

From: [Assurance](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Assurance](#)
Subject: CM: Routine Post Payment Check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport (UCGT) - October to December 2025 - Ref: [REDACTED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 10:40:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Senator Raff Ciccone
Senator for Victoria

Dear Senator

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

One of these checks is for the use of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport (UCGT), to ensure compliance with the Parliamentary Business Resources framework and the relevant legislation.

In relation to the use of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport (UCGT), regulation 13 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 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 *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* 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.

From the information available to IPEA, the following transaction suggests that you may have used UCGT within your electorate.

Reference	Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Amount (GST excl.)	Response
8639455	15/10/2025	Caulfield	[REDACTED]	\$47.75	

IPEAs records (PEMS) for the transaction above note that you travelled “home from stakeholder event”. However, IPEA requires further information about why you could not reasonably have used your private plated vehicle or allowance in lieu to travel home from the event.

Note that IPEA is obliged to recover the cost of transactions that are not consistent with the framework and the legislation.

Please provide your response by **21 January 2026** to assurance@ipea.gov.au quoting Ref: [REDACTED]

If you have any questions or any difficulties in providing the information, please contact assurance@ipea.gov.au quoting Ref: [REDACTED] by the date specified above.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Assistant Director
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

T: +61 2 6215 3000

E: assurance@ipea.gov.au

W: www.ipea.gov.au

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

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From: [REDACTED] (Sen R. Ciccone)
To: [Assurance](#)
Cc: [Ciccone, Raff \(Private\)](#)
Subject: CM: FW: Routine Post Payment Check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport (UCGT) - October to December 2025 - Ref: [REDACTED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 19 January 2026 4:16:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good afternoon

The Senator has asked me to respond on his behalf as he is in Canberra for Parliamentary Sitting.

On 15 October 2025, Senator Ciccone attended the electorate office, 1 Collins Street, earlier in the day and then travelled by train from the city to Caulfield to attend an event held by a stakeholder, as parking was not available to him at the venue. As he could not travel by private vehicle, it was not reasonable or practicable to use a private plated vehicle for the return journey, therefore he used a rideshare service to travel home.

I consider the use of UCGT in these circumstances to be consistent with the Parliamentary Business Resources framework.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Office of Senator Raff Ciccone
Federal Labor Senator for Victoria
S1.39 Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
Level 12, 1 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
PH: (02) 6277 3226 / **EO:** (03) 9894 2098 / [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 10:40 AM
To: Ciccone, Raff (Private) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Routine Post Payment Check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport (UCGT) - October to December 2025 - Ref: 2030302 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Senator Raff Ciccone
Senator for Victoria

Dear Senator

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One of these checks is for the use of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport (UCGT), to ensure compliance with the Parliamentary Business Resources framework and the relevant legislation.

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8639455	15/10/2025	Caulfield	████	\$47.75	

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Note that IPEA is obliged to recover the cost of transactions that are not consistent with the framework and the legislation.

Please provide your response by **21 January 2026** to assurance@ipea.gov.au quoting

Ref: [REDACTED]

If you have any questions or any difficulties in providing the information, please contact assurance@ipea.gov.au quoting Ref: [REDACTED] by the date specified above.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Assistant Director
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

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From: [Assurance](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Assurance](#)
Subject: CM: Correspondence regarding IPEA's post payment check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 26 February 2026 11:15:05 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[Correspondence_Senator_Cicccone.pdf](#)
[Attachment A Parliamentray Business Resources Determination 2025.pdf](#)

Senator Raff Cicccone
Senator for Victoria

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Kind regards

Nicole Pearson

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

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

25 February 2026

Senator Raff Ciccone
Senator for Victoria
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

Post payment check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has responsibility under the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* to review work resources used by Members of Parliament, which includes routine post payment checks of travel-related expenses.

As you are aware, IPEA recently contacted you regarding your use of travel-related expenses (regulated rideshare services) for the trip shown below:

Reference	Departure date	Departure location	Arrival location	Amount (GST exclusive)
8639455	15/10/2025	Caulfield	[REDACTED]	\$47.75

On 19 January 2026, your staff member advised IPEA on your behalf, that:

"On 15 October 2025, Senator Ciccone attended the electorate office, 1 Collins Street, earlier in the day and then travelled by train from the city to Caulfield to attend an event held by a stakeholder, as parking was not available to him at the venue. As he could not travel by private vehicle, it was not reasonable or practicable to use a private plated vehicle for the return journey, therefore he used a rideshare service to travel home.

I consider the use of UCGT in these circumstances to be consistent with the Parliamentary Business Resources framework."

Legislative framework

Division 2 of Part 3 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act) sets out the principles parliamentarians are to apply when utilising public resources.

As you are aware, under the principles-based framework parliamentarians have an obligation to be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business (subsection 25(3) of the PBR Act). Parliamentarians also have an obligation to ensure that expenses that are incurred, or allowances or other public resources that are claimed, in relation to the conduct of the member's parliamentary business, provide value for money, taking into account the need to conduct the member's parliamentary business (section 27 of the PBR Act).

