

Member	Kat Theophanous	Electorate	Northcote
Period	1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026		

Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$10,973.70
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$872.34

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	\$0.00
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	n/a

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
Total number of nights for travel allowance claims			0		
Total amount paid to member for travel allowance			\$0.00		

Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport
09-Jan-26	09-Jan-26	Uber to Melbourne Airport for Parliamentary and Electorate duties	\$39.75	Rideshare	\$39.75
Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims			0		
Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance			\$39.75		

Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
09-Jan-26	16-Jan-26	Flights to Athens to attend World Hellenic Interparliamentary Association board meeting as parliamentary and electorate duties.	\$7,487.80
Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims			7
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance			\$7,487.80

Travel Report – World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (WHIA)

9 January – 16 January 2026

Kat Theophanous MP

Reason for Travel

Ms Theophanous attended the World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (WHIA) annual board meeting and participated in delegation activities. These activities relate to her public duties, including both parliamentary business and electoral business. As a WHIA board member, Ms Theophanous represents the Oceania region on the board. The association also has direct relevance to the Northcote Electorate, where approximately 8.5% of people identify with Greek ancestry – one of the largest populations in Victoria.

Summary

The World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (WHIA) is an interparliamentary organisation of the Greek diaspora bringing together current and former legislators of Greek origin from around the world.

Its purpose is to work constructively to build links between legislatures around the world, and the Parliaments of Greece and Cyprus through trade, tourism, geopolitics and cultural links. It also cooperates closely with the Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad in order to tackle issues regarding the Greek Diaspora.

Additionally, one of its core roles as an inter-parliamentary group is to provide professional development opportunities, networking for members and associates across the world, and the fostering of people-to-people links across regions.

WHIA holds regular board meetings, conferences and delegations for its members. In July 2025, Ms Theophanous was appointed to the WHIA Board and serves as one of two representatives from the Oceania region.

Statement of Members objectives

The objectives of the travel were to:

- Undertake duties arising from Ms Theophanous's appointment to the Board of the World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (WHIA), including participation in formal board meetings and delegation activities.
- Strengthen parliamentary, governmental and institutional relationships between Australia and Greece, with a particular focus on issues affecting the Greek diaspora in Victoria.
- Engage with members of the Hellenic Parliament, Greek Government ministers and senior officials to discuss matters of mutual parliamentary interest, including diaspora engagement, economic ties, environmental policy, education, language retention and cultural exchange.

- Explore opportunities to support and enhance cultural, economic, educational and people-to-people links between Greece and Australia, including initiatives relevant to Victoria and to electorates with significant Greek-Australian communities.
- Represent Victorian parliamentary interests and advance understanding of issues of relevance to Ms Theophanous's electorate of Northcote, where residents of Greek heritage form a significant proportion of the local community.

Itinerary

Date	Schedule
9 January	Flight from Melbourne to Athens
10 January	Arrival in Athens Welcome dinner and Vasilopita event at Kentro Athinon
11 January	WHIA Board Meeting
12 January	Meeting with Chair of the Environment Committee of the Hellenic Parliament, Dr Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou Meeting with Chair of the Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr Filippos Fortomas, and Vice Chairs Mr Georgios Nikitiadis and Ms Nina Kasimati Meeting with the President of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr Nikitas Kaklamanis Meeting with the Minister for Development, Mr Panagiotis Theodorikakos Lunch at Hellenic Parliament with members of the Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad of the Hellenic Parliament Dinner hosted by Metlen Energy & Metals
13 January	Meeting with General Dimitrios Choupis, Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff Meeting with Ambassador Alison Duncan at the Australian Embassy Meeting with Greek Minister for Education, Ms Sofia Zacharaki Flight to Lemnos Dinner with Mayor of Lemnos, Ms Eleonora Georga
14 January	Presentation and tour of Lemnos Surf Youth Camp project by Surf Club Keros Visit to Moudros Military Cemetery with Australian Memorial Flight to Thessaloniki Tour and meeting with Deloitte at the Deloitte Competence Center Visit Thessaloniki War Museum Meeting with Deputy Minister of Interior, sector of Macedonia and Thrace, Mr Konstantinos Gioulekas
15 January	Meeting with Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, Ms Athina Athanasiadou Tour of site and meeting with Pfizer CEO, Mr. Antonios Fousteris Lunch meeting with EDIL CEO, Mr Michalis Lambropoulos Flight to Athens
16 January	Flight to Melbourne

Claim for commercial transport (flights): \$7,487.80 is claimed for this travel.

Summary of study areas pursued

During the visit, the following study areas were pursued:

- The role of inter-parliamentary organisations in strengthening relationships between legislatures and supporting engagement with diaspora communities.
- Approaches to Greek language retention and education among diaspora communities, including existing language support programs.
- The use of cultural exchange and heritage initiatives to strengthen bilateral people-to-people links.
- Environmental and climate policy, including parliamentary cooperation on climate action and disaster preparedness.
- The historical significance of Lemnos in the ANZAC campaign and the importance of ongoing commemoration.
- Developments in digital innovation and advanced manufacturing relevant to contemporary economic and skills policy.

Highlights

Meetings with Australian Ambassador and Greek Education Minister

On 13 January the Australian members of the delegation had the opportunity to meet with the Australian Ambassador to Greece, Alison Duncan, followed by a meeting with the Greek Minister for Education, Ms Sofia Zacharaki.

Discussions included the Greek Prime Minister's upcoming visit to Australia, recognised as a significant moment for Australia's Greek diaspora, particularly in Melbourne.

