

Member	Kathleen Matthews-Ward	Electorate	Broadmeadows
Period	1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025		

Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$12,514.74
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	\$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

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
16/04/2025	30/04/2025	Flights and accommodation for Victorian Members of Parliament delegation to Turkey for the 110th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landings representing the constituents of the Broadmeadows electorate.	\$11,012.15

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 14

Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$11,012.15

Victorian Members of Parliament delegation to Türkiye for the 110th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landings

17th – 29th April 2025

Report by Kathleen Matthews-Ward MP on Electorate Business representing the people of the Broadmeadows electorate.



Attendees:

Hon Natalie Suleyman MP, Minister for Veterans. Minister for Small Business and Employment

Sarah Connolly MP, State Member for Laverton

Wendy Lovell MP, Member for Northern Victoria

Melina Bath MP, Member for Eastern Victoria

Kim O'Keefe MP, Member for Shepparton

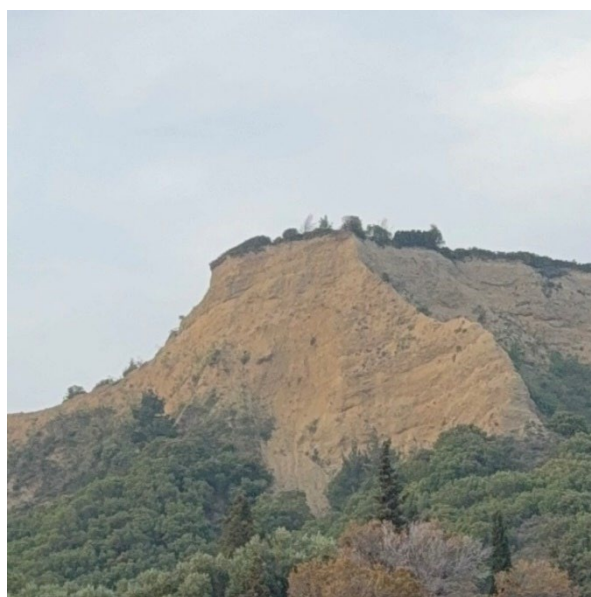




110 years ago, sixteen thousand Australian and New Zealand soldiers landed on the beaches of Gallipoli and bravely risked their lives for us. For the vast majority, it was their first experience of war and sadly, for many, it would also be their last.

The Anzacs fought with courage and determination and forged a spirit of mateship, loyalty, and sacrifice that has defined the values of our Australian Defence Forces and our national identity since.

I was honoured to attend this special commemoration of their service and sacrifice and all those who have served since, to stand in the place where they landed and see first-hand the impossibility of the task they were given and admire their incredible bravery and their spirit that has shaped our nation.



It was an incredible privilege to pay my respects in person, to them and all who have died and fought for our democracy and freedom, on behalf of both the Parliament of Victoria and the people of Broadmeadows. An experience that I am in a position to share at local RSL services and with community and school children, to ensure we continue to remember them.

I admire the camaraderie, selflessness and generosity of spirit, shown by those who serve, where the group is more important than the individual, where actions speak louder than words, and each gives of himself and herself for the greater good of others. I offer my gratitude to them and to all who have served in defence of our nation, our values and human rights across the globe.



Sadly, the final resting place of many soldiers at Gallipoli is unknown and The Lone Pine Monument commemorates the 3,268 Australians and 456 New Zealanders who have no known grave, and the 960 Australians and 252 New Zealanders who were buried at sea.





After the service at Lone Pine, I was able to pay my respects to Harry Phelps from Broadmeadows who was killed in action and also to the men of the 8th regiment who were set off from Maygar Barracks and fought at the Nek on the Gallipoli Peninsula, where so many young men died.





Young people always pay the highest price in war, and it's not just the young Australians who lost their lives fighting for us, 85,000 Turkish soldiers died for their country, and we were able to pay our respects at their graves throughout the peninsula, alongside the graves of our Anzacs.



Along with Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, Princess Anne of the British Royal Family and many international dignitaries we took the opportunity to lay flowers on the graves of the fallen Turkish soldiers following the Ceremony for the 110th Anniversary of the Land Wars of Çanakkale at the Martyrs' Monument, where we also met many Turkish Veterans and grandchildren proudly carrying flags.



Moving speeches were delivered both here and later that day at the French Commemoration service and at the Commonwealth and Ireland Memorial Service at Cape Helles.



