

<b>Member</b>	Juliana Addison	<b>Electorate</b>	Wendouree
<b>Period</b>	1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025		

<b>Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$12,514.74
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	\$7,396.48
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	Richmond

<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

Total number of nights for travel allowance claims 0

Total amount paid to member for travel allowance \$0.00

<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
30/04/2025		Trip to India to strengthen cultural understanding of India and develop stronger ties with my Wendouree Indian community as electorate business - Official Passport	\$712.00
29/05/2025	8/06/2025	The claim is for previously approved Reg12 claim and is for internal flights, travelling on electorate business - undertaking research, representing the views and interests of constituents, participating in official and community activities to which the Member is invited.	\$2,781.29

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 10

Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$3,493.29

Juliana Addison MP  
Member for Wendouree

**International Travel Report**  
**Victorian Members of Parliament Delegation to India.**  
**Electorate business.**  
29 May - 8 June 2025

**India Trip Delegation attendees:**

Ms Juliana Addison MP, Member for Wendouree

Mr Lee Tarlamis OAM MP, Member for South-Eastern  
Metropolitan Region

Ms Pauline Richards MP, Member for Cranbourne

Ms Sheena Watt MP, Member for Northern Metropolitan Region

Ms Belinda Wilson MP, Member for Narre Warren North



**Statement of Objectives:**

The objective of the visit to India was to deepen my social, economic and political understandings of India, and subsequently establish stronger bonds with the Indian diaspora living in the electorate of Wendouree. I believe this will enable me to be a better representative of my whole community in the Parliament of Victoria.

Ballarat has become increasingly multicultural in recent decades, including a significant growth in our Indian diaspora. Many members of Ballarat's vibrant Indian community live in the suburbs of Winter Valley and Alfredton in my electorate. Across Ballarat nearly 2000 residents identify India as their country of birth and this figure continues to grow each year. With Ballarat's reputation for excellent schools and hospitals, a diversity of housing options, as well as Federation University and roles in IT at our technology park, it is a destination of choice for many Indians choosing to make Australia home.

Since being elected in 2018, I have built a positive relationship with local Indian groups including the Ballarat Hindu Temple Cultural Centre, the Ballarat Keralite Foundation of Australia, the Ballarat Malayalee Association and the Ballarat Sikhs. When I meet with members of these organisations, they often ask me if I have been to India. I have always answered that I plan to visit India, and they have strongly encouraged me to do so. The Indian diaspora in my community are immensely proud of their homeland, their culture and their religious and spiritual beliefs.

I strongly believe that a trip to India shows my respect to them as individuals as well as the Indian community organisations and religious/faith-based groups. This will be achieved by visiting sacred religious and cultural sites including the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Delhi, the Taj Mahal in Agra and the Sivagiri Mutt, Kerala, as well as the Parliament of India and the Legislative Assembly in Kerala.

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### **Trip itinerary:**

#### **Thursday 29 May 2025**

#### **Flight to New Delhi, India with Pauline Richards and Belinda Wilson.**

Accommodation – Le Meridien, New Delhi

#### **Friday 30 May 2025**

#### **Visit to significant sites of New and Old Delhi with Pauline Richards and Belinda Wilson,**

Construction of New Delhi as the new capital of India began in 1912 under the reign of King George V, it was formally inaugurated on February 13, 1931. New Delhi is a well-planned city, much like Canberra, as opposed to organic and chaotic streets of Old Delhi. It was quite the contrast.

We started our tour at in the Central Secretariat, we visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the President of the Republic of India, the India Gate war memorial, the historic Ugrasen ki Baoli (a stepwell underground structure for the storage of water), the Shahi Masjid, (a 350 year old mosque), the Red Fort, before heading to the hectic and chaotic markets of Old Delhi selling everything from India's famous spices, fresh fruit and vegetables, electrical items to kitchen utensils.

It was an incredible introduction to India, seeing the great wealth of the colonial city, from the traditional spice merchants to the desperate child and disabled beggars at traffic lights. A snapshot of the contradictions and complexities of India.



