

From: [IPEA CEO](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#); [Grant, Christina](#)
Cc: [IPEA CEO](#); [s22\(1\)](#); [Frost, Michael](#); [Pearson, Nicole](#); [s22\(1\)](#); [Spaccavento, Marco](#); [s22\(1\)](#)
Subject: RE: AFR Media Enquiry | Anika Wells [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 8 December 2025 1:52:54 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks

I think we should remove the line I have struck through on the word doc response. We have already said we don't comment on individual matters so that covers repayments.

Christina

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 1:25 PM
To: Grant, Christina [s22\(1\)](#)
Cc: IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>; [s22\(1\)](#) Frost, Michael [s22\(1\)](#); Pearson, Nicole [s22\(1\)](#) [s22\(1\)](#) Spaccavento, Marco [s22\(1\)](#) [s22\(1\)](#) [s22\(1\)](#) IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: FW: AFR Media Enquiry | Anika Wells [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina

We have a second media enquiry, this one from [s22\(1\)](#) at the AFR. Draft response: [Media enquiry - s22\(1\) - AFR - 8 December 2025.docx](#)

All the chiefs have reviewed and approved.

Regards

[s22\(1\)](#)

From: [s22\(1\)](#)
Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 11:17 AM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: AFR Media Enquiry | Anika Wells

You don't often get email from [s22\(1\)](#) [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

I have been writing about Anika Wells' use of travel budgets. I have the following questions for IPEA.

Yesterday, Ms Wells said on Sky News "All of these costs have been submitted through the usual guidelines. *They have been found to be within the rules and the usual guidelines.*"

Have any of Ms Wells' trips that have come to light in media reports over the past week been subject of an IPEA audit or review to ensure they comply with the guidelines. If so, which ones and what were the findings?

In the past week, has IPEA commenced an audit or review of any travel undertaken by Ms Wells? If so, which travel? If not, why not?

IPEA reporting shows that in December 2022 Ms Wells' repaid \$1300.81 and \$584.48 for family flights from Brisbane to Melbourne and back. These flights coincide with the Boxing Day test match. Were these amounts repaid or were they reversed for not being used? If they were repaid, was this due to an audit or review of the expense or another reason?

IPEA reporting shows that in September 2022 Ms Wells' repaid \$1456.84 and \$1456.84 for family flights from Brisbane to Melbourne and back. Were these amounts repaid or were they reversed for not being used? If they were repaid, was this due to an audit or review of the expense or another reason?

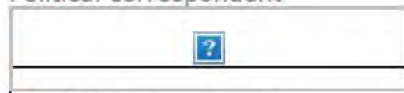
Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

s22(1)

s22(1)

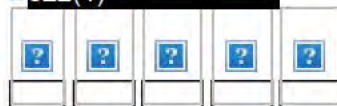
Political correspondent



M s22(1)

A s22(1) Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600

E s22(1)



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Dear Mr s22(1),

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA does not comment on individual matters related to current or former parliamentarians. Questions regarding such matters are best directed to the relevant current or former parliamentarian.

Parliamentarians must comply with their obligations in relation to the use of work resources contained in Part 3, Division 2 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act) and the associated requirements of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*. Information on the framework is available on our legislation page: <https://www.ipea.gov.au/legislation>.

Details about IPEA's assurance and audit functions can be found in our fact sheet: https://www.ipea.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-06/fact_sheet-stat-audit-function_May_2023.pdf and our Protocol for Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses web page: <https://www.ipea.gov.au/assurance-audit/allegations-of-expenses-misuse>.

Kind regards

Original email:

From: s22(1)
Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 11:17 AM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: AFR Media Enquiry | Anika Wells

Good morning,

I have been writing about Anika Wells' use of travel budgets. I have the following questions for IPEA.

Yesterday, Ms Wells said on Sky News "All of these costs have been submitted through the usual guidelines. *They have been found to be within the rules and the usual guidelines.*"

Have any of Ms Wells' trips that have come to light in media reports over the past week been subject of an IPEA audit or review to ensure they comply with the guidelines. If so, which ones and what were the findings?

In the past week, has IPEA commenced an audit or review of any travel undertaken by Ms Wells? If so, which travel? If not, why not?

IPEA reporting shows that in December 2022 Ms Wells' repaid \$1300.81 and \$584.48 for family flights from Brisbane to Melbourne and back. These flights coincide with the Boxing Day test match. Were these amounts repaid or were they reversed for not being used? If they were repaid, was this due to an audit or review of the expense or another reason?

IPEA reporting shows that in September 2022 Ms Wells' repaid \$1456.84 and \$1456.84 for family flights from Brisbane to Melbourne and back. Were these amounts repaid or were they reversed for not being used? If they were repaid, was this due to an audit or review of the expense or another reason?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

s22(1)

--

s22(1)

Political correspondent

FINANCIAL REVIEW

M s22(1)

A s22(1), Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600

E s22(1)



From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Cc: [§22\(1\)](#); [Frost, Michael](#); [§22\(1\)](#); [Spaccavento, Marco](#); [Pearson, Nicole](#)
Subject: RE: TODAY SHOW INTERVIEW [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 10 December 2025 12:09:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks
Approved with a slight change
Christina

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2025 11:45 AM
To: Grant, Christina [§22\(1\)](#)
Cc: [§22\(1\)](#); IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; Frost, Michael [§22\(1\)](#) [§22\(1\)](#) [§22\(1\)](#); Spaccavento, Marco [§22\(1\)](#); Pearson, Nicole [§22\(1\)](#)
Subject: RE: TODAY SHOW INTERVIEW [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina

We have received a request for a spokesperson to discuss our audit process.

The draft response is based on responses used previously: [Media inquiry - §22\(1\) §22\(1\) - Channel 9 today show - 9 December.docx](#)

Finance media team has confirmed the journalist also approached them and they have also declined an interview.

All the Chiefs and [§22\(1\)](#) approved it. Thanks to [§22\(1\)](#) for writing the draft.

Regards,
[§22\(1\)](#)

From: [§22\(1\)](#)
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 5:29:30 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: TODAY SHOW INTERVIEW

You don't often get email from **s22(1)**. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear IPEA,

My name is **s22(1)** - I work with Channel 9's TODAY SHOW.

Seeing if the IPEA would be available to put a spokesperson forward to discuss the audit of Anika Wells' travel expenses - and how the investigation will be navigated.

Thanks,

s22(1)

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Draft response:

Dear Mr **s22(1)**

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

Engagement with the media is an important element of IPEA's role as an independent authority. Our policy is to engage with the media in writing. Our current arrangements do not extend to interviews however we will respond to any queries in writing as quickly as possible.

Details about IPEA's assurance and audit functions can be found in our fact sheet:

https://www.ipea.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-06/fact_sheet-stat-audit-function_May_2023.pdf and on our website: <https://www.ipea.gov.au/assurance>

Please note that IPEA does not comment on individual matters.

Kind regards

Original email:

Subject: TODAY SHOW INTERVIEW

Dear IPEA,

My name is **s22(1)** - I work with Channel 9's TODAY SHOW.

Seeing if the IPEA would be available to put a spokesperson forward to discuss the audit of Anika Wells' travel expenses - and how the investigation will be navigated.

Thanks,

s22(1)

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Cc: s22(1); [Spaccavento, Marco](#); [Frost, Michael](#); [Pearson, Nicole](#); s22(1)
Subject: RE: Wells expense self-referral [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 11 December 2025 1:44:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Great thanks
Good to go.
Christina

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 1:44 PM
To: Grant, Christina s22(1)
Cc: s22(1); s22(1); Spaccavento, Marco s22(1); Frost, Michael s22(1); Pearson, Nicole s22(1); s22(1) IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>; IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Wells expense self-referral [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Christina,

I've removed the sentence. If you're happy with that, I'll send the response.

Regards
s22(1)

From: Grant, Christina s22(1)
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 1:35 PM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Cc: s22(1); s22(1); Spaccavento, Marco s22(1); Frost, Michael s22(1); Pearson, Nicole s22(1); s22(1) IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Wells expense self-referral [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks
Have added a comment...

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 1:32 PM
To: Grant, Christina s22(1)
Cc: s22(1)
s22(1) Spaccavento, Marco s22(1); Frost, Michael s22(1); Pearson, Nicole s22(1) IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; s22(1)
s22(1) IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Wells expense self-referral [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

Draft response to s22(1)'s media enquiry from Capital Brief: [Media inquiry - s22\(1\) - Capital Brief - 10 December 2025.docx](#)

All Chiefs, s22(1) have approved.

s22(1) for visibility.

Cheers

s22(1)

From: s22(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2025 10:55 AM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Wells expense self-referral

You don't often get email from s22(1) [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi

I am s22(1). I'm chief political correspondent for Capital Brief, based in the Press Gallery.

I bet I am not the only person asking this, but is IPEA able to give any indication of how long it will take to review Anika Wells' expenses.

s22(1)

s22(1)

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Response:

Dear Mr s22(1)

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA conducts assurance activities on parliamentarians' work resources, but we do not comment on individual matters or timeframes. Details about IPEA's [assurance and audit functions can be found on our website](#) and in our [fact sheet](#).

Kind regards

Enquiry:

From: s22(1)

Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 10:54:38 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Wells expense self-referral

Hi

I am s22(1) I'm chief political correspondent for Capital Brief, based in the Press Gallery.

I bet I am not the only person asking this, but is IPEA able to give any indication of how long it will take to review Anika Wells' expenses.

s22(1)

s22(1)

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Cc: [s22\(1\)](#) [Spaccavento, Marco](#); [Pearson, Nicole](#); [Frost, Michael](#); [s22\(1\)](#) [IPEA CEO](#)
Subject: RE: ABC News inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 11 December 2025 4:28:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Good to go. Thanks.

From: IPEA Media Enquires
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 4:18 PM
To: Grant, Christina
Cc: [s22\(1\)](#)
[s22\(1\)](#) [Spaccavento, Marco](#); [Pearson, Nicole](#); [Frost, Michael](#); [IPEA Media Enquires](#); [s22\(1\)](#) [IPEA CEO](#)
Subject: RE: ABC News inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

We have a media enquiry from [s22\(1\)](#) at the ABC. Draft response: [Media inquiry - s22\(1\) - ABC - 10 December 2025.docx](#)

[Michael, s22\(1\)](#) and [s22\(1\)](#) have approved.

