Australian Government

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

Domestic Travel - parliamentarians

All domestic travel for parliamentarians is subject to the dominant purpose and value for money requirements as set out in the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*.

There are three types of domestic travel:
1. Scheduled (scheduled flights on commercial air services, rail services, coaches, ferries and other carriers operating as regular carriers)
2. Unscheduled (refer Fact Sheet – Unscheduled commercial transport)
3. Commonwealth Transport Services (COMCAR or RAAF Aircraft)

Scheduled Transport

Parliamentarians my travel by scheduled commercial transport at Commonwealth expense in Australia, including the external territories but not Antarctica when travelling for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business.

Travel may be undertaken up to the cost of business class for the most reasonable and usual route between the departure and destination points, noting that all travel needs to represent value for money to the Commonwealth.

Unscheduled transport

Includes chartered aircraft, chartered buses, self-drive hire cars, taxis and regulated rideshare services such as Uber.

Limits on unscheduled transport within the electorate

Unscheduled transport cannot be used within the parliamentarian's electorate if the parliamentarian could reasonably use their private plated vehicle.

If the parliamentarian does not have a private plated vehicle and instead receives an allowance, the parliamentarian should use their vehicle allowance to cover taxi costs in circumstances where a private plated vehicle could otherwise reasonably be used.

Transport in large electorates

The transport in large electorates budget allows parliamentarians to charter flights and use other unscheduled transport at Commonwealth expense for the dominant purpose of conducting electorate duties in their electorate. The budget is based on the size of the electorate.

Passengers on unscheduled commercial transport

Passenger costs are covered in the following circumstances:

- Where the passenger is <u>required</u> for the parliamentarian to conduct their parliamentary business (for example, a parliamentarian may need to be accompanied by an employee or industry expert) or
- Where there are no additional costs for the passenger.

If <u>additional costs</u> are incurred so a passenger can travel, the passenger or the parliamentarian must <u>personally</u> meet the additional costs. Requiring a larger aircraft or vehicle, or incurring extra landing fees may create additional costs.

A family member accompanying a parliamentarian is not a 'required' passenger, and could only travel if there are no additional costs OR if the parliamentarian meets the additional cost OR it is within the family reunion limits.

COMCAR

COMCAR services *must not* be accessed if you could have reasonably used your Commonwealth provided private-plated vehicle or the allowance provided in lieu of a private-plated vehicle to undertake or fund the travel. IPEA is available for additional advice on the use of COMCAR.

Travel Allowance

A travel allowance (TA) covering accommodation, meals and incidental expenses is payable to a parliamentarian for each overnight stay in Australia that is not at their home base.

Travel allowance is limited to ten nights per financial year when travelling for the dominant purpose of conducting party political duties at a location other than Canberra or electorate duties outside the parliamentarian's electorate.

Parking Costs

A parliamentarian may claim reimbursement of minor travel expenses incurred when travelling in accordance with the provisions of the framework. These may include parking costs and public transport costs.

Further information on parliamentarians' domestic travel is available at https://www.ipea.gov.au/travel/parliamentarians-travel.