



COPY

HON GARY GRAY AO MP

Special Minister of State
Minister for the Public Service and Integrity

REF: C12/2375

The Hon Warren Entsch MP
Member for Leichhardt
PO Box 14
Bungalow QLD 4870

Dear Mr Entsch 

I write regarding an allegation which has been made concerning your use of your Parliamentary entitlements, specifically your use of Charter transport on 30 June 2012.

It has been alleged that, on Saturday 30 June 2012, you chartered a helicopter to travel from Cairns to Laura, where you attended the Laura Races with Mr David Kempton, State Member for Cook. Following the races, it is alleged that you allowed Mr Kempton to travel to either Cairns or Townsville in the helicopter you chartered, without being accompanied by you, whilst you drove his car to Cairns or Cooktown.

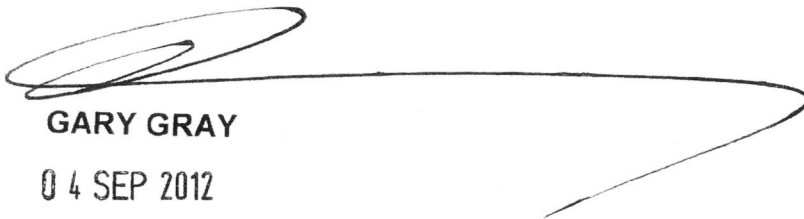
In accordance with the established protocol for handling allegations, I am writing to outline the entitlement that may have been accessed by you, and to seek your comments in relation to this matter.

The entitlement to charter transport is provided under Part 7 of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2012/04 (the Determination). Clause 7.3 of the Determination requires that charter aircraft be used *for the service of the electorate*. Clause 7.7 of the Determination (which in these circumstances would apply to Mr Kempton) provides for other persons to *accompany* a Senator or Member travelling under this entitlement. There is no entitlement for another person to travel separately under this entitlement.

Records held by Ministerial and Parliamentary Services (M&PS) show that you chartered a helicopter to travel from Cairns to Laura and return on 30 June 2012, and that you hired a car in Cooktown on 1 July 2012. Your certification for the helicopter travel, dated 11 July 2012, notes you *personally travelled on the [helicopter] service*, and does not list any other passengers as travelling on the helicopter.

I would be pleased to receive your comments concerning your use of entitlements in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

GARY GRAY

04 SEP 2012