Regards

[s22\(1\)](#)

From: [s22\(1\)](#)
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 12:17:38 PM
To: mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: ABC News inquiry

Hi IPEA media team,

I'm hoping to clarify a comment the Communications Minister Anika Wells made at a press conference today.

The Minister said: "the rules are set at arms-length from parliamentarians" and that "IPEA regularly reviews these things".

Can I please clarify ...

1. Who sets the rules for parliamentarians' travel? Is it governed by legislation, or by rules set by another agency?
2. Does IPEA play a role in reviewing the rules governing parliamentarians' travel?
3. Does IPEA plan to review the rules as they stand?

My deadline is 5pm.

Many thanks

[s22\(1\)](#)

[s22\(1\)](#)

ABC national affairs correspondent
Parliament House, Canberra

P: [s22\(1\)](#)



M: s22(1)

E: s22(1)

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Draft response:

Dear Ms s22(1)

Thank you for your inquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

The [Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017](#) and the [Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017](#) set out the framework (the PBR Framework) that governs the use of Commonwealth resources by parliamentarians. The Department of Finance has policy responsibility for this legislation and questions about the PBR Framework, including questions about legislative review, should be directed there: mediaenquiries@finance.gov.au.

IPEA has responsibility for administering, processing and providing assurance over travel expenses for parliamentarians under the PBR Framework. IPEA's functions in relation to parliamentarians and their staff are set out in section 12 of the [Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017](#).

Kind regards

Original question:

Hi IPEA media team,

I'm hoping to clarify a comment the Communications Minister Anika Wells made at a press conference today.

The Minister said: "the rules are set at arms-length from parliamentarians" and that "IPEA regularly reviews these things".

Can I please clarify ...

1. Who sets the rules for parliamentarians' travel? Is it governed by legislation, or by rules set by another agency?
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3. Does IPEA plan to review the rules as they stand?

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Many thanks

s22(1)

s22(1)

ABC national affairs correspondent



Parliament House, Canberra

P: +s22(1)

M: +s22(1)

E: s22(1)

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Cc: s22(1); [Frost, Michael](#); [Spaccavento, Marco](#); [Pearson, Nicole](#); s22(1)
s22(1); [IPEA CEO](#)
Subject: RE: media - The Guardian [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 11 December 2025 4:34:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks have made a few adjustments. Agreed as now drafted
Christina

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 4:23 PM
To: Grant, Christina s22(1)
Cc: s22(1); IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; Frost, Michael s22(1); Spaccavento, Marco s22(1); Pearson, Nicole s22(1); s22(1); IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
Subject: RE: media - The Guardian [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

Media inquiry from s22(1) Draft response: [Media inquiry - s22\(1\) - The Guardian - 10 December 2025.docx](#)

Michael, Marco and Nicole have approved.

Cheers

s22(1)

From: s22(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2025 11:18 AM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: media - The Guardian

hi

s22(1) from the Guardian in Canberra. Can I ask please, for a story I'm working on regarding political expenses, the following questions:

- does IPEA have plans to undertake its own review, broadly, of the political expenses

and entitlements system and how it is applied to spending on parliamentary business?

- can IPEA launch its own review of the parliamentary expenses system independently, or can it only do so after a request from government or parliament?
- does public attention on the political expenses system encourage IPEA to undertake a review of the system or examine how expenses are currently being claimed?
- does IPEA believe all expenses claimed by politicians are currently meeting expectations of the Parliamentary Business Resources Act?
- what can IPEA say about the self-referral from Anika Wells? Can you comment on whether IPEA will examine this spending, how long will such a review take, and when would IPEA expect to publish a public version of the audit?

Any response as soon as possible would be much appreciated

thank you

§22(1)
Political Reporter + Chief of Staff
Guardian Australia

§22(1)
Twitter: §22(1) BlueSky: §22(1)

§22(1)

Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

theguardian.com/au

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Draft response:

Dear Mr s22(1)

Thank you for your inquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

Parliamentarians' expenditure is defined by legislation, primarily the [Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017](#) (PBR Act), the [Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017](#), and a number of determinations available on our [legislation page](#). As these are all administered by the Department of Finance (Finance), your first 3 questions are best directed to: mediaenquiries@finance.gov.au.

IPEA conducts a range of assurance and audit activities on parliamentarians' work resources. The [IPEA Assurance Strategy](#) provides guidance on how IPEA approaches these activities. IPEA does not comment on individual matters or timeframes.

Details about IPEA's [assurance and audit functions](#) can be found on our website and in our [fact sheet](#) and [assurance reviews](#) and [audits](#) are published on our website.

Kind regards

Original query:

hi

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- does IPEA have plans to undertake its own review, broadly, of the political expenses and entitlements system and how it is applied to spending on parliamentary business?
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- does IPEA believe all expenses claimed by politicians are currently meeting expectations of the Parliamentary Business Resources Act?
- what can IPEA say about the self-referral from Anika Wells? Can you comment on whether IPEA will examine this spending, how long will such a review take, and when would IPEA expect to publish a public version of the audit?

Any response as soon as possible would be much appreciated

thank you

s22(1)

Political Reporter + Chief of Staff

Guardian Australia

s22(1)

Twitter: s22(1) BlueSky: s22(1)

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Cc: [s22\(1\)](#); [Spaccavento, Marco](#); [s22\(1\)](#); [Frost, Michael](#); [IPEA CEO](#); [s22\(1\)](#)
Subject: RE: Guardian Australia (follow up) media request [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 11 December 2025 5:20:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks have adjusted and if everyone is comfortable this is good to go

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 4:55 PM
To: Grant, Christina [s22\(1\)](#)
Cc: [s22\(1\)](#); IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; Pearson, Nicole [s22\(1\)](#); [s22\(1\)](#); Spaccavento, Marco [s22\(1\)](#); Frost, Michael [s22\(1\)](#); IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au> [s22\(1\)](#); [s22\(1\)](#)
Subject: RE: Guardian Australia (follow up) media request [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

Draft response to a follow up media enquiry from [s22\(1\)](#) (female – so Ms not Mr as in our initial enquiry response) at the Guardian: [Media inquiry - s22\(1\) s22\(1\) - The Guardian - 9 December 2025.docx](#)

Initial enquiry for context: [Media inquiry - s22\(1\) - The Guardian - 8 December 2025.docx](#)

Thanks,

[s22\(1\)](#)

From: [s22\(1\)](#)
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 5:07:52 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Guardian Australia media request [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi IPEA,

A follow up questions please - I've read the rules but would ask if you could please explain them more to me.

When it comes to the nine business class return trips allotted between home base and Canberra, is there a dollar figure for that budget?

For a senior office holder who may access alternate travel arrangements, could you please spell out what those alternate arrangements are and exactly who those senior office holders are (i.e please explain exactly which office holders they include).

If the nine trips are reached within the space of a financial year, does IPEA approve additional trips? Is it up to the office holder rather than IPEA to monitor how many flights they claim for a spouse or family member?

And on the auditing process - when you say that IPEA "actively monitors and audits" travel expenses - can you please explain what that means? Are they being constantly checked or does an audit or monitor only begin when someone has been referred, or referred themselves to IPEA?

Thanks,
s22(1)

On Tue, 9 Dec 2025 at 16:02, IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Dear Mr **s22(1)**

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

While IPEA does not comment on individual matters related to current or former parliamentarians, we have provided a general response below. Questions regarding individual matters are best directed to the relevant current or former parliamentarian.

Travel expenses for family reunion purposes

The Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 (the regulations) prescribe travel expenses for a parliamentarian's family travel within Australia. In accordance with Division 2 of the regulations, a parliamentarian travelling within Australia on parliamentary business may be accompanied or joined by their spouse, nominee, or dependent child(ren) if:

- the parliamentarian is travelling within Australia for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business, and
- the family member travels to accompany or join the parliamentarian, and
- the travel by the family member is for the dominant purpose of facilitating the parliamentarian's family life.

Where these regulatory requirements are met, parliamentarians may access two family reunion budgets:

- Canberra and local area travel is calculated to a dollar value using the cost of nine return business class tickets for a spouse, de facto or nominee, and three economy class tickets for each dependent. This is based on the return airfare from the spouse, nominee, or dependent's home base airport to Canberra.
- Australia-wide family travel is calculated on a trip count of three trips (a trip is there and back) and is provided to all parliamentarians who have nominated family.

Section 24 of the regulations provides that the spouse of senior office holders may access alternate travel arrangements. These apply where the spouse or partner of a senior office holder is travelling to attend an official engagement or for family reunion purposes.

It may be useful to note that international travel has separate provisions and approval requirements. Further information about international travel for parliamentary business is available on the IPEA website:

<https://www.ipea.gov.au/travel/parliamentarian-travel/international-travel>

Accountability

Parliamentarians are personally responsible for overseeing and managing their travel budgets. IPEA also actively monitors and audits travel expenses, allowances, and budgets to ensure these work expenses are accessed appropriately.

IPEA takes a multi-layered approach to assurance and audit activities. This includes post-payment checking, assurance reviews, and audits. More information about our audit function is available in the Statutory audit function fact sheet on our website: <https://www.ipea.gov.au/publications/fact-sheets/statutory-audit-function-fact-sheet>

Kind regards

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

T: 02 6215 3000

E: mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au

W: www.ipea.gov.au

Social: [LinkedIn](#) / [X](#)



From: s22(1)

Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 4:05 PM

To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Guardian Australia media request

You don't often get email from s22(1). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi all,

I hope you're well.

I have a question about family reunion travel if IPEA could please provide some information to me.

The rules around family reunion travel on the IPEA website state:

Family reunion travel to Canberra and within local area

Subject to a cost limit, the Commonwealth pays for a parliamentarian's family's transport costs for travel between any of the following destinations for family reunion purposes:

- the family member's home base
- the parliamentarian's home base
- Canberra
- places in the State or Territory in which the parliamentarian's electorate is located.