The Anzac Day Dawn Service was incredibly moving, imagining the terror of our soldiers and the horror of the landing that day in the formidable landscape our boys were confronted with as we looked out over the Dardanelles.



A record number of Australians attending the service this year and I am grateful to the Republic of Türkiye for the immense respect and conservation of this sacred space. The many cemeteries throughout the Peninsula are kept in immaculate condition and it was comforting to know our boys final resting place was so well cared for.



One such grave is that of John Simpson Kirkpatrick, known as Simpson, who bravely carried the wounded to safety on his donkey.



The beautiful words of Turkish General and Founding Father of modern Türkiye, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk commemorating our brave Anzacs, rings true.
"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, in each other's arms."

"You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears. Your sons are now lying in our bosom. They are now at peace and will rest in peace here forever."

"After losing their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well"





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 the Turkish forces.

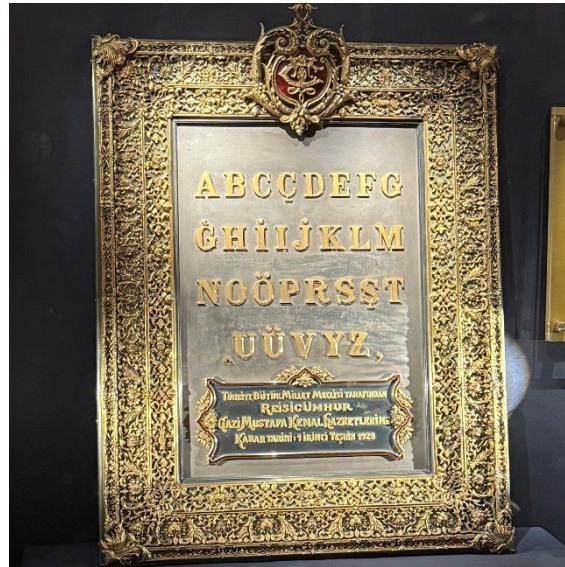
During the delegation's official visit to Anıtkabir, the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, we were honoured to participate in a wreath laying ceremony and the Victorian Minister for Veterans, Hon Natalie Suleman, signed the official memorial on behalf of the Victorian Parliament.



At the museum afterwards we learnt much about the inspiring impact Atatürk had on the Turkish nation, the reforms he led, and the importance his legacy continues to have in modern day Türkiye.

Under his leadership, democracy was embedded, woman were granted the right to vote and the advancements in the rights of women and children were profound.

Social changes were also made, with the introduction of a limit of one wife, a system for surnames and the end of the Sultan.

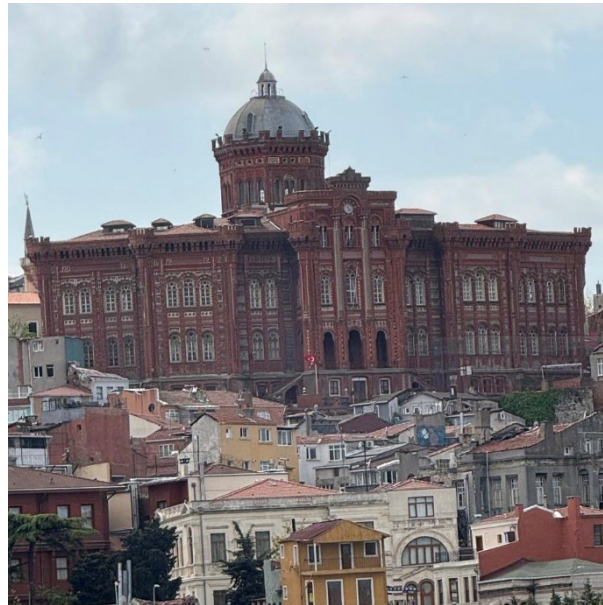


I was particularly interested in the Alphabet Revolution and the subsequent increase in literacy from 8% to 80% making the written word and education accessible to so many more people.

We were fortunate to be in Ankara for Sovereign day and Children's Day, both initiated by Atatürk celebrating democracy and the importance of young people. It was very special to attend the Turkish Grand National Assembly Special Session on this day and watch the proceedings of a Parliament consisting of 600 members representing 87 districts.



