2023	06:05 AM	\$86.50
Airfare – Virgin Australia Self	Senator Wendy Askew	Launceston	3/03/2023	06:30 AM	Melbourne	3/03/2023	07:35 AM	\$299.61
Taxi – designated person	[REDACTED]	Griffith	3/03/2023		Canberra A/P	3/03/2023		\$31.24
Airfare – Virgin Australia Designated person	[REDACTED]	Canberra	3/03/2023	07:15 AM	Melbourne	3/03/2023	08:25 AM	\$176.58
COMCAR	Senator Wendy Askew	Melbourne A/P	3/03/2023	08:45 AM	Melbourne	3/03/2023	11:28 AM	\$364.08
COMCAR	Senator Wendy Askew	Melbourne	5/03/2023	10:12 AM	Melbourne A/P	5/03/2023	10:44 AM	\$125.70
Airfare – Virgin Australia Self	Senator Wendy Askew	Melbourne	5/03/2023	11:50 AM	Canberra	5/03/2023	12:55 PM	\$176.58

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Melbourne between 3 and 5 March 2023?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Melbourne between 3 and 5 March 2023?

Attachment B

Audit of travel and travel-related expenses – Family Reunion Travel

3. Please advise whether your family member'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.



Senator Wendy Askew

Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

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

25 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 5 February 2025 in relation to an Assurance Review of Family Reunion Travel undertaken in March 2023.

In response, I can confirm that the dominant purpose of my travel to Melbourne was in relation to both my membership of the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs and as the Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Multiple Sclerosis.

I had been trying to facilitate a visit to the Austin Hospital Neuroimmunology clinic to meet with the MS Nurses and some of their MS patients since late 2022, and this was the earliest opportunity I had had, so decided to arrange the visit via a stopover in Melbourne in transit to Canberra for the parliamentary sitting week commencing on Monday 6 March 2022.

Rather than take a staff member with me, my husband flew to Melbourne and accompanied me to the Austin Hospital visit, in a volunteer capacity as photographer/staffer.

Copies of emails arranging the visit, together with photos taken on the day and social media posts confirming the visit are attached.

I also attended a private stakeholders meeting later that day, together with one of my Senate colleagues.

As my husband had joined me in Melbourne, rather than continue on to Canberra later that evening we decided to stay in Melbourne as we had not seen each other for some time due to our work commitments. We then flew together to Canberra on Sunday 5 March so I could prepare for the upcoming sitting week.

I therefore believe that the purpose of his travel does meet the three-part test set out in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 –

- I was travelling for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business;
- My husband travelled to join me in Melbourne; and
- His travel allowed us to spend time together as a couple, thus facilitating family life.

I can also confirm that I did not claim travel allowance for the two nights in Melbourne.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards



Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senat



11:50

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< ms australia

All Posts People Videos Groups F



MS Australia

14 Mar 2023 · 🌐

Senator Wendy Askew recently visited the MS Clinic at Austin Health in Melbourne to discuss the current crisis for people living with MS in accessing MS Nurse care.

Senator Askew has been an active supporter of MS care through her role as Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of MS group and is interested in finding solutions.



Senator Wendy Askew

Posted by Caitlin Jarvis

14 Mar 2023 · 🌐

As Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Multiple Sclerosis, I have a keen interest in learning about the advance... See more



Senator Wendy Askew

Posted by Caitlin Jarvis

14 Mar 2023 · 🌐

As Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Multiple Sclerosis, I have a keen interest in learning about the advancements in care and medicine being developed at Austin Health through the NCRESS MS Service.

Recently, I had the opportunity to tour Austin Health and meet with some patients along with Belinda Bardsley (NCRESS Unit Manager, RN), Therese Burke (MS Australia), Dr Marion Simpson, Professor Richard Macdonell and Renae Gamble (RN).

It was an educational experience to see first-hand the crucial work being done every day from the centre.



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] (Sen W. Askew)
Subject: Re: Enquiry from Senator Askew regarding visit to Austin Health
Date: Thursday, 9 February 2023 7:39:33 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Hi [REDACTED],

My apologies too; I'm recently back from annual leave and still playing catch-up. There are also a few additional complexities and relevant hospital staff members I need to keep informed when arranging a visit of this nature, so I'm trying to ensure I follow all the hospital guidelines before replying to you!