Australia wide family reunion travel:

- In each financial year, a parliamentarian's family members may access three return fares—in total, not each—to travel for family reunion purposes.
- Family members may travel by scheduled commercial transport at no

higher than business class.

- If a return fare is not required for particular travel, a one-way fare may be used.
- A one-way fare counts as half of a return fare.

Can you please tell me what the cost limit is for travel and how the up to three return fares for family reunion purposes are monitored?

If I could please draw you to the example of Minister Don Farrell, in the first three quarters of 2025, Minister Farrell has claimed \$42,312.62 in family travel expenses.

This includes flights between Adelaide and Canberra, but also other trips which would be classed as family reunion to other cities including Sydney, Melbourne, Launceston. A few examples from this year - within the 2024/25 financial year:

Adelaide to Melbourne 1 Mar 25: \$232.33

Melbourne to Adelaide 2 Mar 25: \$358.60

Adelaide to Sydney 4 Apr 25: \$269.21

Sydney to Adelaide 5 Apr 25: \$260.03

Adelaide to Sydney 31 May 25: \$1,364.26

Sydney to Adelaide 1 Jun 25: \$609.45

Adelaide to Melbourne 24 Jun 25: \$381.28

Melbourne to Launceston 24 Jun 25: \$366.83

Hobart to Adelaide 25 Jun 25: \$180.05

If I could please receive a response by 12pm Tuesday that would be much appreciated. My number is s22(1) if there are any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

s22(1)

--

s22(1)

Political reporter/ live blogger

The Guardian | Australia

s22(1)

Image removed by sender.

s22(1) Parliamentary Press Gallery
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600
theguardian.com/au

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s22(1)
Political reporter/ live blogger
The Guardian | Australia
s22(1)

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Suite 68, Parliamentary Press Gallery
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600
theguardian.com/au

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Response:

Dear Ms **S22(1)**

Thank you for your follow-up enquiry.

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) does not approve additional trips once the family reunion travel budget has been exhausted. To confirm, this budget is a dollar value equivalent to the cost of nine return business class airfares for a spouse, de facto partner or nominee, and three return economy class airfares for each dependent. These calculations are based on the return airfare from the spouse, nominee or dependent's home base airport to Canberra. Further information can be found under regulations 16 and 29 of the [Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017](#).

Information about which positions meet the definition of a senior office holder, and the family travel provisions for office holders is available on the [Family Reunion Travel](#) page of our website. This website content is based on the relevant provisions in the [Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017](#) (regulations 24 and 28 for a spouse and 18 and 19 for dependent children).

As with all parliamentarian travel, office holders are personally responsible for overseeing and managing their travel budgets and they must meet the [obligations](#) defined in the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* when accessing these travel expenses.

IPEA's active monitoring of travel expenses refers to our [assurance and audit](#) function. This includes [the following activities](#):

- post payment checks – IPEA's ongoing systematic sampling and checking of travel-related transactions
- preliminary assessments – conducted where there is an indication that a parliamentary work resource or a Members of Parliament (Staff) travel resource may have been incorrectly accessed. Indication may be by way of data analysis, direct contact, third party reporting or media.
- assurance reviews
- audits.

IPEA also makes rulings that determine whether a parliamentarian has breached certain provisions. Completed [audits and rulings](#) as well as [assurance reviews](#) are published on the IPEA website.

Kind regards

Enquiry:

From: s22(1)

Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 5:07:52 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Guardian Australia media request [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi IPEA,

A follow up questions please - I've read the rules but would ask if you could please explain them more to me.

When it comes to the nine business class return trips allotted between home base and Canberra, is there a dollar figure for that budget?

For a senior office holder who may access alternate travel arrangements, could you please spell out what those alternate arrangements are and exactly who those senior office holders are (i.e please explain exactly which office holders they include).

If the nine trips are reached within the space of a financial year, does IPEA approve additional trips? Is it up to the office holder rather than IPEA to monitor how many flights they claim for a spouse or family member?

And on the auditing process - when you say that IPEA "actively monitors and audits" travel expenses - can you please explain what that means? Are they being constantly checked or does an audit or monitor only begin when someone has been referred, or referred themselves to IPEA?

Thanks, s22(1)

Draft response:

Dear Mrs **s22(1)**

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

While IPEA does not comment on individual matters related to current or former parliamentarians, we have provided a general response below. Questions regarding individual matters are best directed to the relevant current or former parliamentarian.

Travel expenses for family reunion purposes

The Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 (the regulations) prescribe travel expenses for a parliamentarian's family travel within Australia. In accordance with Division 2 of the regulations, a parliamentarian travelling within Australia on parliamentary business may be accompanied or joined by their spouse, nominee, or dependent child(ren) if:

- the parliamentarian is travelling within Australia for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business, and
- the family member travels to accompany or join the parliamentarian, and
- the travel by the family member is for the dominant purpose of facilitating the parliamentarian's family life.

Where these regulatory requirements are met, parliamentarians may access two family reunion budgets:

- Canberra and local area travel is calculated to a dollar value using the cost of nine return business class tickets for a spouse, de facto or nominee, and three economy class tickets for each dependent. This is based on the return airfare from the spouse, nominee, or dependent's home base airport to Canberra.
- Australia-wide family travel is calculated on a trip count of three trips (a trip is there and back) and is provided to all parliamentarians who have nominated family.

Section 24 of the regulations provides that the spouse of senior office holders may access alternate travel arrangements. These apply where the spouse or partner of a senior office holder is travelling to attend an official engagement or for family reunion purposes.

It may be useful to note that international travel has separate provisions and approval requirements. Further information about international travel for parliamentary business is available on the IPEA website: [International travel | Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority](#)

Accountability

Parliamentarians are personally responsible for overseeing and managing their travel budgets. IPEA also actively monitors and audits travel expenses, allowances, and budgets to ensure these work expenses are accessed appropriately.

IPEA takes a multi-layered approach to assurance and audit activities. This includes post-payment checking, assurance reviews, and audits. More information about our audit function is available in the Statutory audit function fact sheet on our website:

[Statutory audit function fact sheet](#)

Kind regards

Original inquiry:

Hi all,

I hope you're well.

I have a question about family reunion travel if IPEA could please provide some information to me.

The rules around family reunion travel on the IPEA website state:

Family reunion travel to Canberra and within local area

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This includes flights between Adelaide and Canberra, but also other trips which would be classed as family reunion to other cities including Sydney, Melbourne, Launceston. A few examples from this year - within the 2024/25 financial year:

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Melbourne to Adelaide 2 Mar 25: \$358.60

Adelaide to Sydney 4 Apr 25: \$269.21

Sydney to Adelaide 5 Apr 25: \$260.03

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Adelaide to Melbourne 24 Jun 25: \$381.28

Melbourne to Launceston 24 Jun 25: \$366.83

Hobart to Adelaide 25 Jun 25: \$180.05

If I could please receive a response by 12pm Tuesday that would be much appreciated.

My number is s22(1) if there are any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

s22(1)

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [Spaccavento, Marco](#) §22(1)
Subject: RE: media enquiry - sky news [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 11 December 2025 6:04:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Ok this is where we got to:

IPEA's CEO, Christina Grant, is a career public servant and has never worked as a political staffer or for a member of any Government. In all Australian Public Service (APS) roles, Ms Grant has complied with the APS Values and Code of Conduct, which include the obligation to act impartially.

IPEA operates independently of Government. The CEO works with the Members of the Authority at arm's length from Government to ensure the agencies actions and decisions remain impartial.

IPEA's oversight provides assurance to the public, parliamentarians and their staff that parliamentary work expenses are being used in accordance with the [Framework](#). This oversight role covers parliamentarians' work expenses and staff travel expenditure matters.

When IPEA has, or becomes aware of, information that indicates possible non-compliance with the [Framework](#), IPEA acts in accordance with its [protocol for Dealing with Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses](#). This protocol sets out the scope of IPEA's authority and powers, and the process IPEA follows in dealing with concerns of possible misuse.

IPEA operates in accordance with the *Public Service Act 1999* (PS Act) section 10 which sets out the APS values and section 13 which sets out code of conduct requirements. Accordingly, IPEA requires all staff, including the CEO, to comply with the PS Act and all related internal conflict-of-interest policies.

From: Spaccavento, Marco §22(1)
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 5:41 PM
To: Grant, Christina §22(1)
Cc: §22(1)
Subject: RE: media enquiry - sky news [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

IPEA's CEO is a career public servant and has never worked as a political staffer or for a member of any Government. As with all public servants, in all of her Australian Government roles Ms Grant has been obliged to comply with the APS Values and APS Code of Conduct. This includes the obligation to be impartial.

Christina works with the Members of the Authority and operates at arms length from the Government, to ensure that IPEA's decisions remain independent.

From: Grant, Christina §22(1)
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 4:59 PM
To: §22(1) Spaccavento, Marco §22(1)
Subject: RE: media enquiry - sky news [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Oh... that's a bit personal

From: §22(1)
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 4:52 PM
To: Grant, Christina §22(1) Spaccavento, Marco §22(1)

Subject: FW: media enquiry - sky news [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

For early vis...

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 4:42 PM
To: §22(1)
Subject: FW: media enquiry - sky news [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

From: §22(1)
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 4:16 PM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: media enquiry - sky news

Hi media team,

Could you please provide a response to a few questions re: CEO Christina Grant's history in the government?

Given Ms Grant's previous role within PM&C during Labor's first term, how do you ensure that IPEA remains completely independent of any prior government affiliations?

Can you outline the mechanisms at IPEA in conducting reviews of parliamentarian's conduct, such as Anika Wells? Who is involved in reviewing her travel decisions?

How does IPEA manage potential conflicts of interest when senior staff have previously held positions advising or reporting to government ministers?

I have a 9am deadline.

§22(1)
Political Reporter– Sky News Australia
2 Holt Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010
Locked Bag 918, North Sydney NSW 2059

§22(1)
§22(1) [W www.skynews.com.au](http://www.skynews.com.au)



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From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Cc: [§22\(1\)](#); [Frost, Michael](#); [Pearson, Nicole](#); [Spaccavento, Marco](#); [IPEA CEO](#)
Subject: RE: Sky News - Media Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 12 December 2025 2:29:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Good to go. Thanks.

