

<b>Member</b>	Pauline Richards	<b>Electorate</b>	Cranbourne
<b>Period</b>	1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024		

<b>Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$12,079.83
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$0.00

<b>Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance</b>	
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

<b>Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$0.00
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	n/a

<b>Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation
18-Mar-24	21-Mar-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$978.72	Melbourne	\$870.00
06-May-24	07-May-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$315.03	Melbourne	\$309.00
29-Apr-24	02-May-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$877.00	Melbourne	\$877.00
13-May-24	15-May-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$580.00	Melbourne	\$580.00
27-May-24	30-May-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$886.97	Melbourne	\$870.00
17-Jun-24	20-Jun-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$950.17	Melbourne	\$932.00

Total number of nights for travel allowance claims 15  
Total amount paid to member for travel allowance \$4,587.89

<b>Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims</b>					
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

<b>Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims</b>			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
17-Apr-24	29-Apr-24	Return Flights from Melbourne to Istanbul on electorate business to undertake research and represent the views and interests at various ANZAC events and activities	\$7,819.05

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 12  
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$7,819.05  
See attached travel report for further details

Anzac Delegation 2024 International Travel Report  
Pauline Richards MP  
18 April 2024 – 28 April 2024



**Attendees:**

Natalie Suleyman MP, State Member for St Albans  
Tim Bull MP, State Member for Gippsland East  
Ella George MP, State Member for Lara  
Belinda Wilson MP, State Member for Narre Warren North  
Juliana Addison MP, State Member for Wendouree  
Emma Kealy MP, State Member for Lowan  
Luba Grigorovitch MP, State Member for Kororoit  
Pauline Richards MP, State Member for Cranbourne  
Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Ashwood  
Anthony Cianflone MP, State Member for Pascoe Vale  
Cindy McLeish MP, State Member for Eildon  
Martin Cameron MP, State Member for Morwell  
John Berger MP, State Member for Southern Metropolitan Region  
Tim McCurdy MP, State Member for Ovens Valley

## **Statement of Objectives:**

In April 2024 I was honoured to participate in a cross-party Victorian Member of Parliament Delegation to Türkiye to attend the Anzac Memorial Services, visit places of cultural significance, and engage with the Turkish Government and Parliament.

This Victorian Member of Parliament Anzac Delegation is an annual tradition for State Members of Parliament. After a pause on travel due to the pandemic, this tradition has returned in 2024. I was proud to represent the people of Cranbourne and particularly honoured to recognise those men and boys from my electorate who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

Türkiye and Australia share a unique bond – through the shared experience that began on the battlefields of Çanakkale (Gallipoli). This year marks the 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Gallipoli campaign that forged the spirit of the Anzacs of mateship, camaraderie and mutual respect. Values that now form part of the national identity of Australia, New Zealand and Türkiye.

Since that time, Australia and Türkiye have become close friends and share in commemorations on Anzac Day and throughout the year as thousands of Australians make the pilgrimage to Gallipoli to pay their respects and honour the fallen.

Victoria is home to the largest Turkish community in Australia, with over 40,000 living here in 2024. Melbourne's South East has a vibrant Turkish diaspora and over my time representing the Cranbourne district, I have been delighted to develop a particularly close relationship with the local Turkish Senior Citizens Club who meet regularly and provide important social connections to our Turkish Australian community.

The arrival of Turkish Airlines' inaugural flight to Melbourne in March 2024 and the announcement that they would base their operations out of Melbourne Airport illustrates the growing importance of these cultural and economic ties. This represents a major opportunity for increased international trade and tourism. Providing more competition and cheaper flights for Victorians while also creating hundreds of jobs.

By fostering these economic and cultural ties between Victoria and Türkiye, we can develop further economic opportunities for both communities. I join my colleagues in engagement with stakeholders to further enhance our cross-cultural connections and explore trade, tourism, and education opportunities for the electorate and for Victoria.

## Summary of meetings and visits:

### 18 April 2024

Melbourne to Istanbul  
Stayed in Istanbul

### 19 April 2024

Briefing

### 20 April 2024 – 21 April 2024

The Delegation visited the major cultural and historical sites of Istanbul which included the Dolmabahçe Palace, Sultan Ahmet Mosque, Ayasofya Mosque, Basilica Cistern, Topkapı Palace, the Bosphorus and the Grand Bazaar. These are places of immense historical and cultural significance for Türkiye.

