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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT – [2021/021]

Desirable Destinations – Queensland from 1 April to 31 July 2021

Date: 28 September 2021

To: s 47F
Director, Audit & Assurance

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

- i. Note the contents of this preliminary assessment and proceed to an assurance review.

PROCEED TO AN ASSURANCE REVIEW

s 47F

Date: 28 September 2021

s 47F

Director, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Prepared by:

s 47F

Date: 28 September 2021

s 47F

Assurance Support Officer, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

PURPOSE

This preliminary assessment aims to:

1. Assess the use of parliamentary business resources to travel to the state of Queensland from 1 April to 31 July 2021.

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BACKGROUND

2. On 2 September 2021, Crikey published an article [‘What Craig Kelly’s expenses tell us about his bid for re-election’](#).
3. The article notes travel related expenses Mr Craig Kelly MP used to the travel to the Gold Coast on 26 April and from 3 to 5 May 2021.
4. As part of IPEA’s assurance activities, IPEA conducts ongoing systematic checking of expenses through regular sampling of transactions, including those involving desirable destinations.
5. In accordance with IPEA’s protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, a Preliminary Assessment into parliamentarians travel to Queensland (a desirable destination) commenced on 6 September 2021.
6. On 10 September 2021, IPEA produced a travel resources report for all parliamentarians showing their domestic travel from 1 April to 31 July 2021.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

7. Relevant legislation includes:
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*.

ANALYSIS

8. IPEA reviewed the travel resources report and identified 223 parliamentarians who had accessed travel resources between 1 April and 31 July 2021.
9. Further analysis showed that six parliamentarians had travel-related expenses to Queensland. This expenditure requires further investigation to understand the nature of the travel to Queensland.

CONCLUSION

10. On the basis of the findings of this preliminary assessment, it is recommended IPEA proceed with an assurance review into the following parliamentarians’ travel to Queensland:
 - Senator the Hon David Fawcett – 14 to 25 July 2021
 - Mr Craig Kelly MP – 26 April and from 3 to 5 May 2021
 - Senator Jacquie Lambie – 17 to 25 July 2021
 - Senator Sam McMahon – 24 June to 15 July 2021
 - The Hon Brendan O’Connor MP – 27 June to 1 July 2021
 - Senator David Van – 13 to 29 July 2021.