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 2:28 PM
To: Grant, Christina [§22\(1\)](#)
Cc: [§22\(1\)](#)
[§22\(1\)](#); Frost, Michael [§22\(1\)](#); Pearson, Nicole [§22\(1\)](#); Spaccavento, Marco [§22\(1\)](#); IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>; IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Sky News - Media Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Christina.

I've accepted all changes in the document. If you're happy with it now, I'll send.

Cheers

[§22\(1\)](#)

From: Grant, Christina [§22\(1\)](#)
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 2:15 PM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Cc: [§22\(1\)](#)
[§22\(1\)](#); Frost, Michael <[§22\(1\)](#)>; Pearson, Nicole <[§22\(1\)](#)>; Spaccavento, Marco [§22\(1\)](#); IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Sky News - Media Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks

See changes in track

Christina

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 1:56 PM

To: Grant, Christina s22(1)

Cc: s22(1)

Frost, Michael s22(1); Pearson, Nicole

s22(1); IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>;

Spaccavento, Marco s22(1); IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Sky News - Media Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

We have a media enquiry from s22(1) at Sky News. The information was largely taken from other approved responses: [Media enquiry - s22\(1\) - Sky News - 12 December 2025.docx](#)

The Chiefs have all approved.

Cheers

s22(1)

From: s22(1)

Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 9:15 AM

To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Sky News - Media Inquiry

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Good morning

I'm hoping you may be able to provide some information about the inquiry into Minister Wells' expenses.

How long, in a ballpark sense, is the inquiry expected to take? And to what extent are her expenses, and the expenses of others, are reviewed on a regular basis?

On a related matter —

In relation to reporting Senator Sarah Hanson-Young's claims, do IPEA rules outline any restrictions whatsoever for a spouse to regularly claim flights to a city where they also conduct regular ongoing business and employment?

And does the IPEA intend to review Senator Hanson-Young's claims? Or would it require a direct referral from herself or someone else?

Any information you could provide along these lines would be a great assistance in our

reporting.

Many thanks

s22(1)

s22(1)

Political Correspondent – Sky News

s22(1)

Parliament House Canberra

ACT 2600



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Draft response:

Dear Mr **s22(1)**

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA does not comment on individual matters related to current or former parliamentarians. Questions regarding such matters are best directed to the relevant current or former parliamentarian.

IPEA's audit and assurance function

When IPEA has, or becomes aware of, information that indicates possible non-compliance with the [Framework](#), IPEA acts in accordance with its [protocol for Dealing with Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses](#). IPEA's protocol sets out the scope of IPEA's authority and powers, and the process IPEA follows in dealing with concerns of possible misuse.

Details about IPEA's assurance and audit functions can be found in our [Statutory audit function fact sheet](#). All parliamentarians' offices are subject to one or more assurance activity each financial year.

Travel expenses for family reunion purposes

[The Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017](#) (the regulations) prescribe travel expenses for a parliamentarian's family travel within Australia. In accordance with Division 2 of the regulations, a parliamentarian travelling within Australia on parliamentary business may be accompanied or joined by their spouse, nominee, or dependent child(ren) if:

- the parliamentarian is travelling within Australia for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business, and
- the family member travels to accompany or join the parliamentarian, and
- the travel by the family member is for the dominant purpose of facilitating the parliamentarian's family life.

Kind regards

Original email:

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And does the IPEA intend to review Senator Hanson-Young's claims? Or would it require a direct referral from herself or someone else?

Any information you could provide along these lines would be a great assistance in our reporting.

Many thanks

s22(1)

s22(1)

Political Correspondent – Sky News

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Subject: RE: Media inquiry - SMH/Age [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 12 December 2025 4:00:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Looks good to me. Thanks!

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 3:45 PM
To: Grant, Christina [s22\(1\)](#)
Cc: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media inquiry - SMH/Age [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Christina,

I've removed the duplicate link to the protocol. It was in the text, but also part of 'further details...'.
'

If you're happy with that I'll send it out. [Media inquiry - \[s22\\(1\\)\]\(#\) - \[Nine.com.au\]\(#\) - \[12 December 2025.docx\]\(#\)](#)

Cheers

[s22\(1\)](#)

From: Grant, Christina [s22\(1\)](#)
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 3:31 PM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Cc: Frost, Michael [s22\(1\)](#); Spaccavento, Marco [s22\(1\)](#); Pearson, Nicole [s22\(1\)](#)
[s22\(1\)](#)
Subject: RE: Media inquiry - SMH/Age [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks – slight cut back on this one

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 3:10 PM
To: Grant, Christina [s22\(1\)](#)
Cc: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; Frost, Michael

s22(1) ; Spaccavento, Marco s22(1) ;
Pearson, Nicole s22(1)
s22(1)

Subject: RE: Media inquiry - SMH/Age [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

Please find a draft response to a media enquiry from s22(1) at The Age for your review/approval: [Media inquiry - s22\(1\) - Nine.com.au - 12 December 2025.docx](#)

All chiefs have approved.

Cheers

s22(1)

From: s22(1)
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 3:58 PM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Media inquiry - SMH/Age

Hi there,

I'm hoping to learn of the status of any inquiry into Minister Anika Wells' use of entitlements.

How is IPEA describing the inquiry? Is it an audit or an investigation? What is the scope?

Please get back to me by 530pm.

Thanks in advance

s22(1)

--

s22(1) Chief Political Correspondent

s22(1)



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Draft response:

Dear Mr s22(1)

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA does not comment on individual matters related to current or former parliamentarians.

IPEA acts in accordance with its [Protocol for Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses](#).

Further details can be found on our website:

- [Assurance and audit functions](#)
- [Statutory audit function fact sheet](#).

Kind regards

Original email:

Hi there,

I'm hoping to learn of the status of any inquiry into Minister Anika Wells' use of entitlements.

How is IPEA describing the inquiry? Is it an audit or an investigation? What is the scope?

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s22(1)

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s22(1)

Chief Political Correspondent

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Cc: [s22\(1\)](#); [Pearson, Nicole](#); [Spaccavento, Marco](#); [s22\(1\)](#); [Frost, Michael](#); [IPEA CEO](#)
Subject: RE: Enquiry - Guardian Australia [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 12 December 2025 4:04:44 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Good to go thanks
Christina

From: IPEA Media Enquires
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 4:00 PM
To: Grant, Christina
Cc: [s22\(1\)](#); [Pearson, Nicole](#); [Spaccavento, Marco](#); [s22\(1\)](#); [IPEA Media Enquires](#); [Frost, Michael](#); [IPEA CEO](#)
Subject: RE: Enquiry - Guardian Australia [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,
Please find a media enquiry from [s22\(1\)](#) at Guardian Australia for your review/approval. [Media enquiry - s22\(1\) - Guardian Australia - 12-12-2025.docx](#)

Chiefs have all approved.

Cheers

[s22\(1\)](#)

From: [s22\(1\)](#)
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 1:43 PM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Enquiry - Guardian Australia

You don't often get email from [s22\(1\)](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon IPEA,

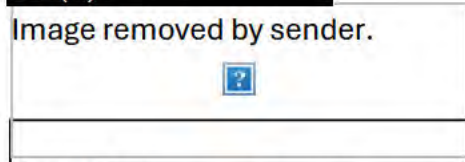
Have any MPs other than Anika Wells and Michelle Rowland referred themselves for review this week?

Thanks for your help.

[s22\(1\)](#)

--
[s22\(1\)](#)
Political editor
The Guardian | Australia

[s22\(1\)](#)
[s22\(1\)](#)



[s22\(1\)](#) Parliamentary Press Gallery
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600
theguardian.com/au

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Draft response:

Dear Mr **s22(1)**

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA does not comment on individual matters related to current or former parliamentarians.

Details about IPEA's assurance and audit functions can be found on our website:

[Assurance and audit | Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority](#)

Kind regards

Original email:

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Have any MPs other than Anika Wells and Michelle Rowland referred themselves for review this week?

Thanks for your help.

s22(1)

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Cc: s22(1); [Pearson, Nicole](#); [Spaccavento, Marco](#); s22(1); [Frost, Michael](#)
Subject: RE: MEDIA INQUIRY (The Guardian): IPEA assurance and audit reviews [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 12 December 2025 6:39:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks approved with a few tweaks.
Christina

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 5:28 PM
To: Grant, Christina s22(1)
Cc: s22(1); [Pearson, Nicole](#) s22(1); IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; [Spaccavento, Marco](#) s22(1); [Frost, Michael](#) s22(1)
Subject: RE: MEDIA INQUIRY (The Guardian): IPEA assurance and audit reviews [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

We have a media enquiry from The Guardian for your review/approval. [Media enquiry - s22\(1\) - The Guardian - 12 December 2025.docx](#)

Chiefs have all reviewed.

Cheers

s22(1)

From: s22(1)
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 10:03 AM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: MEDIA INQUIRY (The Guardian): IPEA assurance and audit reviews

You don't often get email from s22(1). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I hope you're well.

I am covering the matter of parliamentary expenses and want to put some questions

to IPEA about the assurance and audit review process.

If you could provide responses to the following before 2pm today that would be appreciated.

Q. The minister for communications, Anika Wells, issued a statement on 9 December, 2025, confirming that she had "self-referred" her expenditure to IPEA for an audit. Can you confirm that there is no mechanism under the IPEA Act to deal with self-referral. as pointed out [in an audit report into Senator McCarthy's expenses](#)? If that is the case, can - and has - IPEA commenced an audit into Ms Well's expenses? If so, how?

Q. Assurance reviews and audits reach conclusions about whether the relevant expenditure is consistent with the legislative framework but they do not make broader recommendations about the system. Has the government instructed IPEA to provide recommendations, in addition to any conclusions, in any audit of Ms Wells' expenditure?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

s22(1)
Chief political correspondent
The Guardian | Australia

s22(1)

s22(1)

Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600
theguardian.com/au

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Draft response:

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

In accordance with section 12 of the [Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017](#), IPEA may conduct audits that it considers appropriate in relation to parliamentarians' work resources. IPEA handles all allegations of misuse in line with its [Protocol for dealing with allegations of misuse of parliamentary work expenses](#).

