Australian Government

Department of Finance

Allegations regarding the Hon Michael Sukkar MP

On 23 August 2020, the Hon Michael Sukkar MP wrote to the Secretary of the Department of Finance (Finance) asking that an independent review of staffing arrangements in his office be undertaken following media allegations.

The allegations that fell within the scope of the review are those related to:

- activities of electorate staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act)
- non-travel related work expenses claimed under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act).

The review did not consider those allegations that do not relate to Commonwealth expenditure or matters not administered by Finance.

The review was conducted in accordance with the *Protocol - Handling of Potential Misuse of Non-Travel related Work Expenses by the Department of Finance* (the Protocol).

Finance engaged an independent reviewer to conduct the review. The review examined relevant records held by Finance and sought additional information from the Minister in relation to the employment arrangements in his office.

Minister Sukkar participated voluntarily and provided written responses and other relevant documentation.

The review concluded that:

- further investigation of the matters within the scope of the review is not warranted as there is not a sufficient basis to form a view that there was serious misuse of Commonwealth resources under the MOP(S) Act or the PBR Act
- there is no basis to refer the matter to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority under the Protocol because there is no evidence of serious misuse of work expenses.