It will be wonderful to meet Senator Askew on Friday 3rd March around 9.45 am. The Austin Hospital can be a very confusing place, so it might be best if I meet with her at the main entrance and escort her to our clinic and/or N-CRESS office. I will have a think about what's best.

The main entrance of Austin Hospital is located in the Austin Tower building via the Studley Road entrance at 145 Studley Road, Heidelberg. There is a forecourt area with a drop-off zone right outside the main entrance doors.

My mobile number is [REDACTED]. If there are any changes in Senator Askew's arrival time or any confusion about the meeting place please don't hesitate to call me.

Thanks again for helping to make the arrangements to meet Senator Askew. I'll let you know if the hospital has any suggested changes in meeting place, etc.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (Sen W. Askew) <[REDACTED]@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:16 AM
To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@austin.org.au>
Subject: RE: Enquiry from Senator Askew regarding visit to Austin Health

BE ALERT: Do not click links, open attachments or reply, unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you, we are in our first week back at parliament so it has been quite a busy few days!

A visit to your Neuroimmunology clinic to see the team in action as well as to meet some of the nurses and patients sounds perfect. Senator Askew has about an hour available at this stage and will arrive at the clinic at 9.45am. She is flying into Melbourne in the morning so hopefully we encounter no delays!

Where is the best place for her to meet you?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

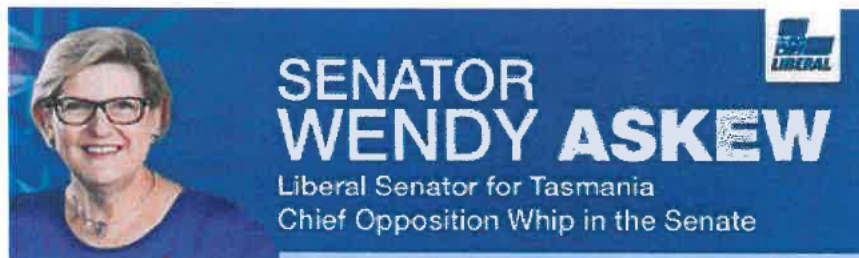
Warm regards,

██████████ | Diary Manager

Office of Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania | Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate
Email: ██████████@aph.gov.au

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501

Parliament House: SG.98 | Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404



From: ██████████, ██████████@austin.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 3 February 2023 5:20 PM
To: ██████████ (Sen W. Askew) <██████████@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Enquiry from Senator Askew regarding visit to Austin Health

Dear ██████████,

I would be thrilled to meet with Senator Askew on the morning of Friday 3rd March. We run our Neuroimmunology clinic at that time so if she is interested it may even be possible for her to visit the clinic and see our team in action and perhaps meet some of our MS patients.

I'd love her to meet my team of MS Nurses and demonstrate the importance of our role, both in the clinical care of MS and in providing them with the opportunity to participate in research and clinical trials.

How much time will she have to spend with us on that morning? I'll make the appropriate arrangements.

Please thank her for following up on our discussion; I'm so grateful for her interest.

Have a lovely weekend,
[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED] (Sen W. Askew) <[REDACTED]@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 9:50 am
To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@austin.org.au>
Subject: RE: Enquiry from Senator Askew regarding visit to Austin Health

BE ALERT: Do not click links, open attachments or reply, unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning [REDACTED]

Lovely to hear from you. I hope you enjoyed your time off!

I have forwarded the below report as well as your best wishes regarding Senator Askew's brother to the Senator and she very much appreciates your comments.

Senator Askew is travelling to Melbourne early on Friday 3rd March and has some time at 9.30am or 10am to visit you at Austin Health if that is a suitable time for you?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED] | Diary Manager

Office of Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania | Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate
Email: [REDACTED]@aph.gov.au

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501
Parliament House: SG.98 | Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404



From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@austin.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 January 2023 5:38 PM
To: [REDACTED] (Sen W. Askew) <[REDACTED]@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Enquiry from Senator Askew regarding visit to Austin Health

Dear [REDACTED]

I have just returned from annual leave to hear about Senator Askew's interest in visiting our service, N-CRESS at Austin Health, which cares for people with Multiple Sclerosis and other Neuro-Immunological conditions.