When IPEA becomes aware of information that indicates possible non-compliance with the [Framework](#), IPEA may conduct an examination, known as a preliminary assessment. Such an assessment determines whether a parliamentary work resource or Members of Parliament Staff (MOPS) Act employee travel resource has been used.

If the assessment indicates non-compliance, IPEA may:

- audit any parliamentarian's work resource or staff travel resource as it considers appropriate
- conduct an assurance review
- issue a ruling that determines if the travel met legislated requirements.

Further details about IPEA's assurance and audit functions can be found on our website: [Assurance and audit](#).

The Department of Finance (Finance) has responsibility for the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* and the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017* that govern the use of Commonwealth resources by parliamentarians. Any questions related to the legislative framework should be directed to Finance: mediaenquiries@finance.gov.au.

The Prime Minister has asked the Chief Executive Officer of IPEA to provide preliminary advice on matters relating to parliamentary travel.

Kind regards

Original email:

Hello,

I hope you're well.

I am covering the matter of parliamentary expenses and want to put some questions to IPEA about the assurance and audit review process.

If you could provide responses to the following before 2pm today that would be appreciated.

Q. The minister for communications, Anika Wells, issued a statement on 9 December, 2025, confirming that she had "self-referred" her expenditure to IPEA for an audit. Can you confirm that there is no mechanism under the IPEA Act to deal with self-referral. as pointed out [in an audit report into Senator McCarthy's expenses](#)? If that is the case, can - and has - IPEA commenced an audit into Ms Well's expenses? If so, how?

Q. Assurance reviews and audits reach conclusions about whether the relevant expenditure is consistent with the legislative framework but they do not make broader recommendations about the system. Has the government instructed IPEA to provide recommendations, in addition to any conclusions, in any audit of Ms Wells' expenditure?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

s22(1)

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: s22(1)
Cc: [IPEA Media Enquires](#); [Spaccavento, Marco](#)
Subject: RE: Three enquiries related to the PM [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 12 December 2025 6:40:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL

All agreed thanks
Christina

From: s22(1)
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 6:31 PM
To: Grant, Christina s22(1)
Cc: [IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>](#); [Spaccavento, Marco](#)
s22(1)
Subject: Three enquiries related to the PM [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina

Have drafted these 3 to all refer to the media release – will add the link once the media release is published.

Has not been seen by any chiefs but I've copied Marco.

[Media enquiry - s22\(1\) - The Age - 12 December 2025.docx](#)

[Media enquiry - s22\(1\) - Nine - 12 December 2025.docx](#)

[Media inquiry #2 - s22\(1\) - ABC - 12 December 2025.docx](#)

Thanks, s22(1)

s22(1)

Senior Communications and Media Advisor
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

s22(1)

W: www.ipea.gov.au

Social: [LinkedIn](#) / [X](#)



Draft response

Dear Ms s22(1)

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

Please refer to IPEA's [media release](#) regarding the Prime Minister's request.

IPEA will not be providing any further comment at this stage.

Kind regards

Enquiry

From: s22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 1:42:38 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: The Age/SMH - Travel Expense Advice Comment

Good afternoon,

Please can I enquire about the prime minister's comments today that he was seeking advice from IPEA outside of Minister Wells' expenses audit?

Can you please confirm when the prime minister sought this advice from the agency and what he has asked for?

When do you expect to provide it to him and in what form?

Thank you,

s22(1) Federal Politics Reporter

The Sydney Morning Herald

INDEPENDENT. ALWAYS.

s22(1)

Draft response

Dear Ms s22(1)

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

Please refer to IPEA's [media release](#) regarding the Prime Minister's request.

IPEA will not be providing any further comment at this stage.

Kind regards

Enquiry

From: s22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 1:52:55 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: expenses advice

Hello, can I please clarify what specific advice the Prime Minister has asked IPEA to provide on expenses reform? Has he asked for recommendations separate to the review of Anika Wells' expenses or will the Wells report form the basis of wider recommendations? I'd appreciate your response today to clarify this question. Many thanks.

best wishes

s22(1)

Canberra Bureau Chief

Draft response:

Dear Ms s22(1)

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

Please refer to IPEA's [media release](#) regarding the Prime Minister's request.

IPEA will not be providing any further comment at this stage.

Kind regards

Enquiry

Hi there

Can I please confirm

When did the PM/his office ask IPEA for advice.

What is IPEA now looking at for the PM/PM's office.

Needing a response by 2pm today. I appreciate it's a tight deadline but this is breaking news that we need to confirm that we are running the accurate information.

Thanks,

s22(1)

Previous enquiry and response

Dear Ms s22(1)

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA acts in accordance with its [protocol for dealing with allegations of misuse of parliamentary work expenses](#).

When IPEA becomes aware of information that indicates possible non-compliance with the [Framework](#), IPEA may conduct an examination, known as a preliminary assessment. Such an assessment determines whether a parliamentary work resource or Members of Parliament Staff (MOPS) Act employee travel resource has been used.

If the assessment indicates non-compliance, IPEA may:

- audit any parliamentarian's work resource or staff travel resource as it considers appropriate
- conduct an assurance review
- issue a ruling that determines if the travel met legislated requirements.

Further details about IPEA's assurance and audit functions can be found on our website: [Assurance and audit | Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority](#).

Kind regards

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

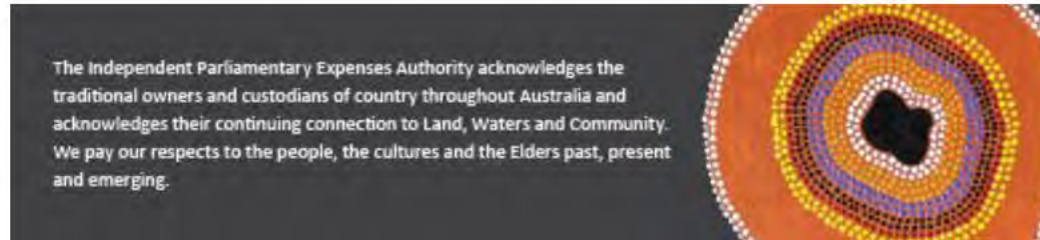
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

T: +61 2 6215 3000

E: mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au

W: www.ipea.gov.au

Social: [LinkedIn](#) / [X](#)



From: s22(1)

Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 10:05 AM

To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Review of travel entitlements

You don't often get email from s22(1) [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi there

Can you please confirm -- who can request a review of the travel entitlements for politicians? Is that a decision made by IPEA or can politicians ask for a review?

Would a review be carried out by IPEA or people outside IPEA?

Needing a response by midday today please.

I'm on s22(1) if you have any questions

Kind regards,

s22(1)

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: s22(1)
Cc: [IPEA Media Enquires](#); s22(1); [Spaccavento, Marco](#)
Subject: RE: Daily Telegraph inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 15 December 2025 12:46:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks good to go with a slight adjustment to refer the query to the relevant parliamentarian – I made the change.

Christina

From: s22(1)
Sent: Monday, 15 December 2025 12:37 PM
To: Grant, Christina s22(1)
Cc: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; s22(1)
s22(1) Spaccavento, Marco
s22(1)
Subject: FW: Daily Telegraph inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina

For approval - draft response to media enquiry from s22(1) [Media enquiry - s22\(1\) - News.com - 14 December 2025.docx](#)

She sent 2 enquiries on Sunday – both are copied in the document.

Has been cleared through Chiefs and s22(1)

Thanks, s22(1)

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 14 December 2025 10:03 AM
To: s22(1)
s22(1)
Subject: FW: Daily Telegraph inquiry

From: s22(1)
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2025 10:01:50 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Daily Telegraph inquiry

You don't often get email from **s22(1)**. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi there,

Hope you're well.

My name is **s22(1)** and I'm a federal politics reporter from The Daily Telegraph.

I wanted to inquire as to what part of Michelle Rowland's 2023 trip, which used the family reunion entitlements, were outside guidelines?

In terms of the current process, Ms Rowland has been informed she'll repay the amount that was outside of guidelines, can IPEA confirm the amount and what that relates to?

In the event a parliamentarian's expenses, in this case related to Ms Rowland's use of the family entitlements, does IPEA ask or advise the parliamentarian to repay the costs of the portion of the expenses?

Is that amount subjected to a 25 per cent penalty, or a penalty?

Has IPEA confirmed the audit requested by Anika Wells?

If I can clarify anything, please feel free to contact me on **s22(1)**

Thank you,

s22(1)

--

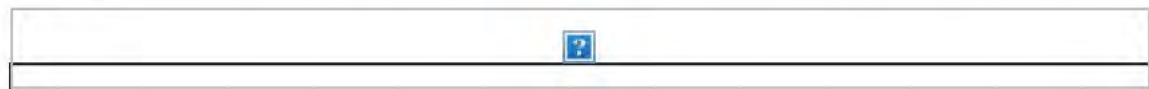
s22(1)

Political Reporter

Press Gallery Parliament House **s22(1)** ACT 2600

s22(1) [W NewsCorpAustralia.com](#)

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Draft response

Dear Ms s22(1)

Thank you for your 2 enquiries to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA does not comment on individual matters, including assurance matters, related to parliamentarians. These queries are best referred to the relevant parliamentarian.

Details about IPEA's assurance and audit functions can be found in our [Statutory Audit Function fact sheet](#) and our [Protocol for Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses](#). [Assurance reviews](#) and [audits](#), once completed, are published on our website.

Please also refer to IPEA's [media release](#). IPEA will not be providing any further comment at this stage.

Enquiry 2

From: s22(1)

Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2025 10:01:50 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Daily Telegraph inquiry

Hi there,

Hope you're well.

My name is s22(1) and I'm a federal politics reporter from The Daily Telegraph.

I wanted to inquire as to what part of Michelle Rowland's 2023 trip, which used the family reunion entitlements, were outside guidelines?

In terms of the current process, Ms Rowland has been informed she'll repay the amount that was outside of guidelines, can IPEA confirm the amount and what that relates to?

In the event a parliamentarian's expenses, in this case related to Ms Rowland's use of the family entitlements, does IPEA ask or advise the parliamentarian to repay the costs of the portion of the expenses?

Is that amount subjected to a 25 per cent penalty, or a penalty?