#### **Visit to the Parliament of India with Pauline Richards & Belinda Wilson.**

India's new Parliament House was officially opened in 2020 by Prime Minister Modi and the Speaker of the Parliament. India's new Parliament House is magnificent in physical size as well as architecture. The new parliament replaces the old Parliament House, which was opened in 1927 the same year as old Parliament House in Canberra. Like, our Old Parliament House, there are plans for a museum for India's Old Parliament House. The new parliament is adjacent to the old Parliament in the parliamentary precinct.

Following the Westminster system, the lower house is the house of the people and is called the Lok Sabha with 543 Members of a Parliament representing districts/electorates from across the Indian states and territories. Keeping with the Westminster tradition, the House has a green theme and features an enormous green wall panel, green seats, and carpets. India's national bird, the peacock is represented and incorporated throughout the chamber. The Lok Sabha has non-fixed five-year terms.



Indian democracy proudly incorporates the values of harmony, freedom, acceptability, equality, and inclusivity in society enabling a dignified life for all citizens. As the largest democracy in the world, its Parliament is impressive.

The upper house is the Rajya Sabha, or the House of the states. There are 250 representatives from the Indian states, based on proportional representation rather than our Senate with equal representation for the States and Territories, as well as 12 members nominated by the President of India for their contributions to art, literature, social services and science. Once again following the Westminster tradition, the house features an enormous red panel, reddish seats, and carpet. India's national flower, the lotus. It is a symbol of purity and spirituality across India, is represented and incorporated throughout the chamber.

Each day begins with question time in the Lok Sabha. Unlike our Parliament, Ministers who sit in the Rajya Sabha are required in the Lok Sabha to answer questions. Likewise, Ministers from the Lok Sabha are required to attend daily question time in the Rajya Sabha.

The chamber includes two enormous screens that shows in real time how each member votes. Importantly, it is a handed operation that ensures that each MP can only vote once. MPs can vote yes, no or abstain.

As a regional MP, I was keen to learn about the accommodation arrangements for the MPs when they are in New Delhi representing their constituencies. All MPs are allocated a residence within the parliamentary precinct, and which varied in offering dependent upon the position held and status of the Member, for example seniority in ministries and parties. A different approach to our Australian Parliament and the Parliament of Victoria.

Despite the construction of the new AUD \$20 billion parliament, I was surprised to learn that MPs did not have offices in the parliament and worked from their residences. However, a new annexe is being built that will include offices for MPs.

The Constitution of India provides for universal franchise and adult suffrage. The first general elections were held in 1951-52. In India's first general election 1951, there were total number of 1,874 candidates for 53 political parties including 14 national parties. Since then, 17 general and numerous state and local body elections have been conducted. The elections are conducted under the supervision of the Election Commission of India, an independent constitutional authority.

Conducting elections in the world's largest democracy is a huge undertaking. There are 900,000 polling stations and over 1.19 million electronic voting machines (EVMS) that provide a 100% auditable paper trail. This leads me to consider how elections in Victoria could be enhanced by the introduction of such technology.

The parliament is also a celebration of Indian history and culture throughout the new parliament, with displays featuring representation from different states and well as significant national figures. Within the gardens of the Parliament are statues of national heroes including Ghandi and Mahatma Jyotirao Phule.

I wish to thank Consul-General of India in Victoria Dr. Sushil Kumar for supporting our visit to the Parliament of India for the tour and discussions about democracy in India. It was a highlight spend time in the chambers with many Parliamentary officers to learn more about processes, the role of Ministers, political parties, parliamentary processes and protocols of the two chambers the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. I also wish to thank the Parliament of India and the secretariat of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for their warm reception and for being so generous with their time. It was an incredibly worthwhile experience with many learnings from the visit.

