



Australian Government

Comcare

28 October 2021

By email: Consultations@finance.gov.au

Dear the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer and the Hon Kate Ellis,

**RE: Review of *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017 (PBR Act)*
and *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017 (IPEA Act)***

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 October 2021 inviting Comcare to make a submission in relation to the above review.

Comcare's main interest in the review is the Parliamentary Injury Compensation Scheme (PICS). This scheme was established by the Parliamentary Injury Compensation Scheme Instrument 2016 (PICS Instrument) made under the Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990 (and now transitioned to the PBR).

The PICS provides parliamentarians and the Prime Minister's spouse with compensation for injury and disease sustained during the course of covered activities. [Comcare's website](#) provides more information about the scheme.

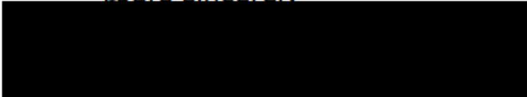
Comcare is the claim management service provider for this scheme and works with the Department of Finance, who is responsible for the design and coverage of the PICS Instrument. Comcare's role is to make decisions about liability and entitlements and process payments. Comcare receives an appropriation from the consolidated revenue fund (CRF) which meets the administrative costs of providing this claims management service.

Any PICS entitlements payable to individuals are also funded through CRF appropriation. The Department of Finance (DoF) reimburses Comcare for payment of entitlements through arrangements set out in an agreement between the Attorney-General's Department and DoF which allows for 'Third Party Access to Appropriations'.

No issues regarding these arrangements have arisen in the short time the scheme has operated. There have however been very low claim numbers (4 in total) so experience of the scheme to date is limited.

Given Comcare's limited involvement in the PBR framework through PICS we do not have anything further to contribute to the review. We would be happy to provide any further information or assist with any enquiry you may have about PICS or Comcare's role.

Yours sincerely


Sue Weston PSM
Chief Executive Officer