



Office of the Hon. Tony Abbott MP
Leader of the Opposition

29 October 2010

Ms Deborah Lopert
Acting Assistant Secretary
Corporate Services Division
Department of Finance and Deregulation
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Lopert

Thank you for your letter dated 26 August 2010 in which you sought Mr Abbott's comments regarding allegations on the ABC's *The Drum* website concerning the promotion of his book *Battlelines* and the use of travel entitlements. Mr Abbott has asked me to respond on his behalf in my capacity as Chief of Staff.

Upon receipt of your letter, the office has carefully reviewed all travel related to the time period specified. While it was prior to his election as Leader of the Opposition and my employment, records are clear that

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and this arrangement

was made clear

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In relation to the five occasions referred to in your letter (30 July 2009 to address the National Press Club in Canberra; 3 August 2009 at a Dymock's bookstore in Melbourne; 6 August 2009 at a Liberal Party Book Club event in Melbourne; 11 August 2009 at the Brisbane Institute in Brisbane and 14 August 2009 at an event in Perth), I can confirm that travel was related to the promotion of *Battlelines* and on all occasions,

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Furthermore, it should be noted that the fact Mr Abbott did not claim travel allowance associated with this travel, with the exception of 6 August 2009 where portfolio business was the primary purpose of the travel, indicate this understanding within the office.

In reviewing this matter, I have also been made aware of a further trip on 12 August 2009

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Therefore there are six occasions where

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costs associated with airline travel to promote Mr Abbott's book.

From my investigation, it would appear that while the office was aware of

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HRG. S 47F S 47G S 47F S 47G
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S 47F S 47G and I enclose a full repayment of all outstanding costs S 47F S 47G
amount \$6,255.49.

I would appreciate your confirmation that these monies have been received in writing and that this matter is resolved. Please contact me if there are further queries in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely



PETA CREDLIN
Chief of Staff

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PAY THE
SUM OF

Six Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Five Dollars and 49 Cents

DATE 27/10/2010

NOT NEGOTIABLE

\$ ***6,255.49

THE
ORDER OF

The Department of Finance and
Deregulation

For and on behalf of

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