I had the good fortune of sitting beside Senator Askew during MS Australia's 50th Anniversary Dinner last November.

We spoke a little about the role of an MS Nurse and about the findings of recent research which highlighted the important role that MS Nurses have in improving the health outcomes of people with MS, and in reducing healthcare costs. I promised to send her the link to the MS Nurse Care in Australia report, so your email is timely!

https://www.msaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/msa_ms-nurses-report_web.pdf

I would be absolutely thrilled to meet with her and to introduce her to the N-CRESS team at Austin Health in Heidelberg.

I understand she would like to visit us in March, is that correct?

I recall that Senator Askew's brother was undergoing surgery at the time of the dinner, so I hope that he is fully recovered now. Please pass on my best wishes to Senator Askew and her brother on my behalf.

Thank you so much for getting in touch with me.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Ph: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Manager, N-CRESS

[REDACTED]

From: Askew, Wendy (Private) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 2:47 PM
To: Assurance
Subject: CM: RE: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED]

The stakeholder meeting held on the afternoon of 3 March 2023 was a private meeting with Senator Jane Hume and representatives from the resources, finance and insurance sectors.

I am sure that Senator Hume would be happy to confirm that the meeting took place.

Regards

Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501
Parliament House: SG.98 | Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 June 2025 1:41 PM
To: Askew, Wendy (Senator) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning Senator,

Thank you for your email, and I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I refer to the previous correspondence regarding the IPEA Assurance Review of your use of family travel – attached for convenience.

Could you please provide any evidence, such as diary entries, invitations or media articles, in relation to your stakeholder meeting outlined in your response of 25 February 2025?

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
Director, Audit and Assurance
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

T: + 61 2 6215 3000
E: assurance@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au

From: Askew, Wendy (Senator)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:51 AM
To: Assurance
Subject: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached my response to your correspondence dated 5 February 2025 relating to Family Reunion Travel undertaken in March 2023.

Regards

Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501
Parliament House: SG.98 | Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 11:01 AM
To: Askew, Wendy (Senator) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Senator Wendy Askew
Senator for Tasmania

Dear Senator Askew

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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From: Assurance
Sent: Friday, 12 September 2025 12:26 PM
To: 'Askew, Wendy (Private)'; Assurance
Subject: CM: RE: RE: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Senator Wendy Askew - Family Travel - Second Letter.pdf

OFFICIAL

Dear Senator Askew

Please find attached 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: Askew, Wendy (Private) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 2:47 PM
To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: CM: RE: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED]

The stakeholder meeting held on the afternoon of 3 March 2023 was a private meeting with Senator Jane Hume and representatives from the resources, finance and insurance sectors.

I am sure that Senator Hume would be happy to confirm that the meeting took place.

Regards

Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501
Parliament House: SG.98 | Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 June 2025 1:41 PM
To: Askew, Wendy (Senator) [REDACTED]

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

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

OFFICIAL

Good morning Senator,

Thank you for your email, and I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I refer to the previous correspondence regarding the IPEA Assurance Review of your use of family travel – attached for convenience.

Could you please provide any evidence, such as diary entries, invitations or media articles, in relation to your stakeholder meeting outlined in your response of 25 February 2025?

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
Director, Audit and Assurance
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: + 61 2 6215 3000
E: assurance@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au

From: Askew, Wendy (Senator)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:51 AM
To: Assurance
Subject: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached my response to your correspondence dated 5 February 2025 relating to Family Reunion Travel undertaken in March 2023.

Regards

Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501
Parliament House: SG.98 | Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 11:01 AM
To: Askew, Wendy (Senator) [REDACTED]

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

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

OFFICIAL

Senator Wendy Askew
Senator for Tasmania

Dear Senator Askew

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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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

12 September 2025

Senator Wendy Askew

Senator for Tasmania
PO Box 97
Launceston, TAS, 7250

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

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

Thank you for your engagement so far in relation IPEA's assurance review on your family reunion travel between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023.

IPEA requires further information in order to progress this matter.

