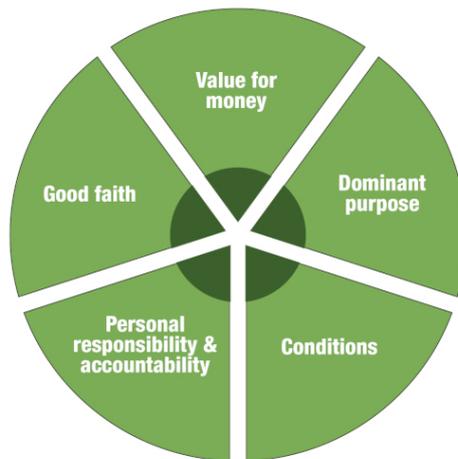




What are the Obligations?

Parliamentarians must ensure that any expenditure for parliamentary business is consistent with the obligations outlined below.



The principles-based expenses framework requires that parliamentarians:

- use public resources only for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business;
- conduct their parliamentary business in a way that achieves value for money;
- meet any conditions connected to expenses and allowances they claim;
- are prepared to be personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources in the conduct of their parliamentary business;
- are prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources in conducting their parliamentary business; and
- act ethically and in good faith in using, and accounting for the use of, public resources in the conduct of their parliamentary business.

What is parliamentary business?

‘Parliamentary business’ includes activities that fall within four streams:

- **parliamentary duties:** covers activities of the parliamentarian that relate directly to the parliamentarian’s role as a member of Parliament;
- **electorate duties:** activities of the parliamentarian that support or serve their constituents;



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- **party political duties:** activities of the parliamentarian that are connected with both their political party and their membership of the Parliament; and
- **official duties:** activities that relate to the parliamentarian's role as an office holder or Minister.

Obligation: Dominant Purpose

Parliamentarians must ensure that any expenses incurred are for the 'dominant purpose' of conducting parliamentary business (i.e. expenses should not be claimed if they relate to personal or commercial activities).

Obligation: Value for Money

The expenses framework requires that parliamentarians use public resources for parliamentary business in a way that achieves value for money. Value for money means using public money efficiently, effectively and economically, consistent with the obligations on the proper use of public resources by Commonwealth officials under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

Obligation: Good Faith

Parliamentarians need to act ethically and in good faith when using, or accounting for, public resources. For example, they must not seek to disguise their personal or commercial business as parliamentary business. Acting in good faith would require that parliamentarians act honestly and consider all of the reasons for claiming or using public resources in the circumstances.

Obligation: Personal Responsibility and Accountability

A parliamentarian is personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources and must consider how the public would perceive their use of those resources for travel in particular circumstances.

Personal responsibility extends to the use of public resources in the parliamentarian's name by others who may be authorised to incur expenses within their office or for family reunion purposes.

If a parliamentarian is publicly questioned over their use of work, including travel, resources they are expected to publicly justify their use of those resources.

Simply stating that a parliamentarian's use of expenses in the circumstances in question was consistent with the rules may not be enough to meet the obligations of the framework.

Obligation: Conditions

A parliamentarian must not make a claim, or incur an expense, in relation to a public resource if they have not met ALL of the conditions for its provision.

Conditions may include imposed limits and can be specific to individual work expenses. They are set out in the PBR Regulations and in [Determinations of the Remuneration Tribunal and the Special Minister of State](#).

Further information on the principles is available at www.ipea.gov.au.