We met with the chair of the Council of Foreign Economic Relations of the Türkiye-Australia Business Council. Mr Steven Young is an Australian of Turkish heritage based in Istanbul, we spoke about growing business ties between Australia and Türkiye. He noted the opportunities that direct flights between Melbourne and Istanbul presented for business, trade and tourism.



**22 April 2024**

Depart Istanbul, travel to Ankara (flight)

Stayed in Ankara

The Delegation had the honour of visiting the Mausoleum of Atatürk (Anıtkabir) to pay our respects, lay a wreath, and sign the Book of Honour. It serves as the resting place of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was the founder of the Republic of Türkiye and served as its first President from 1923 until his death in 1938.

During the ANZAC campaign, Atatürk was the commander in charge of Turkish forces.

After the Gallipoli campaign, Atatürk famously said:

*Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...  
You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.  
Therefore rest in peace.  
There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments to us where they lie side  
by side now here in this country of ours...  
You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears;  
Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace.  
After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.*

The Delegation paused to view the words inscribed into the stone of the Mausoleum and reflect on the significance of this statement which has become an enduring symbol of the relationship between Türkiye and Australia.

We joined with the Australian Ambassador Mr Miles Armitage from the Embassy of Australia in Ankara, and Parliamentarians of the Türkiye Australia friends group from the Turkish Grand Assembly.

### **23 April 2024**

Delegation members visited the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA).

The TGNA has 600 members and is located in Ankara, the capital city of Türkiye.

The Delegation joined a reception hosted by HE Halil Eldemir, the President of the Türkiye-Australia Interparliamentary Friendship Group, Member of Parliament for Bilecik. Other Parliamentarians also joined this reception.

We had the opportunity to discuss the relationship between Türkiye and Victoria. We also spoke about Global Victoria and how Turkish migrants living in Victoria have benefited from the support of Global Victoria to import and export goods. There are many examples of successful Turkish migrants in business within the north-east metro Melbourne region. We discussed the economic and cultural opportunities between Türkiye for businesses of all sizes. We also discussed the history of the Victorian Member of Parliament's Anzac Delegation and how this shared historical event has strengthened ties between Australia and Türkiye. We thanked the Turkish Government for their continued support in maintaining war memorials, allowing Australians to honour our country's veterans each year, reflecting on the significant cooperation between the Australian and Turkish Governments to enable travel and commemoration on Anzac Day and throughout the year.

We also attended the TGNA General Assembly Special Session for the Anniversary of Foundation of the TGNA and a guided tour of the TGNA. This coincides with National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Türkiye – a very significant day in Türkiye that celebrates democracy and the importance of young people.

Finally, we met with HE Bekir Bozdağ, the Deputy Speaker of TGNA.

We then departed Ankara to Çanakkale (domestic flight).



#### **24 April 2024 Turkish Service.**

The Delegation attended the Ceremony for the 109th Anniversary of the Land Wars of Çanakkale, where the President of the Gallipoli Historic Site, Ismail Kasdemir, delivered a moving speech. Mr Kasdemir particularly spoke about the common ground that Gallipoli now represents as a sacred meeting place to reflect and commemorate.

Throughout the afternoon I visited cemeteries across the Gallipoli Peninsula where fallen soldiers from across Australia and New Zealand are buried or commemorated. I joined colleagues in placing poppies at the sites of soldiers – with a focus on those from the Cranbourne District - who had made the ultimate sacrifice. The poppies had been supplied by the Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL and research had been undertaken by the Casey Cardinia Library, to whom I am grateful.





**25 April 2024**

**Dawn Service**

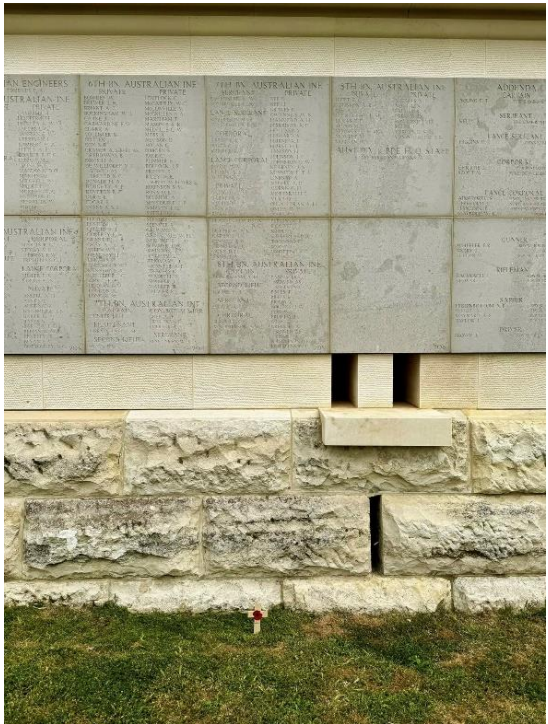
The Delegation attended the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Anzac Cove.