Accommodation – Le Meridien, New Delhi

### **Saturday 31 May 2025**

#### **Train from Delhi to Agra to visit Taj Mahal and other significant sites with Pauline Richards, Sheena Watt and Belinda Wilson.**

I particularly wanted to travel on a fast rail train service in India to experience the service, that is why we chose to catch the Gatimaan Express service from New Delhi to Agra. The train travels of speeds of up to 188 km, leaving Delhi at 8:10am and scheduled to arrive in Agra at approximately 9:50am. The trip was significantly faster than road travel, with a car trip to Agra expected to take more than 3.5 hours. The trip was comfortable but did slow and stop several times for no reason, resulting in us arriving at Agra just passed 10am. As a regional MP, representing an electorate 120km from the Melbourne CBD, I am keen to learn more about fast rail and how such a service could benefit my community.



I was also pleased to see large signs at the railway station with the Delhi Police Railway Help Line number, reinforcing community safety and well as providing important information for locals and tourists. I was interested learn that they also have women only carriages on the train service, providing women passengers the option of women only travel. An idea well worth consideration in Victoria, particularly on late night train services.



At Agra, we visited Taj Mahal, as well as seeing the Red Fort and the Baby Taj. Indians cherish the Taj Mahal for its profound symbolic and historical significance. It's seen as a testament to the enduring power of love, a masterpiece of Mughal architecture, and a symbol of India's rich history and heritage.

Tourism is the most significant industry in Agra with 7-8 million visitors annually, more than 3.29 million are domestic visitors. Admission prices to the Taj Mahal greatly vary for locals and international visits, with locals paying approximately AUD \$1 and international visitors AUD \$20. Not a common practice at tourist venues across Victoria, although the Eureka Centre in Ballarat is free for residents upon proof of address but not tourists. I learnt from our guide that tourist numbers are yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels, with many international visitors not returning in the same numbers.



I was interested to learn that Agra has recently opened new metro train stations including one at the Taj Mahal with further station to be opened. The Agra Metro has two rail corridors that are underground and elevated. The metro is designed to improve connectivity and boost tourism by connecting key locations including the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Sikandra, as well as reduce traffic congestion.



Accommodation – Le Meridien, New Delhi

**Sunday 1 June 2025 Visit to Swaminarayan Akshardham, New Delhi with Pauline Richards, Lee Tarlamis, Sheena Watt, and Belinda Wilson.**

Swaminarayan Akshardham is a magnificent Hindu temple and spiritual-cultural complex in New Delhi. Located near the Yamuna River, the temple is considered a divine abode of God and a place of devotion, purity, and peace. It showcases centuries of Hindu traditions, spirituality, and architecture. The temple was inspired by Yogiji Maharaj and created by Pramukh Swami Maharaj, with construction led by BAPS (Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha).



Opened in 2005, the temple is dedicated to Bhagwan Swaminarayan and features intricately carved sandstone and marble structures. The complex includes exhibitions on Hinduism, a musical fountain, thematic gardens, and a boat ride that narrates India's ancient cultural heritage over 10,000 years and a robotic show depicting BAPS' universal values: non-violence, peace, family & harmony.

Having previously attended a BAPS (Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha) Diwali event in my electorate last year, the visit to Swaminarayan Akshardham has allowed me to develop a stronger understanding of the values and beliefs of the followers of BAPS.

Flight Delhi to Amritsar 6.10 PM - 7.20 PM

Accommodation – Le Meridien, Amritsar

### **Monday 2 June 2025**

#### **Visit to the Golden Temple in Amritsar.**

The Golden Temple, also known as Sri Harmandir Sahib, is the holiest shrine in Sikhism and a symbol of spirituality, equality, and service. Located in Amritsar, India, it holds immense religious and historical significance for Sikhs worldwide. Built in the 16th century by Guru Arjan, it has been a site of resilience, surviving invasions and restorations. The temple houses the Guru Granth Sahib, the central religious scripture of Sikhism, making it the most sacred place for Sikh worship. The Golden Temple welcomes people of all religions, castes, and backgrounds, embodying Sikhism's core principle of inclusivity.



I visited the Golden Temple at dawn, to attend the first Hukamnama, the first Ardas and the Asa di Var with thousands of Sikhs. I look forward to sharing my experiences with my Ballarat Sikh community, when I next visit their place of worship in Wendouree.