'Parliamentary business' has the meaning given by section 6 of the PBR Act. Activities that fall within the four duty streams of parliamentary business are set out in the Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2025 (the Determination – **Attachment A**).

Action Required

Given your advice that your use of unscheduled commercial ground transport was consistent with the Parliamentary Business Resources framework, can you please outline the nature of your parliamentary business with reference to the definition of parliamentary business outlined in the Determination. Please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on **13 March 2026**, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

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

Yours sincerely



Nicole Pearson

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



Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2025

I, Don Farrell, Special Minister of State, make the following determination.

Dated 12 February 2025

Don Farrell
Special Minister of State

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1 Name

This instrument is the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2025*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after this instrument is registered.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsections 6(3) and 6(4) of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

4 Repeal

The *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (F2017L01691) is repealed from the date this instrument commences.

5 Interpretation

- (1) In this instrument:

Act means the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

- (a) *constituent*;
- (b) *member*;
- (c) *office holder*; and
- (d) *vice regal function*.

- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, an activity specified in a Schedule to this determination is specified whether it takes place within Australia or overseas.

6 Parliamentary business of members

- (1) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(a) of the Act, the ***parliamentary duties*** of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 1 for that member.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(b) of the Act, the ***electorate duties*** of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 2 for that member.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(c) of the Act, the ***party political duties*** of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 3 for that member.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(d) of the Act, the ***official duties*** of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 4 for that member.
- (5) For the avoidance of doubt, a member may make a claim for and use public resources under Part 3 of the Act for an activity:
 - (a) undertaken for the dominant purpose of the member's parliamentary business as defined by section 6 of the Act and specified in a Schedule to this determination and to the extent that subsections 26(1) and 26(3) of the Act apply; and
 - (b) which may occur in the context of a federal election.

Note: ***Dominant purpose*** has the meaning set out in section 26 of the Act.

Note: The Act and related instruments set out other limitations on the circumstances in which resources may be provided.

Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties

Item	Column 1 Member (or class)	Column 2 Parliamentary duties
1	All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament: (a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise; (b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose; (c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member; (d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function; (e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio; (f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates; (g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose; (h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function; (i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. Note: For Ministers representing the Government or Australia in their capacity as a Minister, this would be part of the member's official duties (see Schedule 4).

Note: Schedule 1 determines the meaning of parliamentary duties in paragraph 6(4)(a) of the Act.

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

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

Note: Schedule 2 determines the meaning of electorate duties in paragraph 6(4)(b) of the Act.

Schedule 3—Party political duties

	Column 1	Column 2
Item	Member (or class)	Party political duties
1	All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	Participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives: (a) A formal meeting of a political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee); (b) A national, state or territory conference of a political party.
2	All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	Participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives as a member of a political party or in collaboration with another group of members: (a) Developing policies, proposals and plans, and engaging in related activities including when the policies, proposals and plans may be used by the member or a member's political party or group in the context of a federal election; (b) Engaging or working with an administrative support function or headquarters used by a political party or by a group of members, including in the context of a federal election; (c) Participating in an event, activity or function concerning matters identified in paragraphs (a) and (b) above.
3	A member of the House of Representatives whose electoral division will be abolished or changed because of a redistribution	Communicating with persons provided that: (a) those persons would be constituents in a new or altered electoral division created or changed because of that redistribution; and (b) the communication does not occur until the day after the date on which the final determination of the name and boundaries of the new electoral division is made in accordance with section 73 of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>.

Note: Schedule 3 determines the meaning of party political duties in paragraph 6(4)(c) of the Act.

Schedule 4—Official duties

Column 1		Column 2
Item	Member (or class)	Official duties
1	All office holders and Ministers of State	In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be): (a) Exercising the powers or functions, or performing the duties, of the member's office, or activities engaged in for the purposes of doing so; (b) Attending an event to which the member has been invited in their official capacity; (c) Other activities directly related to, and engaged in for the purposes of, performing the member's official role.

Note: Schedule 4 determines the meaning of official duties in paragraph 6(4)(d) of the Act.

From: [REDACTED] (Sen R. Ciccone)
To: [Assurance](#)
Subject: RE: Correspondence regarding IPEA's post payment check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 6 March 2026 10:47:35 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good afternoon Nicole

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Senator's use of unscheduled commercial ground transport.

The travel in question was undertaken for the purpose of conducting parliamentary business, consistent with section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017 and the Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2025.

The Senator's attendance at an event hosted by the Melbourne Racing Club falls within his duties as a Member of Parliament engaging in policy development and stakeholder consultation in relation to online wagering reform. This work falls within the parliamentary business duty stream relating to parliamentary duties and activities connected with the consideration and development of public policy.

The Government undertakes broad consultation regarding potential reforms to online gambling regulation, including harm minimisation measures. As part of that process, the Senator regularly meets with stakeholders across the sector including sporting codes, wagering providers and harm reduction advocates.