The Dawn Service is an important time for reflection on the service and sacrifice of our state's veterans. As Minister for Veterans, I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the Delegation and the Victorian Government.

The Delegation joined over 1500 travellers from Australia and New Zealand joined Turkish and other dignitaries at the former World War I battlefields at Gallipoli for a solemn service at dawn. As the sun rose, participants held a minute of silence to reflect on the sacrifices of tens of thousands of soldiers from the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps, who landed at the beaches at Gallipoli, in north-west Türkiye. Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles gave a moving speech, reflecting on the spirit of the Anzacs who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their nation and the lives lost on both sides of the conflict. We met with the Deputy Prime Minister.



It is so important that Australians continue to make the journey to Gallipoli, to pay their respects to our ANZACs, and remember our significant wartime history and we should continue to support Australians join this service in the future.





Following the Dawn Service, we paid our respects at the Lone Pine Monument, commemorating the 3,268 Australians and 456 New Zealanders who died in the campaign and have no known grave, and the 960 Australians and 252 New Zealanders who were buried at sea. This was a significant service with many Delegation members visiting the graves of soldiers from their electorates honoured at Lone Pine.

The Australian Dawn service was followed by services for the the armed forces of New Zealand.



We also visited the archeological site of Troy and the Schliemann Trench.

Together with colleagues Natalie Suleyman, John Berger, Anthony Cianflone, and Matt Fregon we travelled to Urfa. Urfa has rich historical and cultural significance, including Göbekli Tepe - the world's oldest known temple, dated back 11,500 years ago.

## 26 April 2024

Şanlıurfa/ Şanlıurfa to Istanbul (flight)

In the morning the delegation visited Göbekli Tepe which is a Neolithic archaeological site in the Southeastern Anatolia Region of Türkiye. The settlement was inhabited from 9500 to at least 8000 BCE famous for its large circular structures that contain massive stone pillars – the world's oldest known megaliths.

The delegation then went onto the Pool of Abraham in Sanliurfa and the Mevlid-I Halil Mosque. Balıklıgöl and neighbouring Aynzeliha pools are among the most visited places in Şanlıurfa and have significance in Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Balıklıgöl, is a pool in the southwest of the city center of Şanlıurfa, Turkey



## 27 April 2024

Delegation concludes.

## 28 April 2024

Istanbul to Melbourne (flight)

Accommodation expense claims include \$1000 for accommodation in Istanbul from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024, \$200 for accommodation in Ankara on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, \$500 for accommodation in Canakkale on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April and \$800 for accommodation in Istanbul on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April.

### Concluding remarks:

Victoria and Türkiye have long had strong cultural, historical, social and economic ties which can be strengthened even further between our communities and governments.

Victoria is home to largest Turkish community in Australia and many successful Turkish migrants. Opportunities can continue to grow in this area with further investment, trade and tourism.

This delegation was enhanced by the opportunity to understand modern day Turkiye and strenghten the relationship with business, consular and parliamentary colleagues, further deepening ties. A close personal relationship with the local diaspora is enhanced by my understanding of cosmopolitan Turkey and its place straddling Europe and the Middle East. Additionally, the significant Turkish community in Victoria reflects “the Johnnies and the Mehments” that Ataturk reflected in his famous speech.

The visit was an opportunity to represent the Cranbourne community at sombre commemoration services held across several days around ANZAC Day. It was a unique honour to include visits to grave sites where the young men of Cranbourne who had paid the ultimate sacrifice are laid to rest and to see first hand the peninsula where over 8,000 Australians died in battle.

It is important that we continue to remember and honour the ANZACs and reflect on our wartime history. There are many occasions across the year for Victorians to honour our past and presently serving veterans both at home and overseas, and I would encourage all Victorians to take part in these moving and important services.