

Member	Georgie Purcell	Electorate	Northern Victoria
Period	01 October 2023 to 31 December 2023		

Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$14,470.75
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$0.00

Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$0.00
Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter	No

Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$7,139.44
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	Melbourne

Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation
04-Sep-23	05-Sep-23	Electorate and constituent meetings	\$246.40	Wodonga	\$189.00
07-Dec-23	09-Dec-23	Attended several meetings - relating to greyhound and kangaroo welfare. Electorate Travel - Northern Victoria has one of the largest kangaroo quotas in the state, it is an issue that many of my constituents are passionare, including local wildlife shelters and rescuers. Northern Victoria is home to a number of greyhound racing tracks, many of which have a high death and injury rate.	\$697.12	Sydney	\$677.92

Total number of nights for travel allowance claims **3**
Total amount paid to member for travel allowance **\$943.52**

Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport

Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims **0**
Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance **\$0.00**

Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
19-Sep-23	29-Sep-23	Electorate business	\$5,382.28

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims **10**
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance **\$5,382.28**
See attached travel report for further details

Georgie Purcell Member of the Legislative Council for Northern Victoria

3/80 High Street, Woodend VIC

USA Travel Report

(a) the dates in respect of which the allowance is claimed;

September 19th 2023 – September 29th 2023

(b) the reason for the travel;

LA – Meetings with companion animal rescue groups to learn about the introduction of no kill policy in the city, as well as the effectiveness of trap, neuter, return programs to manage community cat populations.

DC - Study trip with Animal Wellness Action and Centre for Humane Economy – focusing on greyhounds and kangaroos.

(c) an indication of whether the travel relates to parliamentary business or electorate business;

This travel was for electorate business.

- Kangaroos, companion animals and greyhound racing are key policy areas for the Animal Justice Party in the Victorian Parliament and regularly raised by constituents.
 - Northern Victoria has one of the largest quotas under the Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan, which in turn fuels the international trade.
 - Northern Victoria's animal shelters have some of the highest kill rates of the state.
 - Northern Victoria has a growing stray and community cat problem.

(d) if there was accommodation used in respect of the claim—

(i) the town, city or suburb in which the accommodation was located; and

(ii) the value of the accommodation;

tommie Hollywood - 6516 Selma Ave Los Angeles, CA 90028

September 19th 2023 – September 24th 2023

Capitol Hill Hotel - 200 C Street SE Washington D.C 20003-1909

September 24th 2023 – September 27th 2023

Total: \$4052.28

(e) if there was commercial transport used in respect of the claim, the mode and value of the transport;

Airport to hotel car transport in Los Angeles, Uber and taxi

Total: \$594.10

(f) a statement of the Member's objectives;

There is a movement to progress animal protection legislation at a political level around the world, as well as a number of key bills before the US Congress which impact animals in Victoria. This trip was to speak to political representatives, NGOs and advocacy groups about policy currently in place in the United States that we are pursuing in Victoria and my region to learn about its effectiveness and challenges.

(g) a brief description of the Parliaments and other organisations visited (if any);

Los Angeles:

- Stray Cat Alliance - <https://straycatalliance.org/>
 - TNR (Trap, neuter, return) policy. Success and challenges of the program.
- Vanderpump Dogs -
 - Dog rescue open to the public that works to rescue dogs from the meat trade in China and adopt them to permanent homes in the US. This is closely aligned with our work on greyhound export, where Australian dogs are also proven to end up in this trade. We work with local and offshore groups who rescue dogs, and use their experience and information to inform political strategy and policy – I included this information in a recent submission to a Federal Parliamentary Inquiry.
- SPCA Los Angeles
 - Companion animal rescue, powers to seize and prosecute, no-kill policy effectiveness.
- James Wilks – producers of The Game Changers
- Jim Greenbaum - Philanthropist, founder Greenbaum Foundation
- Jane Velez-Mitchell - Journalist & ED UnchainedTV

- Moby - Musician & Animal Activist
- Paul Degelder - Activist, Author & Host of Discovery Channel's Shark Week
- Shaun Monson - Filmmaker of Earthlings & Dominion