Has IPEA confirmed the audit requested by Anika Wells?

If I can clarify anything, please feel free to contact me on s22(1).

Thank you, s22(1)

s22(1)

Political Reporter

Press Gallery Parliament House s22(1) Canberra ACT 2600

Enquiry 1

From: s22(1)

Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2025 8:25:06 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Michelle Rowland comment request | Daily Telegraph

Hi there,

Hope you're well.

Can I please confirm reports that IPEA's investigation into Michelle Rowland's trip to WA in 2023 claimed under family reunion entitlements did not meet the guidelines?

Thank you, s22(1)

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: s22(1)
Cc: [IPEA Media Enquires](#); s22(1) [Spaccavento, Marco](#)
Subject: RE: IPEA inquiry, Michelle Rowland - NewsWire [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 15 December 2025 12:47:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Same as the first thanks and now good to go.
Christina

From: s22(1)
Sent: Monday, 15 December 2025 12:38 PM
To: Grant, Christina s22(1)
Cc: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; s22(1)
s22(1) Spaccavento, Marco
s22(1)
Subject: FW: IPEA inquiry, Michelle Rowland - NewsWire [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina

For approval - draft response to media enquiry from s22(1) [Media enquiry - s22\(1\) - News.com - 14 December 2025.docx](#)

Have used the same response as the s22(1) draft (both are news.com press gallery).

Has been cleared through Chiefs and s22(1)

Thanks, s22(1)

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 14 December 2025 9:18 AM
To: s22(1)
s22(1)
Subject: FW: IPEA inquiry, Michelle Rowland - NewsWire

From: s22(1)
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2025 9:17:44 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: IPEA inquiry, Michelle Rowland - NewsWire

You don't often get email from s22(1) . [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

s22(1) here from NewsWire's Canberra bureau. I'm working on a story about the IPEA investigation into Michelle Rowland's 2023 Perth trip and wondering if there are any details that are able to be made public about the investigation, like how much or what portion of the expense breached the guidelines.

Even if there's a general statement on the investigation, that would be great too.

Thanks.

Kindest,

s22(1)

Reporter

Press Gallery Parliament House s22(1) Canberra ACT 2600

s22(1) [NewsCorpAustralia.com](#)

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Proposed response

Dear Ms s22(1)

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA does not comment on individual matters, including assurance matters, related to parliamentarians. Such queries are best referred to the relevant parliamentarian.

Details about IPEA's assurance and audit functions can be found in our [Statutory Audit Function fact sheet](#) and the [Protocol for Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses](#). [Assurance reviews](#) and [audits](#), once completed, are published on our website.

Please also refer to IPEA's [media release](#). IPEA will not be providing any further comment at this stage.

Enquiry

From: s22(1)

Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2025 9:17:44 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: IPEA inquiry, Michelle Rowland - NewsWire

Hi,

s22(1) here from NewsWire's Canberra bureau. I'm working on a story about the IPEA investigation into Michelle Rowland's 2023 Perth trip and wondering if there are any details that are able to be made public about the investigation, like how much or what portion of the expense breached the guidelines.

Even if there's a general statement on the investigation, that would be great too. Thanks.

Kindest, s22(1)

Reporter, Press Gallery Parliament House s22(1) Canberra ACT 2600

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Cc: [s22\(1\)](#); [Pearson, Nicole](#); [Frost, Michael](#); [s22\(1\)](#)
Subject: RE: Media enquiry – sky news [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 22 December 2025 1:27:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks [s22\(1\)](#)

I think the response is fine but would prefer it was not sent till Wednesday please. He has not put a deadline.
Christina

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 22 December 2025 12:31 PM
To: Grant, Christina <[s22\(1\)](#)>
Cc: [s22\(1\)](#)
[Pearson, Nicole](#); [IPEA Media Enquires](#) <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; [Frost, Michael](#)
[s22\(1\)](#)
Subject: RE: Media enquiry – sky news [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

From: Pearson, Nicole [s22\(1\)](#)
Sent: Monday, 22 December 2025 11:54 AM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; [Frost, Michael](#); [s22\(1\)](#)
[s22\(1\)](#)
Cc: [s22\(1\)](#)
Subject: RE: Media enquiry – sky news [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

We have a new media enquiry from [s22\(1\)](#) at Sky News Australia. It came through the general enquiries inbox rather than the media enquiries inbox.

Background: We've had 3 enquiries from [s22\(1\)](#) over last week or so, with the topics including line items in our financial statements, and on 'Christina Grant's history in the government'.

Link to response: [Media enquiry - 22 December 2022 - s22\(1\) - Sky News Australia.docx](#)

The Chiefs have all approved.

Cheers
[s22\(1\)](#)

From: [s22\(1\)](#)
Sent: Sunday, 21 December 2025 10:32 AM
To: IPEA Enquiries <Enquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Media enquiry – sky news

You don't often get email from [s22\(1\)](#) [Learn why this is important](#)
Hi IPEA,

I hope you're doing well.

I'm just reaching out to ask for a state update on the investigation into the expense claims submitted by Anika Wells.

Has the IPEA identified any discrepancies or irregularities in the submitted claims to date?

Are there any confirmed repayments or corrections associated with the Anika Wells claims? If so, what are the amounts and dates?

What is the expected timeline for completion of the investigation?

Will the findings be made publicly available, and if so, through which channels or reports?

Has Anika Wells been formally notified of any concerns, and has she provided a response or clarification to the IPEA?

Best,

s22(1)

s22(1)

Political Reporter- Sky News Australia

2 Holt Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010

Locked Bag 918, North Sydney NSW 2059

s22(1)

s22(1) [W www.skynews.com.au](http://www.skynews.com.au)



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Draft response:

Dear Mrs22(1)

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA does not comment on individual matters, including assurance matters, related to parliamentarians. Such queries are best referred to the relevant parliamentarian.

Details about IPEA's assurance and audit functions can be found in our [Statutory Audit Function](#) fact sheet and the [Protocol for Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses](#). Published [audits, rulings](#), and [assurance reviews](#) are available on our website. Further details can be found on our [Assurance and audit](#) page.

Please also refer to IPEA's [media release](#). IPEA will not be providing any further comment at this stage.

Kind regards

Original enquiry:

Hi IPEA,

I hope you're doing well.

I'm just reaching out to ask for a state update on the investigation into the expense claims submitted by Anika Wells.

Has the IPEA identified any discrepancies or irregularities in the submitted claims to date?

Are there any confirmed repayments or corrections associated with the Anika Wells claims? If so, what are the amounts and dates?

What is the expected timeline for completion of the investigation?

Will the findings be made publicly available, and if so, through which channels or reports?

Has Anika Wells been formally notified of any concerns, and has she provided a response or clarification to the IPEA?

Best,

s22(1)

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Subject: RE: Media enquiry – sky news [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 24 December 2025 11:09:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks s22(1)

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 December 2025 11:08 AM
To: Grant, Christina s22(1)
Cc: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Media enquiry – sky news [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

The media response to s22(1) at Sky News Australia has been sent.

Cheers
s22(1)

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 December 2025 11:06 AM
To: s22(1)
Subject: RE: Media enquiry – sky news [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Mr s22(1)

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA does not comment on individual matters, including assurance matters, related to parliamentarians. Such queries are best referred to the relevant parliamentarian.

Details about IPEA's assurance and audit functions can be found in our [Statutory Audit Function](#) fact sheet and the [Protocol for Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses](#). Published [audits, rulings](#), and [assurance reviews](#) are available on our website. Further details can be found on our [Assurance and audit](#) page.Please also refer to IPEA's [media release](#). IPEA will not be providing any further comment at this stage.

Kind regards

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: 02 6215 3000
E: mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au
Social: [LinkedIn](#) / [X](#)



From: s22(1)
Sent: Sunday, 21 December 2025 10:32 AM

To: IPEA Enquiries <Enquiries@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Media enquiry – sky news

You don't often get email from **s22(1)**. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi IPEA,

I hope you're doing well.

I'm just reaching out to ask for a state update on the investigation into the expense claims submitted by Anika Wells.

Has the IPEA identified any discrepancies or irregularities in the submitted claims to date?

Are there any confirmed repayments or corrections associated with the Anika Wells claims? If so, what are the amounts and dates?

What is the expected timeline for completion of the investigation?

Will the findings be made publicly available, and if so, through which channels or reports?

Has Anika Wells been formally notified of any concerns, and has she provided a response or clarification to the IPEA?

Best,

s22(1)

s22(1)

Political Reporter– Sky News Australia

2 Holt Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010

Locked Bag 918, North Sydney NSW 2059

s22(1)

s22(1) [W www.skynews.com.au](http://www.skynews.com.au)



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From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#); s22(1)
Subject: RE: Response to correction request - article MPs home loan perks and syndications [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 4:09:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Amazing – thanks very much
Christina

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 4:05 PM
To: Grant, Christina s22(1)
Cc: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Response to correction request - article MPs home loan perks and syndications [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina and s22(1)

We've received a quick response from s22(1) and I can confirm the online version is updated:

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/nsw/outoftown-politicians-can-use-322-daily-allowance-to-fund-their-canberra-mortgage/news-story/c02bc0c7e8ad0d093025d7b9078ec485?btr=9b6df7e40b883376c800d294426145db>

If you agree, I will send a brief response:

Dear Ms s22(1)

Thank you for your quick response and correction to the online version. It's much appreciated.

Kind regards

From: s22(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 3:51 PM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Cc: s22(1)
s22(1)
Subject: Re: Correction request - article MPs home loan perks and syndications [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi there,

Apologies for that. Confirming that the online copy has been amended to reflect the above.

Warm regards,

s22(1)

On Wed, 7 Jan 2026 at 15:39, IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Dear **s22(1)**

I am writing on behalf of the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to the article published 7 January 2026 as follows:

- Herald Sun: MPs home loan perks
- Courier Mail Brisbane: MPs pay off homes on us
- Hobart Mercury: Capital gain as polities home in
- NT News: Out-of-town politicians can use \$322 daily allowance to fund their Canberra mortgage

All 4 articles state that parliamentarians' travel allowance rates are set by IPEA. However, this is not correct, they are set by the Remuneration Tribunal. Once set by the Remuneration Tribunal, IPEA is responsible for the administration of the travel allowance.