The meetings explored opportunities for cultural exchange, including partnerships similar to the collaboration between the National Archaeological Museum of Athens and Museums Victoria on the *Open Horizons: Hellenic Journeys* exhibition.

The delegation also discussed the ongoing challenge of Greek Australians in retaining the Greek language. This issue is particularly acute in electorates such as Northcote, where 8.5 per cent of residents identify as having Greek heritage.

Minister Zacharaki briefed the delegation on the subsidised Greek language teacher program operating in Australia, and discussions were held on ways this program could be strengthened.



Ms Theophanous outlined initiatives underway in Victoria to support Greek language retention, including funding for Greek story time programs, bilingual kindergartens, and the continuation of Greek language pathways in schools and university.

Meeting with the Chair of the Environment Committee of the Hellenic Parliament

The delegation met with the Chair of the Environment Committee of the Hellenic Parliament, Dr Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou.

During the meeting, Ms Theophanous outlined key environmental initiatives in Victoria, including the State's legislated climate targets and Victoria's experience in bushfire management and emergency response. The discussion acknowledged previous instances where Australian expertise has assisted Greece during major wildfire events.

The meeting also included discussion of the role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, of which both Australia and Greece are members, and its contribution to advancing cooperation and the exchange of best practice on environmental and climate policy across jurisdictions.

Visit to Moudros Military Cemetery in Lemnos

A deeply moving part of the program was visiting the Moudros Military Cemetery on the island of Lemnos.

Lemnos served as the principal base for ANZAC forces during the 1915 Gallipoli Campaign, operating as a critical logistical hub for staging, training, hospitals, and rest, with troops departing from its Moudros Harbour for the peninsula and returning for care.

Lemnos is an essential but often forgotten part of the ANZAC story, with approximately 50,000 ANZACs passing through the island to and from the Gallipoli frontline. By the end of the first day of fighting on 25 April 1915, more than 2,000 Allied troops had been killed or wounded. Just 136 Australian nurses cared for thousands of wounded, sick and dying soldiers under extremely challenging conditions.

Today, 148 Australian and 76 New Zealand soldiers are buried on Lemnos. The delegation paid its respects by laying a wreath on behalf of Australians and observing the many poignant inscriptions on the gravestones, some marking soldiers as young as 18 years old.



Meeting with the Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia

In Thessaloniki, the delegation met with the Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, Ms Athina Athanasiadou, who oversees a large administrative region that includes the city of Thessaloniki.

Ms Theophanous conveyed the deep and enduring connection between Melbourne and Thessaloniki, which are sister cities. She noted her recent work with the Thessaloniki Association, based in the Northcote electorate, to ensure the 40th anniversary of the sister-city relationship was formally acknowledged by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Councillor Nick Reece.

Tour of Pfizer's Centre for Digital Innovation

The delegation toured Pfizer's Centre for Digital Innovation in Thessaloniki and met with the company's CEO and executive leadership team.

The Centre is a key component of Pfizer's global digital strategy, focusing on artificial intelligence, machine learning and quantum computing to transform drug discovery, development and patient care.



The visit also provided an opportunity to highlight Pfizer's significant presence in Melbourne, where the company has invested AU\$150 million to upgrade its specialised manufacturing facility. The Melbourne site is one of only 15 in Pfizer's global network producing sterile injectable medicines, including cancer treatments, anaesthetics and anti-inflammatory drugs, and supports approximately 500 highly skilled local manufacturing jobs.

Briefings and Documents obtained

The majority of briefings were conducted verbally in a combination of Greek and English. Some powerpoint presentations were shown but not provided in hard copy or electronically.

The Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, Ms Athina Athanasiadou provided a book publication on the history of the Region of Central Macedonia, to be gifted to the Thessaloniki Association within the Northcote Electorate.

Results and Recommendations

The travel enabled Ms Theophanous to fulfil her responsibilities as a Board member of the World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association, including participation in formal meetings and delegation activities.

The visit strengthened parliamentary and institutional relationships with members of the Hellenic Parliament, Greek Government ministers and senior officials, and supported the exchange of perspectives on issues of shared interest, including diaspora engagement, education, environmental policy and inter-parliamentary cooperation.

The delegation elevated the issue of Greek language education and retention within diaspora communities, as well as opportunities to strengthen existing language support and cultural exchange initiatives relevant to Australia and Victoria.

Discussions with parliamentary and government representatives highlighted areas of shared experience in climate policy, bushfire management and emergency response, and reinforced the value of international cooperation in responding to environmental challenges.

The visit to Lemnos contributed to a deeper understanding of the historical significance of the island in the ANZAC campaign and reinforced the importance of continued commemoration of shared military history.

It is recommended that:

- Parliamentary and institutional engagement with Greece and Cyprus through inter-parliamentary organisations such as WHIA and the Inter-Parliamentary Union continue to be supported.
- Opportunities for cooperation and information-sharing on environmental and climate policy, including disaster preparedness and emergency response, be further explored at a parliamentary level.
- Initiatives supporting heritage language retention and cultural exchange within diaspora communities continue to be encouraged.
- Ongoing recognition and commemoration of shared ANZAC history, including the role of Lemnos, be maintained and supported.

Media Clippings

<https://greekherald.com.au/news/politics/greek-australian-mps-highlight-global-role-of-hellenism-during-thessaloniki-visit/>

<https://greekherald.com.au/news/steve-georganas-mp-highlights-diaspora-role-in-greeces-development-during-padee-talks/>