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# Anthony Albanese fails to declare Boxing Day cricket freebie

Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese is under fire for not declaring free tickets and a lavish lunch at the Boxing Day Test Match. He also billed taxpayers more than \$2000 to get there.

**Annika Smethurst** National political editor

 less than 2 min read [September 6, 2020 - 12:00AM](#) [The Sunday Telegraph](#)

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Sky News Political Editor Andrew Clennell says Tuesday's Question Time exchange between Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese and Prime Minister Scott Morrison has again shown "just how personal it can get" between the two.

## NSW

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Labor leader Anthony Albanese is under fire after failing to declare free corporate tickets and hospitality to the Boxing Day Test Match.

Sources say Mr Albanese was spotted at the first day of the Melbourne Test against New Zealand sitting alongside Deputy Leader Richard Marles — who publicly declared the lavish freebie.



Anthony Albanese and Labor frontbencher Julie Collins at the Women's T20 World Cup.

Under Parliamentary rules, politicians must record any sponsored travel or hospitality worth more than \$300 on a public register, to promote transparency and reveal any potential conflicts of interest.

The Sunday Telegraph has seen a copy of the corporate ticket inviting VIPs and dignitaries to the MCG's Olympic Room for a three-course seated lunch with “premium beverages” on Boxing Day.

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According to the invitation, guests were required to wear business jackets and a tie to the event which kicked off at 10am.

According to Cricket Australia, three-course corporate packages start at \$990 for the Boxing Day Series.

When asked about the oversight, a spokesman for Mr Albanese said the Leader of the Opposition attended in an official capacity and had "followed all the declaration rules".

We would be thrilled if you would join us as the personal guest of Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria Executive and Board to cheer on the Australian Men's Team as they take on New Zealand in the 2019-20 Domain Test Series. (If you support New Zealand you're still invited – just be prepared for some friendly banter on the day!)



## Australia v New Zealand

Day One  
Thursday, 26 December 2019  
MCG

**ACCEPT**

Nothing could stop me from witnessing the GOAT in action.

**DECLINE**

Sorry I'll be too busy batting in the nets with hope to one day rival Steve Smith's average.



### Dress Code

Business jacket and tie required. Ladies dress accordingly. Strictly no denim or shorts.



### Food and Beverages

Three course seated lunch with premium beverages



### Timings

Guest arrival 10:00 AM  
Play starts 10:30 AM



### Hospitality Location

Olympic Room



### Tickets

E-tickets will be sent via email three days before the event



### RSVP by Thursday, 12 December

This invitation is strictly non-transferable

The invitation to the Boxing Day Test.

Travel records show Mr Albanese also billed taxpayers \$1738 to fly from Sydney to Melbourne for the day. Taxpayers also covered the \$360 cost for chauffeur-driven vehicles between the airport and the MCG.

The Labor Leader also billed \$11.13 to the public purse for “unscheduled transport”, which can include things like taxis, ride share services or public transport tickets.

An analysis of press releases, media clippings and social media from Boxing Day found no evidence Mr Albanese had any other commitment in Melbourne.

Mr Albanese’s public register shows he has publicly declared other freebies, including tickets to the Sydney Test on January 3 and tickets to the Australian Open on January 29.

In March, Mr Albanese also attended the Women’s T20 World Cup with Labor frontbencher Julie Collins, but neither MP declared the tickets on their register.

The maximum public ticket price for the event was \$60, so the corporate ticket price may have been below the \$300 reporting threshold.

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