

• SKY NEWS LIVE

5:53pm Tuesday, December 9th, 2025



Subscribe

Log in



Australia World Opinion Business Lifestyle Stream Listen



Australia News > Politics

EXCLUSIVE

Labor ministers spent \$800k of taxpayer funds on family travel as new analysis exposes the shocking bill

Labor ministers spent more than \$800,000 of taxpayer funds on travel entitlements for their families since coming to power, with Sport Minister Anika Wells among the top spenders, exclusive analysis reveals. FIND OUT WHO SPENT THE MOST.



Oscar Godsell Political Reporter

⌚ 2 min read December 9, 2025 - 10:53AM

sky news .COM.AU

✉ 377 Comments



Anika Wells engulfed in another expense scandal while using taxpayer funds

It has been revealed Communications Minister Anika Wells spent nearly \$1,000 to have a go' more

Fresh details of government spending reveal that Labor ministers have spent more than \$800,000 taking advantage of parliamentary family travel entitlements

of parliamentary family travel entitlements.

Sky News has analysed the expenditure summaries of government ministers and shadow ministers utilising family travel between Q3 of 2022 and Q3 of 2025.

Labor ministers accounted for \$824,485 and their Coalition counterparts claimed \$574,382.17 over the three-year period – while Labor was in government.

Among the top Labor spenders was the Communications and Sport Minister Anika Wells, who claimed \$36,142.90 for family travel over the period.

Her expenses included flights for her husband to attend three AFL Grand Finals, trips to the Formula 1 Grand Prix and several cricket events.

Ms Wells has defended her spending, telling Sky News that she followed the “usual guidelines” and was happy for entitlements to be scrutinised.

Mr Albanese has [resisted calls to fire Ms Wells](#), amid the revelation that he has claimed almost double her spending – though his travel schedule has been much more intense.

Minister and shadow minister family travel expenses

Q3 2022 to Q3 2025

QS ZUZZ IO QS ZUZO

Search Table

Party	Parliamentarian	Family travel
Coalition	Andrew Willcox	\$123,769.48
Labor	Don Farrell	\$110,031.32
Labor	Patrick Gorman	\$104,898.45
Coalition	Melissa Price	\$72,259.18
Labor	Anthony Albanese	\$71,111.70
Labor	Malarndirri McCarthy	\$70,443.12
Labor	Madeleine King	\$68,324.18
Coalition	Anne Webster	\$41,476.48
Labor	Matt Keogh	\$41,366.46
Coalition	James Paterson	\$38,184.80
Coalition	Cameron Caldwell	\$37,441.18
Labor	Anika Wells	\$36,142.90
Coalition	David Littleproud	\$34,177.61
Labor	Nita Green	\$32,471.59
Labor	Josh Wilson	\$30,143.23

Rows per page: 20 rows ▾ 1-15 of 15 | < < 1-15 of 15 |



Fresh details of government spending has shown that Labor ministers have spent more than \$800,000 taking advantage of parliamentary family travel entitlements for.

However, the largest user of taxpayer-funded family travel was Coalition MP for Dawson Andrew Willcox who claimed \$123,769 over the period.

Trade Minister Don Farrell was the biggest government spender, who charged taxpayers \$110,031.

It was revealed on Monday that he spent \$9,001.11 over three years to bring family members to football and tennis matches, and an exclusive Uluru sunset dinner.

Mr Farrell defended his spending, saying in a statement that all his expenses were "in line with the relevant rules and guidelines".

guidelines .



'All sorts of trouble': Anika Wells' expenses analysed

Sky News host James Macpherson analyses Communications Minister Ani

Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister Patrick Gorman was the third biggest family travel benefit user, billing taxpayers \$104,898.45.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese claimed \$71,111.70, while Malarndirri McCarthy billed \$70,443.12.

Madeleine King claimed \$68,324.18, Matt Keogh \$68,324 and Anika Wells came in at \$36,142.90, placing her among the party's highest spenders.

On the Coalition side, Andrew Wilcox led with \$122,769.10

On the Coalition side, Andrew Willcox led with \$125,703.40, followed by Melissa Price next at \$72,259.18.

Other significant claimants include Anne Webster at \$41,476.48, James Paterson at \$38,184.80, and Cameron Caldwell at \$37,441.18.

Many of the top claimants, including Mr Gorman, Ms King and Ms Price reside in Western Australia and regularly have to travel to Canberra.

Mr Farrell has conducted extensive travel due to his role as Trade Minister and several other ministers, including Ms McCarty, Mr Willcox and Ms Webster live regionally.

Don't miss a moment of breaking political news on SkyNews.com.au



A SkyNews.com.au Streaming Subscription gives you access to live press conferences, coverage of parliament,

and expert analysis of the latest updates from Canberra and across the country. Subscribe to a [SkyNews.com.au Streaming Subscription](https://www.skynews.com.au) today. Already subscribed? [Watch here](https://www.skynews.com.au).

T&Cs apply. Content accessible in Australia only.

Parliamentary guidelines allow ministers and shadow ministers to claim family travel if the trips are for parliamentary or official business.

Under the government's work expenses framework, parliamentarians must ensure that spending reflects "value for money" and "good faith".

Coalition MPs have been intensely scrutinising the use of Ms Wells' family travel entitlements asking for her to front and independent inquiry.

Liberal MP Aaron Violi defended the merit of family reunions due to the heavy travel schedules of politicians but added respect needed to be shown to taxpayers.

“Why this need to use family reunion on taxpayer money for your husband to come to Boxing Day?” he told Sky News while discussing Ms Wells’ travel decisions.

