



Australian Government

Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

Assurance Review 2026/005

Senator Raff Ciccone – travel within Melbourne

1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025

Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

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Senator Raff Ciccone – travel within Melbourne

Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) conducted an assurance review of Senator Raff Ciccone's use of parliamentary work resources for travel by unscheduled commercial ground transport (travel resources).

Scope

2. The scope of this assurance review is Senator Ciccone's use of unscheduled commercial ground transport between 1 October 2025 and 31 December 2025 (period in scope).
3. The purpose of the assurance review was to determine whether the travel resources were used in accordance with the legislative framework.

Reason for review

4. IPEA conducted a routine post payment check of parliamentarian's use of unscheduled commercial ground transport for the October to December 2025 period. IPEA's post payment check identified that Senator Raff Ciccone used parliamentary work resources to travel by regulated ride-sharing services (ride-share). Senator Ciccone used ride-share on 15 October 2025 from Caulfield in Melbourne, to his home.
5. The legislative framework precludes the use of unscheduled commercial ground transport by a parliamentarian within their electorate, where they could reasonably have used their private-plated vehicle or the allowance in lieu of a private-plated vehicle (allowance), if applicable.

Outcome*

6. IPEA found that Senator Ciccone's use of work resources for travel by unscheduled commercial ground transport on 15 October 2025 was not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

*Potential outcomes

There are three potential outcomes of an assurance review:

1. Consistent with the framework (rules)

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

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

2. Not inconsistent with the framework (rules)

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

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

3. Not consistent with the framework (rules)

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

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

IPEA's statutory audit function

7. IPEA audits parliamentarians' use of parliamentary business work resources and the use of travel resources by their staff under section 12 of the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017*. IPEA conducts assurance reviews to assess the use of resources against the legislative framework to determine if there has been misuse.

Legislative framework

8. Regulation 13 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 (the Regulations) provides:

Transport costs are not prescribed for travel by unscheduled commercial transport within the member's electorate if the member could reasonably use the member's private plated vehicle in the circumstances, assuming the member had a private plated vehicle.

Note: A member's remuneration under section 14 of the Act may include one or more private plated vehicles or an allowance instead of a private plated vehicle.

A member who chooses an allowance instead of a private plated vehicle could reasonably be expected to use the allowance instead of claiming taxi costs in circumstances where a private plated vehicle could otherwise reasonably be used.

9. Section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act) provides the following meaning of **parliamentary business**:

The parliamentary business of a member means any of the following:

- (a) the **parliamentary duties** of a member, being activities of the member that:
 - i. relate directly to the member's role as a member; and
 - ii. are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(a);
- (b) the **electorate duties** of the member, being activities of the member that:
 - i. support or serve the member's constituents; and
 - ii. are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(b);
- (c) the **party political duties** of the member, being activities determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(c);
- (d) for a member who is an office holder or a Minister of State – the **official duties** of the member being activities that:
 - i. relate to the member's role as an office holder or Minister of State; and
 - ii. are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(d).

10. Subsection 6(4) of the PBR Act provides that the Minister must determine activities of a member that are parliamentary duties of the member, or electorate duties of the member, or party political duties of the member, or official duties of the member. The Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2025 determines the activities which fall within the four duty streams set out in section 6 of the PBR Act.

Review process

11. IPEA's post-payment check requires parliamentarians to review and confirm instances of the use of unscheduled commercial ground transport within their electorate. Parliamentarians are asked to indicate why they could not reasonably have used their private-plated vehicle (or allowance in lieu) for that travel.
12. IPEA wrote to Senator Ciccone on 14 January 2026, asking that he review his ride-share travel from Caulfield on 15 October 2025. IPEA asked Senator Ciccone why he could not reasonably have used his private-plated vehicle or allowance for the journey.
13. Senator Ciccone advised that he attended the electorate office on 15 October 2025. Later that day he travelled by train to a stakeholder event in Caulfield due to limited parking at the venue. As he had travelled by train to Caulfield, Senator Ciccone advised that he was unable to use his private-plated vehicle to travel home later that day. The response did not elaborate on the nature of the stakeholder event or the nature of Senator Ciccone's parliamentary business.
14. Consequently, IPEA wrote to Senator Ciccone on 25 February 2026, asking that he outline the nature of his parliamentary business in Caulfield on 15 October 2025.
15. Senator Ciccone's office responded advising that he attended the Melbourne Racing Club on 15 October 2025 to meet with stakeholders. The response outlined the reasons why Senator Ciccone engaged with the stakeholders, including matters regarding policy development and proposed reforms to online wagering. Senator Ciccone's office advised that this occurred in the senator's capacity as a Member of Parliament undertaking parliamentary duties. This response was later confirmed by Senator Ciccone.
16. IPEA notes Senator Ciccone's advice that he attended an event in Caulfield to undertake parliamentary duties and was not reasonably able to use his private-plated vehicle to travel home from the event on 15 October 2025.
17. IPEA's correspondence with Senator Ciccone is at **Attachments 1 to 6**.

Conclusion

18. Based on IPEA's records and the information made available by Senator Ciccone, IPEA found that Senator Ciccone's use of travel resources was not inconsistent with the legislative framework.