With the largest Turkish community living near Broadmeadows the trip proved to be a valuable opportunity to broaden my understanding and appreciation of Turkish history and culture, and I made the effort to pick up some language. This has already been useful back home and is enabling a deeper connection to the community I represent and helping me to communicate and with especially older Turkish constituents, whose English is limited.



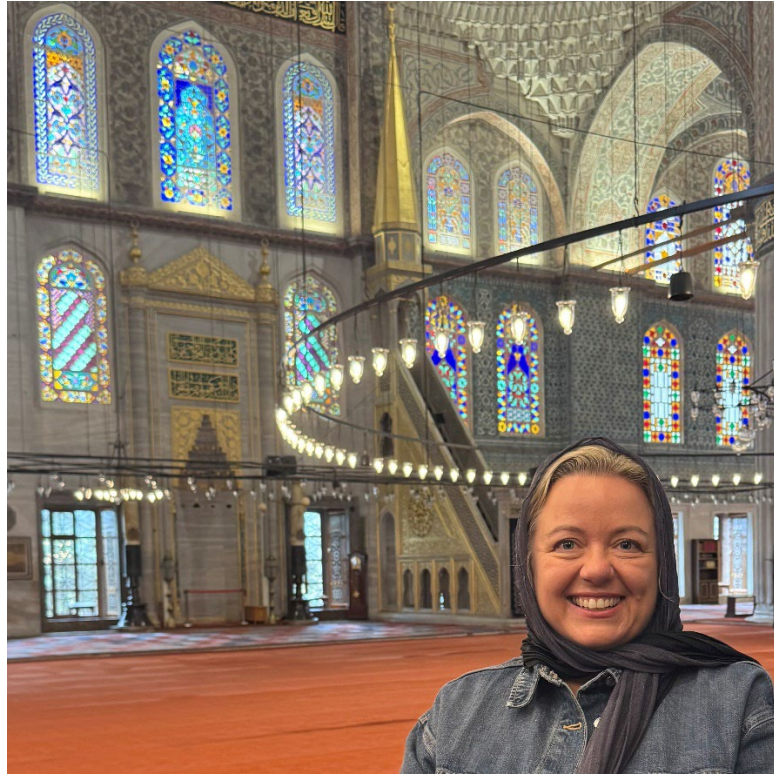
Representing the diverse electorate of Broadmeadows, with a high number of people who practice faith, I was also able to visit many places of religious significance, leading me to a deeper understanding of history, faiths and culture. Istanbul is the home of the principal Eastern Orthodox cathedral, the Patriarchal Cathedral Church of St. George and the magnificent Hagia Sophia, both places of pilgrimage for many locals.





Our delegation attended a multilingual Good Friday service at the Church of Saint Antony of Padua, which was built by the Italian community of Istanbul in 1725. The service was very well attended by locals and our delegation was warmly welcomed. During his time in Turkey, the future Pope St. John XXIII preached at this Church for 10 years and spoke fluent Turkish. Services at the Church are delivered in Italian, Polish, Turkish and English, which is reflective of the congregation and the flourishing multicultural community that now lives in Istanbul.