Flight Amritsar to Thiruvananthapuram (via Bengaluru).

Accommodation: O by Tamara, Thiruvananthapuram.

### **Tuesday 3 June 2025**

Rest day in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Accommodation: O by Tamara, Thiruvananthapuram.

### **Wednesday 4 June 2025**

**Visit to the Kerala Legislative Assembly with Pauline Richards, Lee Tarlamis, Sheena Watt, and Belinda Wilson.**



Kerala, southwestern coastal state of India with a population of more than 33 million. Whilst Kerala is a small state, constituting only about 1 percent of the total area of

the country, it is one of the most densely populated states in India. Kerala is proud of its 96% literacy rate, quality of life and law and order. The Kerala Government is committed to advancing its economic growth and enabling social transformation. In doing so, they plan over the next 25 years to raise Kerala to the standards of the middle income developed nations.

Kerala's capital city Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) is home to State government of Kerala. The **Kerala Legislative Assembly**, popularly known as the **Kerala Niyamasabha**, is the State Assembly of Kerala. Unlike the Parliament of Victoria, Kerala has a unicameral system of government.

The primary function is to enact laws for the state. It also oversees the state's finances, scrutinising the budget and approving expenditures. The Assembly holds the government accountable through questioning ministers, debating policies, and moving motions of no confidence.



The Assembly has 140 elected members, each representing a constituency within Kerala. One member is nominated by the Governor from the Anglo-Indian community. Interestingly, it is not called the Parliament of Kerala, rather the Legislative Assembly. The only parliament in India, is the national Parliament in New Delhi.

The Honourable AN Shamseer, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly organised for us to have a meeting with the Secretary of the Kerala Legislative Assembly Dr. N Krishna Kumar, who fulfils the similar administrative and procedural responsibilities of the Clerk of the Victorian Parliament, and a tour of the Legislative Assembly. During our discussions we learnt about parliamentary protocols, voting processes, question time and role of MLAs. There were many similarities in the standing orders of the Kerala Legislative Assembly and the Parliament of Victoria's Legislative Assembly, and I was pleased to receive a copy of their standing orders.

### **Meeting with the Honourable Smt. Veena George, Minister for Health, Women and Child Welfare with Pauline Richards, Lee Tarlamis, Sheena Watt, and Belinda Wilson.**

Meeting with the Honourable Smt. Veena George, Minister for Health, Women and Child Welfare where we exchanged policies and programs about women's health, access to abortion services and preventative health strategies including breast screening. The Hon Ms. George is one of only three women Ministers in the Kerala Government and we were proud to share that our Premier is a woman, and we have 15 women Ministers in the Victorian Government.

Accommodation: O by Tamara, Thiruvananthapuram.





## **Thursday 5 June 2025 Visits to places of worship in Kerala: Sivagiri Mutt and St Thomas' Church**

More than half of Kerala's residents, including most of the Malayalis, follow Hinduism. About 25% of the population practices Islam and 20% follow Christianity, identifying as predominantly Syrian Orthodox and Roman Catholic, as well as various Protestant denominations. During my time in Kerala, I visited various places of worship including the Hindu sacred site of Sivagiri Mutt, a 300-year-old mosque in Kannur and St Thomas' Catholic Church in Valia Veli.



### **Visit to Sivagiri Mutt, Varkala with Lee Tarlamis and Belinda Wilson.**

Sivagiri Mutt is one of the most popular pilgrim destinations of Kerala. It is the home of the Sree Narayana Dharma Sangham, an organisation of the great reformer Sree Narayana Guru's disciples and followers.

Sree Narayana Guru was a Kerala philosopher, spiritual leader, and social reformer who challenged the caste system and promoted social equality. His famous principle, "*One caste, one religion, one God for humanity*", became a guiding force for his movement. He established temples and schools that welcomed people of all backgrounds, breaking rigid social barriers; and continues to inspire movements for social justice and equality in India.