For reference, information on travel allowances, including that they are set by the Remuneration Tribunal, can be found on our website:

<https://www.ipea.gov.au/travel/parliamentarian-travel/travel-allowances>.

We respectfully request a correction and appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Kind regards

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

T: +61 2 6215 3000

E: mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au

W: www.ipea.gov.au

Social: [LinkedIn](#) / [X](#)



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--

s22(1)

Political Reporter

Press Gallery Parliament House **s22(1)** Canberra ACT 2600

s22(1)

s22(1) [W NewsCorpAustralia.com](http://www.w NewsCorpAustralia.com)

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land in all states and territories on which we work and report. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present, and honour their history, cultures, and traditions of storytelling.



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From: [Grant, Christina](#)
 To: [IPEA Media Enquires; IPEA CEO](#)
 Cc: [S22\(1\)](#)
 Subject: RE: Media correction - 2GB 'Luke Grant over Summer' program - 7 January 2026 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
 Date: Thursday, 8 January 2026 3:05:00 PM
 Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thank you!

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
 Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 1:16 PM
 To: Grant, Christina [S22\(1\)](#); IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
 Cc: [S22\(1\)](#); IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Media correction - 2GB 'Luke Grant over Summer' program - 7 January 2026 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Christina, the email has been sent.
 Cheers [S22\(1\)](#)

From: Grant, Christina [S22\(1\)](#)
 Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 12:56 PM
 To: [S22\(1\)](#); IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
 Cc: [S22\(1\)](#); IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Media correction - 2GB 'Luke Grant over Summer' program - 7 January 2026 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks [S22\(1\)](#)
 I agree your changes make sense.
 Christina

From: [S22\(1\)](#)
 Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 12:49 PM
 To: Grant, Christina [S22\(1\)](#); IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
 Cc: [S22\(1\)](#); IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Media correction - 2GB 'Luke Grant over Summer' program - 7 January 2026 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Again – including the CEO mailbox – apologies.

From: [S22\(1\)](#)
 Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 12:48 PM
 To: Grant, Christina [S22\(1\)](#)
 Cc: [S22\(1\)](#)
 Subject: Media correction - 2GB 'Luke Grant over Summer' program - 7 January 2026 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina

For your approval: draft correction to send to the 2GB newsdesk: [Media correction - 2GB - 7 January 2026.docx](#)

It is the same as the correction sent to news.com yesterday with the last sentence (requesting a correction) removed and the highlighted words added.

We suggest these changes as requesting a correction is less appropriate for a radio program.

Thanks, [S22\(1\)](#)

From: IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
 Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 3:41 PM
 To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; Grant, Christina [S22\(1\)](#); IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
 Cc: [S22\(1\)](#)
 Subject: RE: ISENTIA Daily Report - IPEA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi [S22\(1\)](#)

Christina agrees, yes please send the correction to 2GB, approved as per the previous response.

Thanks
[S22\(1\)](#)

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 3:33 PM
To: Grant, Christina **S22(1)** IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
Cc: **S22(1)** IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ISENTIA Daily Report - IPEA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Christina, will get that out now.

There has been a similar mention on 2GB at 11.26 am today. ISENTIA link:

https://app.mediaportal.com/isentia/#/playnow/v2?id=R00128764194&channel=2GB&location=Australia&date=2026-01-07T11%3A26%3A36&program=Mornings&item_id=1290650516&prospect_id=52080789725&is_video=false&keywords=Independent%20Parliamentary%20Expenses%20Authority&expiry=1799321196&signature=hQ98PLFcsEb578Uk-fSEc4TSTcRVgBUjm6DKo-JlWAtxvPTHZB-3-aylZqUSDsDw36aMivhS4C9FCeWwqcqWjkYg76mJoUmdqtUf4cRkG8EUFzvdYoxPEuqsUBG1MqFOzF8AJyHGdKsaNt3x3ymveh8odCybw2Q--dbEBY8stKQA9qqVElOafGy829v6oR-IFr4uwKFs6orzofO0-6FJ3VwC4C48-7D48n0f-w8-9uQxp1FAH8Klk47nwxq696Tc1ePo6g3JS-d8-LZblZeaUTl6xkSp2j8h15bRZxZf2kTDywbCdc4uRjZfQwKVrzOMTptTL7Ob6qlhXq3RzVw

Would you like to send corrections to radio mentions like this? If so, similar to the approved response?

Thanks, **S22(1)**

From: Grant, Christina **S22(1)**
Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 3:08 PM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
Cc: **S22(1)**
Subject: RE: ISENTIA Daily Report - IPEA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Approved.

Thanks so much
Christina

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 2:34 PM
To: Grant, Christina **S22(1)** IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
Cc: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au> **S22(1)**
Subject: RE: ISENTIA Daily Report - IPEA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina

For your approval: draft media correction: [Media correction - news.com various - 7 January 2026.docx](#)

It has been cleared through **S22(1)** Nicole, **S22(1)**.

Thanks, **S22(1)**

From: Grant, Christina <Christina.Grant@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 9:17 AM
To: **S22(1)** IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ISENTIA Daily Report - IPEA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you!

From: **S22(1)**
Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 9:13 AM
To: Grant, Christina **S22(1)**; IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ISENTIA Daily Report - IPEA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

Acknowledging this request, we will action shortly.

S22(1)

From: Grant, Christina **S22(1)**
Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 8:55 AM
To: **S22(1)** IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: FW: ISENTIA Daily Report - IPEA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hello

I think we need to write to these media outlets and ask them to correct their media. IPEA does not set travel allowance rates for MP's – the Remuneration Tribunal does.

Please let me know when complete.

Thanks very much

Christina

From: Isentia <noreply@isentia.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 7:05 AM

To: Grant, Christina S22(1)

Subject: Isentia Daily Report - IPEA



Isentia Daily Report - IPEA (15 media items)

Wednesday, 7 January 2026, 7:00 AM

[Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority](#) [Parliamentarians and Staff](#) [Work Expenses](#) [Stakeholders and Jurisdictions](#)
[Download Print Items](#)

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (7 media items)

[The Daily Telegraph reports federal politicians utilizing taxpayer-funded travel allowances, up to \\$31,000 annually, to offset mor...](#)

Channel 9 • Alison Protręwski & Joel Dry • TV • 07 Jan 2026, 6:50 am

Interview ... allowance. That's for just 66 sitting days, so about \$500 every day. It seems exorbitant. Well, obviously, our travel allowances are set by the Independent Remuneration Tribunal and are administered by the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority. I'm confident that all of the travel expenses that I claim and that I'm sure others claiming are within the rules. ...

[Stream](#)

Keywords: Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (1)

Interviewees N/A • Audience 192,105 •

[Out-of-town politicians can use \\$322 daily allowance to fund their Canberra mortgage](#)

Northern Territory News • Jessica Wang And Eliza Barr • Internet • 07 Jan 2026, 12:06 am

Federal politicians are using taxpayer-funded travel allowances to help pay off their homes in Canberra, prompting an independent senator to call for an overhaul of political perks. Federal politicians are using generous taxpayer-funded travel allowances ...

[Continue reading](#)

Keywords: Canberra (10), Politicians (10), travel (8), allowance (8), independent (5), senator (5), commercial (3), allowances (3), MPs (3), Nationals (2), Liberal (2), parliamentary (2), perks (2), politician (2), expenses (2), Federal (2), MP (2), taxpayer-funded (2), senators (1), Sue Lines (1), IPEA (1), Canberrans (1), members (1), Michelle Rowland (1), Parliament (1), parliamentarians (1)

Audience 180 •

[Capital gain as polities home in](#)

Hobart Mercury • Jessica Wang And Eliza Barr • Newspaper • 07 Jan 2026, 12:00 am

... a politician can claim \$21,252, and up to \$31,878 factoring in the night prior to a sitting week and the days between a sitting fortnight. While the rates are set by the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority, unlike other cities, Canberra does not have a split rate for commercial and non-commercial ...

[View PDF](#) [Read full text](#)

Keywords: Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (1)

Audience 37,000 •

You pay pollies' mortgages



Courier Mail • Jessica Wang Eliza Barr • Newspaper • 07 Jan 2026, 12:00 am

... claim a total of \$21,252, and up to \$31,878 factoring in the night prior to a sitting week and the days between a sitting fortnight. While the rates are set by the **Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA)**, unlike other cities, Canberra does not have a split rate for commercial and ...

[View PDF](#) [Read full text](#)

Keywords: IPEA (1), Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (1)

Audience 286,000 •

MPs home loan perks



Herald Sun • Jessica Wang Eliza Barr • Newspaper • 07 Jan 2026, 12:00 am

... claim a total of \$21,252, and up to \$31,878 factoring in the night prior to a sitting week and the days between a sitting fortnight. While the rates are set by the **Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA)**, unlike other cities, Canberra does not have a split rate for commercial and ...

[View PDF](#) [Read full text](#)

Keywords: IPEA (1), Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (1)

Audience 538,000 •

X • carina • Social Network • 06 Jan 2026, 7:34 pm

and who - is the . CHAIR OF THE . **Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority** . you might ask ? 4/4 <https://t.co/32SicUgyTB>

[Continue reading](#)

Keywords: Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (1)

X • carina • Social Network • 06 Jan 2026, 7:34 pm

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority – Annual Report 2023–24 . 3/4 <https://t.co/dEmEYDzxZ>

[Continue reading](#)

Keywords: Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (1)

Parliamentarians and Staff (1 media item)

Bondi probe should examine security shake-up, say former officials



Australian Financial Review • Nicola Smith • Internet • 06 Jan 2026, 6:34 pm

... series of Labor national security shake-ups that shifted ministerial responsibility for ASIO and the AFP from the home affairs minister to the attorney-general and then back again are under scrutiny amid calls for deeper post-Bondi investigations ...

[Continue reading](#)

Keywords: minister (3), trip (1), breaches (1)

Audience 12,646 •

Work Expenses (5 media items)

TICKLED PINK AT THE SCG



Daily Telegraph • Laethan Mckirdy And Harrison Finlay • Newspaper • 07 Jan 2026, 12:00 am

... cause on emotional day All 46,161 fans who packed into the Sydney Cricket Ground for day three of the final Ashes Test were in some way tickled pink yesterday. **Australian** batting star Travis Head bludgeoned his way to 163 off 166 balls. Stand-in captain Steve Smith posted his first century ...

