

**AIRLINE TRAVEL****Airline Travel Policy****Issue**

When will the review of the Australian Government's travel policies be released?

**Headline Response**

The Review is expected to be publicly released shortly.

**Facts and Figures**

The Department of Finance (Finance) has completed a review of Australian Government travel policies (the Review). It is expected a report of the findings will be publicly released shortly.

The Australian Government announced the Review as part of the Aviation White Paper in August 2024.

The Australian Government has committed to saving \$6.4 billion by reducing spending on consultants, contractors, labour hire, and non-wage expenses, including travel.

**Review of Australian Government Travel Policies**

- Publishing the Review will assist Finance in progressing the recommendations and will support an upcoming consultation process to inform the Airline Panel retender.
- The current Airline Panel provides value for money, including Government discount rates that can range from 3 to 50 per cent off public fares.
- The tender process for the new Airline Panel is expected to go to market by the end of Q4 2025 and will provide an opportunity to adjust the arrangements where necessary to ensure they continue to meet government requirements and objectives.

**Airline Travel Policy**

- Finance is responsible for domestic and international air travel policies for Australian Public Service (APS) officials.
- Officials are required to follow the policies when selecting, booking and approving official air travel.

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## AIRLINE TRAVEL

- Officials **must** make decisions based on an impartial consideration of the fares available and not on a personal preference for a particular airline or aircraft type, access to airline lounges or accumulating status credits.
  - Airline reward and loyalty points have been explicitly removed from all APS travel for well over 10 years.
- The Australian Public Service Commission provides guidance to APS agency heads and departmental secretaries on gifts and benefits.
  - The APSC is currently reviewing its guidance.
- Travel by parliamentarians and their staff is governed by the Parliamentary Business Resources Framework (including the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 1984* and Staff travel and relief staff arrangements Determination 2023/10), administered by the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority. They are not therefore subject to whole of government travel policies or the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

AIRLINE TRAVEL

Background

Finance manages a number of non-ICT coordinated procurement arrangements that leverage aggregated purchasing power to deliver price savings and administrative efficiencies.

The Australian Government Travel Arrangements are coordinated procurements that are established and managed within Finance.

The Travel Arrangements involve approximately 150 participating entities and over 20 suppliers.

Air Travel Policies:

- RMG 404 – Official Domestic Air Travel – Use of the Lowest Practical Fare.
- RMG 405 – Official International Travel – Use of the best fare of the day.

The Travel Arrangements include four components and are designed to reduce travel-related costs and streamline processes for agencies when booking and paying for official travel.

Component	Services	Suppliers
Book	Travel Management Services	CTM
Fly	Domestic & International Air Travel Services	Panel of 18 airlines
Drive	Domestic Vehicle Rental Services	Hertz
Pay	Travel & Procurement Payment Services	NAB