

<b>Member</b>	Natalie Suleyman	<b>Electorate</b>	St Albans
<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	\$4,940.11

<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

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

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 0

Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$0.00

## **Members of Parliament Anzac Delegation 2025**

### **Travel Report**

**17 April 2025 – 29 April 2025**



**Report by Natalie Suleyman MP, State Member for St Albans**

#### **Other attendees:**

Sarah Connolly MP, Member for Laverton  
Kathleen Matthews-Ward MP, Member for Broadmeadows  
Wendy Lovell MP, Member for Northern Victoria  
Melina Bath MP, Member for Eastern Victoria  
Kim O'Keefe MP, Member for Shepparton

#### **Statement of Objectives:**

In April 2025, I was proud to lead a cross-party Victorian Delegation to Türkiye to attend the Anzac Memorial Services, on electorate business to represent my electorate of St Albans. During the trip the delegation also visited places of cultural significance, and engaged with the Turkish Government and the Turkish Parliament.

This Victorian MP's ANZAC Delegation is an annual tradition for State Members of Parliament. After a pause on travel due to the pandemic, this tradition returned in 2024.

Türkiye and Australia share a unique bond – through the shared experience that began on the battlefields of Çanakkale (Gallipoli). This year marks the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 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. The electorate of St Albans is home to a sizeable Turkish community. There are several significant Turkish community groups, festivals, and events hosted in the St Albans electorate every year.

By fostering these economic and cultural ties between Victoria and Türkiye, we can develop further economic opportunities for both communities. As the Member for St Albans, Minister for Veterans, Youth, Small Business and Employment my role gives me the opportunity to speak to a range of stakeholders interested in developing deeper networks across the globe.

On the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli, it is inspiring to see the continued support and relevance of this annual commemoration. In 2025 we saw increased visitors to the Shrine of Remembrance in Victoria with an estimated 50,000 attending the Dawn Service. To mark the occasion, the service at Gallipoli was attended by dignitaries such as Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Chair of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and many other international dignitaries. It is inspiring to see the international aspect of WWI is acknowledged by a range of commemorative services from the different nations represented on the day. It reminds us of the lives lost on all sides and the international cooperation that has since emerged from the battles on the shores of Gallipoli. A moving tribute to the Anzacs lost at Gallipoli is attributed to Atatürk in 1934:

*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 Mehmets to us where they lie side by side 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.*

## **Summary of meetings and visits:**

### **17 April 2025**

Melbourne to Istanbul

### **18 April 2025**

Attended Good Friday Service at the Church of Saint Antony of Padua Istanbul. This is the largest Catholic church located in Istiklal Caddesi in Istanbul, in Turkikye. Built in 1725 by the Italian community in Istanbul.

The masses are delivered in Italian, Polish, Turkish and English. Pope John XXIII had preached at the Church of Saint Antony of Padua for 10 years and spoke fluent Turkish.





### **19 April 2025**

Meeting with Parliamentary Protocol Team of the Turkish Parliament. I also visited the Ayasofya Mosque, Topkapı Palace Istanbul to undergo greater cultural and historical immersion, important considering the significant Turkish community in Victoria.

### **20 April 2025**

I visited the Dolmabahçe Palace, again undertaking cultural and historical immersion. Flight to Ankara.

### **21 April 2025**

Depart Ankara travel to Cappadocia.

We visited Kaymaklı Underground City, The three beauties (Uc Guzzeller) and Goreme Open Museum. Not only is it a historical site but it has also become a tourism and sport hub, through the efforts of the Municipality.

We met with Mayor Ali Ertugrul Bul and the Deputy Mayor of Municipality of Ürgüp to discuss this work.



**22 April 2025**

Ankara

Attended Anitkabir – Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Wreath laying service and signing of official memorial book. This site is significant as it houses the final resting place of the Founder of the Republic of Türkiye. Our visit was an official visit on behalf of our communities. It was a moving ceremony and an honour to pay our respects to a leader who modernised Türkiye and brought peace to the region.

We also visited the museum containing many artefacts from his life, including items from the Gallipoli campaign such as uniform, and correspondence between Atatürk, and ANZACs. These artefacts bring to sharp focus the leadership and courage of Atatürk – as well as provide a fuller picture of the ANZAC Story and the Gallipoli Campaign by all those who participated in the conflict.





**23 April 2025**

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. Other Parliamentarians also joined this reception.

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 significant day in Türkiye that celebrates culture and the importance of young people.

We then departed Ankara to Çanakkale.





## **24 April 2025**

The Delegation attended the Ceremony for the 110th Anniversary of the Land Wars of Çanakkale.