[View PDF](#) [Read full text](#)

Keywords: Australia (4), Australian (4), Albanese (1), Anthony (1), Australians (1), Expenses (1), Prime Minister (1), Scandal (1)

Audience 436,000 •

[Politicians and leaders front for McGrath high tea at the SCG](#)

 Sydney Morning Herald • John Buckley • Newspaper • 07 Jan 2026, 12:00 am

... AT THE SCG Over the past two decades, prime ministers have become reliable guests of the McGrath Foundation's high tea, the highpowered annual fundraiser on day three of the Pink Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground. But **Prime Minister Anthony Albanese** was one of two high-profile absentees from yesterday's function. ...

[View PDF](#) [Read full text](#)

Keywords: Albanese (3), Prime Minister (2), Anthony (1), Expenses (1), Politicians (1), Scandal (1)

Audience 367,000 •

[Albanese, Wells no-shows at the SCG for McGrath Foundation high tea](#)

 WA Today • John Buckley • Internet • 06 Jan 2026, 12:21 pm

Over the past two decades, **Australian** prime ministers have become reliable guests of the McGrath Foundation's high tea, the high-powered annual fundraiser on day three of the Pink Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground. But **Prime Minister Anthony Albanese** is o ...

[Continue reading](#)

Keywords: Albanese (6), Prime Minister (2), scandal (1), Anthony (1), Australia (1), Australian (1), expenses (1)

Audience 1,084 •

[Albanese, Wells no-shows at the SCG for McGrath Foundation high tea](#)

 Brisbane Times • John Buckley • Internet • 06 Jan 2026, 11:57 am

Over the past two decades, **Australian** prime ministers have become reliable guests of the McGrath Foundation's high tea, the high-powered annual fundraiser on day three of the Pink Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground. But **Prime Minister Anthony Albanese** is o ...

[Continue reading](#)

Keywords: Albanese (6), prime minister (4), Australian (3), expenses (1), MPs (1), Anthony (1), Australia (1), scandal (1)

Audience 1,036 •

[Labor and Albanese take a hit in post-Bondi Resolve poll](#)

 The Times Australia • Adrian Beaumont • Internet • 06 Jan 2026, 7:24 am

Despite fallout from the **expenses scandal** [1] and Bondi, **Labor** still holds a 54–46 lead in Resolve, but **Anthony Albanese's** ratings have slumped. Newpoll analysis has One Nation's surge concentrated with voters of lower educational attainment. A special n ...

[Continue reading](#)

Keywords: labor (35), expenses (6), Greens (6), Albanese (6), scandal (6), Australia (4), national (4), Australian (3), politicians (3), federal (2), independents (1), Anthony (1), Penny Wong (1), PM (1), politician (1), Lambie (1), Larissa Waters (1), Liberal (1), Marles (1)

Audience 14 •

Stakeholders and Jurisdictions (2 media items)

[Miners, Firmus fuel 41pc returns for WAM's active fund](#)

 Australian Financial Review • alex gloyas • Newspaper • 07 Jan 2026, 12:00 am

... active listed investment company smashed the Australian sharemarket by more than 30 per cent last year as the dazzling rally in metal prices helped offset a substantial write-down in Corporate Travel Management. The double-digit returns came down to a hefty 11.4 per cent position in rare earths and bauxite miner ...

[View PDF](#) [Read full text](#)

Keywords: Corporate Travel (2), Accounting (1), Scandal (1)

Audience 271,000 -

[Top fund manager warns of small cap 'minefield'](#) [Top fund manager warns of small cap 'minefield'](#)

The Australian • David Rogers • Newspaper • 07 Jan 2026, 12:00 am

... inception in January 2008, the fund has delivered 13 per cent annually. "The market has very quickly retested this narrative over the last few weeks," Mr Weick told The Australian. "You can really put that down to the stubbornness of inflation, which has seen the market effectively reprice the outlook ..."

[View PDF](#) [Read full text](#)

Keywords: Australia (2), Australian (2), Corporate Travel (2), Accounting (1), Government (1), Scandal (1)

Audience 450,000 -



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Media correction 2GB – 7 January 2026

Program: Luke Grant over summer

Announcer: Luke Grant

Contact provided by Isentia: 2GB Newsdesk email - s22(1)

Dear 2GB Newsdesk

I am writing on behalf of the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) in relation to a statement on the program Luke Grant over Summer on 7 January 2026.

The program presenter stated that parliamentarians' travel allowance rates are set by IPEA. However, this is not correct, they are set by the Remuneration Tribunal. Once set by the Remuneration Tribunal, IPEA is responsible for the administration of the travel allowance.

For clarity and future reference, information on travel allowances, including that they are set by the Remuneration Tribunal, can be found on our website:

<https://www.ipea.gov.au/travel/parliamentarian-travel/travel-allowances>.

Kind regards

From: [Grant, Christina](#)
To: [IPEA Media Enquires](#)
Cc: s22(1); [Frost, Michael](#); [Pearson, Nicole](#); [Spaccavento, Marco](#);
s22(1) [IPEA CEO](#)
Subject: RE: inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 10 February 2026 5:05:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks
Approved
Christina

From: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 February 2026 2:54 PM
To: Grant, Christina s22(1)
Cc: s22(1); s22(1) IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>; Frost, Michael s22(1); Pearson, Nicole s22(1); Spaccavento, Marco s22(1); s22(1) IPEA CEO <CEO@IPEA.gov.au>
Subject: RE: inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Christina,

We have a follow-up reply from s22(1). He doesn't necessarily ask for a response, but we thought it might be good to explain a little more about our processes.

Here's the link to the draft response: [Media enquiry - s22\(1\) - The Age - 10 February 2026.docx](#)

The chiefs, s22(1) have approved.

Cheers
s22(1)

From: s22(1)
Sent: Monday, 9 February 2026 5:31 PM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Re: inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi IPEA team,

I am not asking for a comment, on the record or otherwise.

I am simply trying to find out basic information about whether the agency has finalised it or not, and what the process for releasing that information is.

It is extremely not-controversial or sensational information I am seeking.

An agency that is theoretically dedicated to greater transparency should be transparent.

But much like the NACC, the agency comprehensively fails a very, very basic test of transparency.

s22(1)

On Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 16:56, IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Dear Mr **s22(1)**

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA does not comment on individual matters, including assurance matters, related to current or former parliamentarians. IPEA handles such matters at arm's length from government.

Details about IPEA's independent [assurance and audit functions](#) can be found on our website and [statutory audit function factsheet](#).

You may find the [Common media questions](#) section on the media page of our website useful. This section includes responses to common audit related questions.

Kind regards

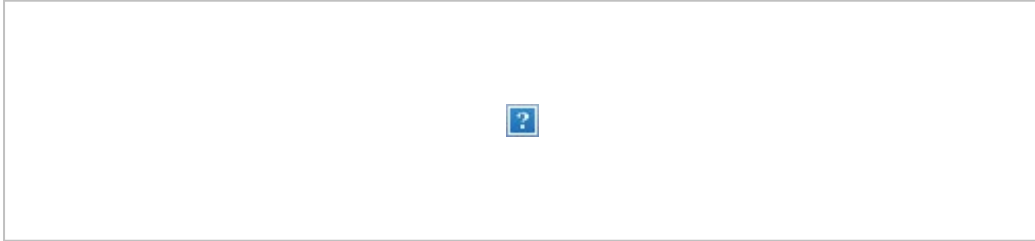
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

T: +61 2 6215 3000

E: mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au

W: www.ipea.gov.au

Social: [LinkedIn](#) / [X](#)



From: s22(1)
Sent: Monday, 9 February 2026 1:28 PM
To: IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: inquiry

Good afternoon,

I am writing to inquire as to whether IPEA has finalised its audit/review/whatever the word is of Anika Wells' expenses?

If not, when does IPEA anticipate the inquiry will be completed?

Will IPEA provide it to the minister before publishing it online?

Will IPEA instead simply publish it online when it is completed?

sincerely,

s22(1)

--

s22(1)

Chief Political Commentator

s22(1)

s22(1) Parliament House, Canberra 2600

E s22(1)

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s22(1)

Chief Political Commentator
The Sydney Morning Herald



s22(1)

A s22(1) Parliament House, Canberra 2600

E s22(1)



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Draft response

Thank you for your follow-up response to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA does not comment publicly or disclose information on any assurance processes, as this could potentially compromise the conduct and/or outcome of any investigation, and the privacy of individuals concerned. This extends to whether a process is underway and if so, any completion timeframe.

IPEA publishes all [assurance reviews](#) on our website. IPEA's Members may decide to also release audit reports.

Kind regards

Follow up enquiry

Hi IPEA team,

I am not asking for a comment, on the record or otherwise.

I am simply trying to find out basic information about whether the agency has finalised it or not, and what the process for releasing that information is.

It is extremely not-controversial or sensational information I am seeking.

An agency that is theoretically dedicated to greater transparency should be transparent.

But much like the NACC, the agency comprehensively fails a very, very basic test of transparency.

s22(1)

On Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 16:56, IPEA Media Enquires <mediaenquiries@ipea.gov.au> wrote:

Previous enquiry and response – response provided 9 February 2026

Dear Mr **s22(1)**

Thank you for your enquiry to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

IPEA does not comment on individual matters, including assurance matters, related to current or former parliamentarians. IPEA handles such matters at arm's length from government.

Details about IPEA's independent [assurance and audit functions](#) can be found on our website and [statutory audit function factsheet](#).

You may find the [Common media questions](#) section on the media page of our website useful. This section includes responses to common audit related questions.

Kind regards

From: s22(1)

Good afternoon,

I am writing to inquire as to whether IPEA has finalised its audit/review/whatever the word is of Anika Wells' expenses?

If not, when does IPEA anticipate the inquiry will be completed?

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Will IPEA instead simply publish it online when it is completed?

sincerely,

s22(1)

--

s22(1)

Chief Political Commentator