On this occasion, the Senator attended as a guest of the MRC where a range of industry and sporting stakeholders were present. The event provided an opportunity to engage directly with relevant parties regarding the future regulatory framework for online wagering in Australia.

No decisions have yet been made regarding reform proposals. Engagement with affected stakeholders is therefore an important and legitimate part of the Senator's parliamentary duties, and attendance at this event was consistent with that responsibility.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Office of Senator Raff Ciccone
Federal Labor Senator for Victoria

S1.39 Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
Level 12, 1 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 11:14 AM
To: Ciccone, Raff (Private) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Correspondence regarding IPEA's post payment check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Senator Raff Ciccone
Senator for Victoria

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Kind regards

Nicole Pearson

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

T: +61 2 6215 3000

E: assurance@ipea.gov.au

W: www.ipea.gov.au

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From: [Assurance](#)
To:
Cc: [Assurance](#); [REDACTED] (Sen R. Ciccone)"
Subject: RE: Correspondence regarding IPEA's post payment check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 19 March 2026 11:57:58 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Dear Senator Ciccone

I am writing in response to [REDACTED] email below regarding your use of travel-related expenses in Melbourne on 15 October 2025.

Section 25 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* outlines the obligations of parliamentarians in relation to the use of public resources, in particular that Members are personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business, and that Members must be prepared to justify publicly their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business.

As it is unclear whether you were copied into [REDACTED] email, it would be appreciated if you could confirm that this is your personal response.

Kind regards

Nicole Pearson

Chief of Transparency, Integrity and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
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From: [REDACTED] (Sen R. Ciccone) [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, 6 March 2026 10:47 AM
To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: CM: RE: Correspondence regarding IPEA's post payment check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Good afternoon Nicole

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No decisions have yet been made regarding reform proposals. Engagement with affected stakeholders is therefore an important and legitimate part of the Senator's parliamentary duties, and attendance at this event was consistent with that responsibility.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards



Office of Senator Raff Ciccone
Federal Labor Senator for Victoria

S1.39 Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
Level 12, 1 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
PH: (02) 6277 3226 / EO: (03) 9894 2098 / [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 11:14 AM

To: Ciccone, Raff (Private) <[REDACTED]>

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

Subject: Correspondence regarding IPEA's post payment check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Senator Raff Ciccone

Senator for Victoria

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Kind regards

Nicole Pearson

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

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From: [Ciccone, Raff \(Private\)](#)
To: [Assurance](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] ([Sen R. Ciccone](#))
Subject: RE: Correspondence regarding IPEA's post payment check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 19 March 2026 12:02:25 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Dear Ms Pearson

Thank you for your email.

I confirm that the response provided by [REDACTED] reflects my position in relation to this matter.

Kind regards,



SENATOR RAFF CICCONE

**Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
Chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation
Committee**

Federal Labor Senator for Victoria

S1.39 Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
Level 12, 1 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

PH: (02) 6277 3226 / **EO:** (03) 9894 2098 / [REDACTED]

SenatorCiccone.com.au

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2026 11:58 AM
To: Ciccone, Raff (Private) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>; [REDACTED] ([Sen R. Ciccone](#))
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Correspondence regarding IPEA's post payment check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Dear Senator Ciccone

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Kind regards

Nicole Pearson

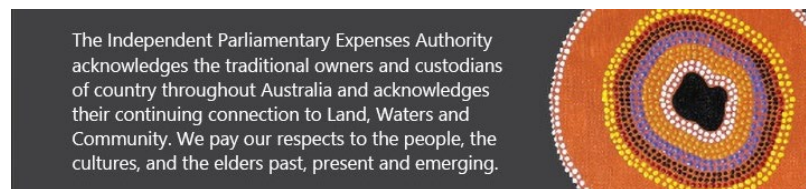
Chief of Transparency, Integrity and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

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E: assurance@ipea.gov.au

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



From: [REDACTED] (Sen R. Ciccone) [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 6 March 2026 10:47 AM

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

Subject: CM: RE: Correspondence regarding IPEA's post payment check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Good afternoon Nicole

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The Government undertakes broad consultation regarding potential reforms to online gambling regulation, including harm minimisation measures. As part of that process, the Senator regularly meets with stakeholders across the sector including sporting codes, wagering providers and harm reduction advocates.

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No decisions have yet been made regarding reform proposals. Engagement with affected stakeholders is therefore an important and legitimate part of the Senator's parliamentary duties, and attendance at this event was consistent with that responsibility.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards



Office of Senator Raff Ciccone
Federal Labor Senator for Victoria

S1.39 Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
Level 12, 1 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
PH: (02) 6277 3226 / **EO:** (03) 9894 2098 / [Redacted]

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

Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 11:14 AM

To: Ciccone, Raff (Private) <[Redacted]>

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

Subject: Correspondence regarding IPEA's post payment check of Unscheduled Commercial Ground Transport [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Senator Raff Ciccone
Senator for Victoria

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Kind regards

Nicole Pearson

Chief of Transparency, Integrity and Legal
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