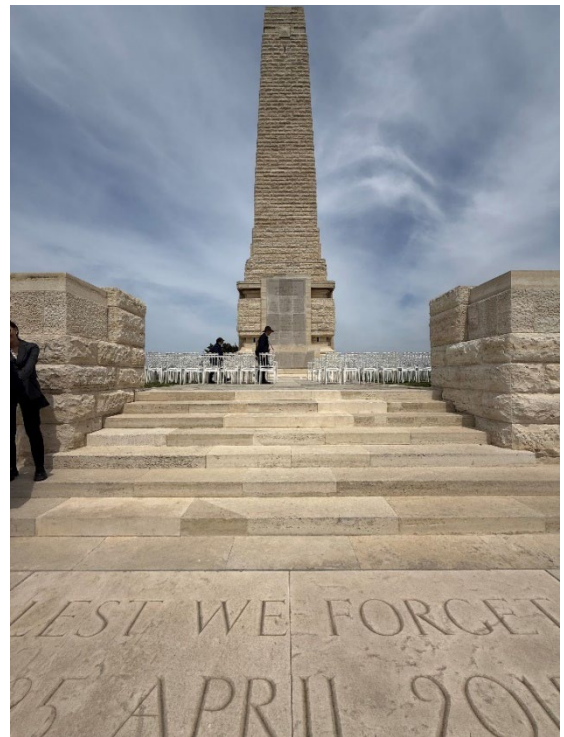
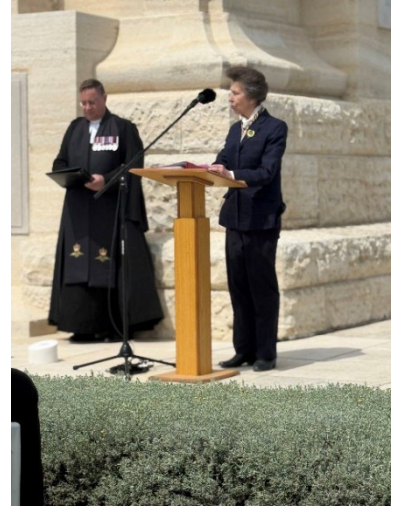
The service was delivered by the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture Gokhan Yazgi. A speech was also made by the Director of Gallpolli Historic Site, Mr Ismail Kasdemir. HRH Princes Anne, the Princess Royal, also made a speech on behalf of the Allies. This was followed with a military parade by Armed Forces and Veterans including Turkish, and Commonwealth Countries service members. It was special to join the dignitaries and pay my respects to the fallen Turkish soldiers, we also watch Soloturk Turkish Airforce Aerobatics Team, which included the formal proceeding for the Turkish comemration.



## **24 April 2025**

The Delegation also attended the Commemoration of France at the French Military Cemetery followed by the Commemoration of the United Kingdom, at the Commonwealth and Ireland Memorial.





**25 April 2025**

**Dawn Service**

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

The Australian and New Zealand Governments jointly conduct the ANZAC Day Gallipoli Dawn Service on 25 April each year at the ANZAC Commemorative Site, Gallipoli, Türkiye.

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. I also met with the New Zealand PM The Right Hon. Christopher Luxon MP, and Ambassador of India and Consul of France, Britain, and Ambassador of Australia.

There was a significant number of Australians attending in 2025, including Victorians from the West. I attended both the Anzac Day Dawn service and the service conducted at the Lone Pine Cemetery and Chunuk Bair.

This service takes place with the permission and support of the Republic of Türkiye. Holding the services is only possible with the cooperation and generous assistance of the Turkish Government.









**26 & 27 April 2025**

We visited Troy museum - Troy Archaeological site then departed for Istanbul.

We attended the Sultan Ahmet Mosque and The Basilica Cistern followed by a boat tour of the Bosphorus. We also visited a traditional Hamam in Istanbul.





**28 April 2025**

We visited the Grand Bazaar and met with businesses representatives, including CEO Mr Enver Cetin. We also 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 of Türkiye sending a delegation to the World Chamber's Conference in Melbourne 2025.



**29 April 2025**

I meet with the Maarif Vakfi Dr Murtaza Yetis and members from the Turkish Education Foundation. The Foundation currently has a number of schools in Australia, including in Kilmore, Victoria. We spoke about education in Victoria, and the commitment of the Victorian Government towards education. Maarif Vakfi, spoke to how the Government's commitments, provides confidence for their current schools to operate and grow within Victoria.





### **Concluding remarks:**

It is so important that Australians continue to make the journey and pilgrimage to Gallipoli; to pay their respects to our ANZACs but also to see firsthand the respect the Turkish community has for the solemn significance of this annual commemorative event.

I would like to especially thank the Turkish Parliament, in particular the protocol and security team who supported the delegation with professionalism and the utmost courtesy. Without the support of the Parliament, this delegation would not be possible. I look forward to continuing this important relationship between our two countries.

Thank you also the Australian Embassy for their assistance with logistics on ANZAC Day.