It was a great honour to plant a tree at Sivagiri Mutt with Lee Tarlamis and Belinda Wilson. Several dignitaries have planted trees at Sivagiri Mutt, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Dalai Lama, the longest-serving President of the Indian National Congress Sonia Gandhi and former Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari.



### **Visit to St Thomas Roman Catholic Church, Valia Veli with Pauline Richards and Belinda Wilson.**

Christians across the state of Kerala share a unique set of early Christian traditions based on the teachings of St. Thomas the Apostle, who was first evangelised the region. In the region around Valia Veli, Catholicism is the dominant religion. It was very special to visit St Thomas Roman Catholic Church. In my electorate of Wendouree, we have a Catholic Parish priest from Kerala and many members of our Keralite community are devout parishioners at Ballarat's St Patrick's Cathedral. I look forward to speaking to them about my visit.

Accommodation: O by Tamara, Thiruvananthapuram.



**Friday 6 June 2025**

**Visit to Kannur, Kerala with Pauline Richards, Lee Tarlamis, Sheena Watt, and Belinda Wilson.**

Flight Thiruvananthapuram – Kannur 6:05AM – 7:05AM

Kannur is a coastal city in the south of Kerala and the electorate of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The Honourable AN Shamseer invited the delegation to visit his electorate to meet with him, tour the region and learn about Kannur's rich history. The Hon. AN Shamseer hosted us to meet with him, as well as Municipal President Jamunarani Teacher, Municipal Secretary and Municipal Members. It was a great opportunity to share information about our electorates and learn more about Kannur and Kerala.

During our tour of the historical town of Thalassery, we enjoyed traditional Thalassery biryani, visited the Herman Gundert Bungalow (a museum that honours the German missionary who created an English–Malayalam dictionary in 1839), and attended the Odathil Masjid, (a Keralan early 1800s mosque on a sugar cane plantation with a golden roof top).

We also visited the Malabar Cancer Centre with the Hon AN Shamseer and met with the Director Dr. Sathseesan B to discuss cancer rates, oncology treatment and cancer research in Kannur. I was surprised to learn of the high levels of lung cancer amongst the population, despite low levels of smoking – particularly among women. Research is being undertaken to determine whether there are links with arsenic in the soil and lung cancer.



It was also interesting to learn of their adoption of robotic-assisted surgeries and the benefits for patients. In my electorate of Wendouree, I advocated for funding for state-of-the-art surgical robot for Ballarat Base Hospital and saw it installed in 2023.

A highlight of the visit to Kannur, was the extraordinary performance of the Kerala's traditional martial arts Kalaripayattu. We were treated to an exhilarating exhibition of martial arts by masters, as well as young children and teenagers. Believed to have been developed in Kerala over 3000 years ago, "Kalari" involves fast, athletic and physical movements and dangerous combat routines with metal weapons and bamboo. It requires great discipline of the body, mind, and spirit. The students of Kalaripayattu train every day to master their skills. It was a very impressive display.



**Saturday 7 June 2025**

Flight Kannur 7:50AM, via Kochi, arrive Thiruvananthapuram 10.00AM

Leave for airport for flight home 9:45PM.

Accommodation: O by Tamara, Thiruvananthapuram.

**Sunday 8 June 2025**

Flight Thiruvananthapuram 1.20AM, arrived Kuala Lumpur 08.10AM.

Flight departed Kuala Lumpur 9:20AM, arrived in Melbourne 19:30PM.

**Conclusion**

I strongly believe that the relationships I have with many Indian cultural groups including the Ballarat Hindu Temple Cultural Centre, the Ballarat Keralite Foundation of Australia, the Ballarat Malayalee Association and the Ballarat Sikhs will be enhanced because of my trip to India.

From the experiences I have had visiting places of worship including the Sikh's Golden Temple, BAPS' Swaminarayan Akshardham and Sivagiri Mutt, mosques in Delhi and Kannur, and St Thomas Church, I have developed a deeper understanding of the values and cultures of the Indian diaspora living in my electorate.

I firmly believe that the experiences I had during my trip to India will allow me to develop stronger ties with my Indian community, and because of this, be a better representative and advocate in the Parliament of Victoria.