Washington D.C

- Meetings at Capitol Hill with US politicians in relation to the Kangaroo Protection Act (2021) <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/917/text?r=3&s=1> – seeking to cease the import and commercial sale of kangaroo products in the United States.
 - Office of Representative. Brian Fitzpatrick
 - Office of Rep. Lance Gooden
 - Office of Rep. Garbarino
 - Office of Rep. Ted Lieu
 - Office of Rep. Nancy Mace
 - Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher
 - Office of Rep. Salazar
 - Office of Senator Cory Booker
 - Office of Rep. Laurel Lee
 - Office of Sen. Tammy Duckworth
 - Office of Rep. Joe Neguse
 - Office of Rep. Dan Kildee
- Animal Wellness Action
- Centre for a Humane Economy

(h) a list of those persons met in relation to the reason for the travel and the assistance or information obtained from such persons;

As above

(i) reference to any documents or publications obtained or considered to be of interest in a Parliamentary sense;

See below

(j) brief summaries of the study areas pursued in the countries visited;

See below

(k) summary of the results achieved and any recommendations arising.

See below

The purpose of this trip was multi-pronged:

- To learn about animal protection at a legislative level in another jurisdiction, and improvements we could make in Victoria;
- To discuss Australian native animal issues of interest to US legislators;
- To meet with NGOs and advocacy groups about policy areas the Animal Justice Party has an interest in that have been implemented in the United States, their effectiveness and challenges;
- To learn more about the impacts that ex-racing greyhound export from Victoria is having in the United States, with their expanding adoption market;
- To learn more about a number of bills before the United States Congress that impact Victorian programs, including the Kangaroo Protection Act, which would have a significant impact on the commercial harvest program in Northern Victoria if passed.

TNR

Trap Neuter and Return programs are currently not legal in Victoria (or anywhere in Australia), however I have spoken and advocated for their effectiveness since my election, specifically for the management of stray cat colonies. There is limited yet increasing Australian academic research on the effectiveness of TNR, which has been used widely in parts of the US and Europe for some time. With Victoria's first ever ten-year cat management plan due to be released at the end of the year, it was important to understand the hands on and operational reality of TNR in a location where it is being effective, in order to further inform our position. Meeting with the Stray Cat Alliance assisted my understanding of the benefits of TNR and provided a relationship and connection that will allow the sharing of data and information for me to better advocate for TNR and cats in

Victoria. The Stray Cat Alliance have agreed to assist with and endorse a proposal for a TNR pilot in Victoria.

Companion animal rescue and 'no kill' policies in shelters

As with TNR there are mixed opinions in rescue as to whether “no kill” policies for shelters and pounds actually work. After expensive advocacy by the no-kill alliance in LA, shelters became officially “no-kill” in 2021. While LA now reports over 90% save rate, sufficient time has not passed for there to be a true measure on whether this can be considered truly ethically successful. SPCALA explained this can mean animals in shelters for longer, shelters being full and animals unable to be rescued as a result. As I work on further companion animal rescue reform, and implementation of rehoming sector reforms, this information and relationship with SPCALA will be pertinent, as Australia often looks to America as a test case for rescued companion animal improvements.

Kangaroos

The key learnings from this trip were on the protections being introduced in the US congress via a Bill to prohibit the importation of kangaroo skins and parts. A large quantity of these skins and parts come from my region, with Northern Victoria having one of the largest kangaroo shooting quotas in the state, with the Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander Shire recently having their quotas increased despite community opposition. The proposed Bill has bi-partisan support and lawmakers shared views on how the importation of kangaroo skins inadvertently supports a wildlife trade, that the United States does not otherwise allow. America does not allow the shooting of its native animals in a commercial capacity - it was interesting to experience how two parties work together on issues to achieve shared outcomes, and how matters of animal and environmental ethics are less politicised. The way in which the Congress works together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, including with an animal welfare caucus, and animal welfare advisors, has provided me with additional considerations for my approach to my work— especially as the single MP from a minor party. The Centre for Humane Economy conducts research into matters of ethical economy and strengthening and maintaining a relationship with them will assist in future projects and policy.

Greyhounds

There are two greyhound racing tracks left in America, and a bill to ban racing and the simulcasting of racing is being introduced, which would significantly impact betting proceeds in Victoria. Ending greyhound racing is one of my lead projects, through meeting with the Centre for Humane Economy and the law makers (listed above) I gained an insight into how America got to the point of closing all but two tracks, and will ultimately likely ban greyhound racing in the near future. I will continue to work with the Centre for Humane Economy on expanding this work to include a ban on the import of Australian greyhounds, as America is used as a half-way point to send Australian greyhounds undesexed to China for illegal racing and breeding – without a ban on exports (currently being considered by the Australian Government) this will be the only chance to close this loophole.