In your response of 12 August 2025, you have advised that you attended a stakeholder meeting with Senator Jane Hume and representatives from the resources, finance and insurance sectors on the afternoon of 3 March 2023. You have advised that you believe Senator Hume would be able to confirm that the meeting took place.

The response provided does not sufficiently address IPEA's request for supporting documentation.

Please provide evidence in support of the meeting you attended on 3 March 2023. This may include diary notes, invitations or media reporting, or any evidence that you are able to source from Senator Hume and send to us.

Please provide a response to IPEA via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on **Friday 26 September 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

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

From: Askew, Wendy (Private) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 September 2025 5:34 PM
To: Assurance
Subject: CM: RE: RE: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: SEO18197P0425092418430.pdf

Good Afternoon

In response to your further letter, please find attached a copy of the run sheet for the private meeting which was held on 3 March 2023.

Regards

Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501
Parliament House: SG.98 | Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 September 2025 12:26 PM
To: Askew, Wendy (Private) [REDACTED]; Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: RE: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Senator Askew

Please find attached 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: Askew, Wendy (Private) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 2:47 PM
To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: CM: RE: RE: HPE CM: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED]

The stakeholder meeting held on the afternoon of 3 March 2023 was a private meeting with Senator Jane Hume and representatives from the resources, finance and insurance sectors.

I am sure that Senator Hume would be happy to confirm that the meeting took place.

Regards

Senator Wendy Askew

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501

Parliament House: SG.98 | Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404

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

Sent: Wednesday, 25 June 2025 1:41 PM

To: Askew, Wendy (Senator) [REDACTED]

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

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

OFFICIAL

Good morning Senator,

Thank you for your email, and I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I refer to the previous correspondence regarding the IPEA Assurance Review of your use of family travel – attached for convenience.

Could you please provide any evidence, such as diary entries, invitations or media articles, in relation to your stakeholder meeting outlined in your response of 25 February 2025?

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
Director, Audit and Assurance
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: + 61 2 6215 3000
E: assurance@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au

From: Askew, Wendy (Senator)

Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:51 AM

To: Assurance

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

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached my response to your correspondence dated 5 February 2025 relating to Family Reunion Travel undertaken in March 2023.

Regards

Senator Wendy Askew
Liberal Senator for Tasmania
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate

Electorate Office: 46 Cameron Street (PO Box 97) | LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | 03 6331 8501
Parliament House: SG.98 | Parliament House | CANBERRA ACT 2600 | 02 6277 3404

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 11:01 AM
To: Askew, Wendy (Senator) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance review of travel and travel-related resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Senator Wendy Askew
Senator for Tasmania

Dear Senator Askew

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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ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
Senator the Hon Jane Hume,
Shadow Minister for Finance

TIME AND DATE OF EVENT	Friday 3 rd March 2023 1.00pm – 2.30pm
VENUE NAME AND ADDRESS	Private Tea Room, 161 Spring Street, Melbourne
EVENT CONTACTS	Askew Office: Jacki [REDACTED] Hume Office: Jo [REDACTED]
ATTENDEES	<p>Participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Senator Wendy Askew, Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate2. Senator the Hon. Jane Hume, Shadow Minister for Finance, Shadow Special Minister of State and Shadow Minister for the Public Service3. Adviser to the Shadow Minister, [REDACTED]4. [REDACTED]5. [REDACTED]6. [REDACTED]7. [REDACTED]8. [REDACTED]9. [REDACTED]10. [REDACTED]11. [REDACTED]12. [REDACTED]13. [REDACTED]14. [REDACTED]15. [REDACTED]16. [REDACTED]17. [REDACTED]18. [REDACTED]19. [REDACTED]



ORDER OF EVENTS	1.00pm	Senators and participants arrive.
	1.05pm	Senator Askew to invite participants to be seated.
	1.10pm	Senator Askew to welcome participants and invite them to introduce themselves.
	1.25pm	Senator the Hon Jane Hume to speak.
	1.40pm	Senator Askew to facilitate discussion around the table.
	2.20pm	Senator Hume to thank participants for their input and summarise the discussion.
	2.30pm	Senator Askew to close formalities.