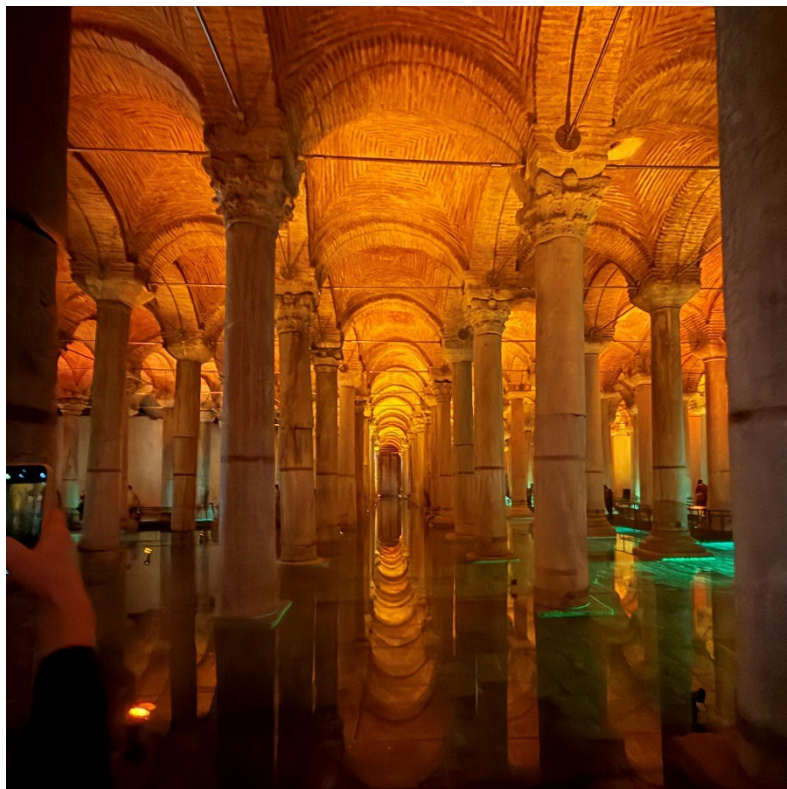


Representing the largest Muslim community in Victoria, I was also able to deepen my understanding of Islam and visited many mosques including the awe-inspiring Sultan Ahmet Blue Mosque.





The incredible art, architecture and engineering on display in this incredible Mosque and at so many places throughout Türkiye was truly remarkable. Nowhere more so than at the Basilica Cistern, a famous ancient Byzantine underground reservoir which also contains multiple heads of Medusa.





I admired the value that Türkiye places on historical places including the UNESCO World Heritage Site Topkapı Palace, famous for its rich history and architecture and I am so grateful for Turkey's efforts to preserve and upkeep historical sites and provide access so that people from all over the world can appreciate places of significance, including the fascinating Kaymaklı Underground City, where several communities had fled conflict and persecution over the centuries.





Travelling through Türkiye it was also timely to observe different housing and urban planning environments, in both regional towns but also in the dense and European style city of Istanbul, with the older parts of the city remaining walkable and pleasant, including the bustling Turkish bazaar.



I was also struck by the cleanliness of public places, and the care and respect with which the cats and dogs that belong to the cities are treated.



During conversations with the many leaders and representatives we discussed many topics including:

- Housing, public housing, subsidised and equity housing schemes and policies aimed at reducing homelessness
- Food security, national self-sufficiency, agriculture, tariffs and opportunities for trade as well as Türkiye's centralised information system for growers and subsidies to assist with crop planning and managing demand as supply.
- Mental health, quality free Healthcare and the growing rates of medical tourism, as well as the high rates of smoking in Türkiye and low cost for cigarettes (at approximately \$3 per packet)
 - Renewable energy and pollution
 - Road safety, seatbelt use and public transport
- Taxation, systems of government and the operation of Parliaments





During our meeting with Mr Steven Young, Chair of the Council of Foreign Economic Relations of the Türkiye-Australia Business Council we spoke about growing our already strong business ties between Australia and Türkiye. He noted the opportunities of Türkiye sending a delegation to the World Chamber's Conference in Melbourne 2025. The opportunities presented by the introduction of direct flights between Melbourne and Istanbul for enhancing trade, tourism, and commercial engagement were also discussed.





During our meeting with the Mayor Ali Ertugrul Bul and the Deputy Mayor of Municipality of Ürgüp, local government responsibilities were discussed including waste management, excess packaging, animal control, local water quality along with national topics such as encouraging more women into politics, the role of universities in economic development, wages, aged and disability care, tourism and major events



The delegation was also a great opportunity to discuss Victorian issues with colleagues from across the chamber and gain a better understanding and insight in the different electorates of Victoria.

Spending much time with the NSW delegation also enabled discussions about broader national issues such as multiculturalism and protecting children from harmful online content.

The Marif Foundation currently has a number of schools in Australia, including in Kilmore, meeting Australian standards, the schools offer a unique blend of Australian and Turkish education.



During our meeting with the Director of Maarif Foundation, Maarif Vakfi Dr Murtaza Yetis and members from the Turkish Education Foundation, we discussed schools in Victoria, and the commitment of the Victorian Government towards education. Maarif Vakfi, spoke to how the Government's commitments, provide confidence for their current schools to operate and grow within Victoria. It was insightful to hear about the tremendous work they do in providing education and the value they place on students understanding all religions and developing young people who contribute positively to society.

We also discussed education models, challenges with teacher shortages and the rise in islamophobia. We spoke about the challenges faced by young people and the incidence of drug addiction in some communities in Australia. I was able to discuss the Government commitment I have secured to develop a local and culturally appropriate drug and alcohol rehabilitation program in partnership with a proven provider to improve completion rates of rehabilitation programs for Muslim Victorians. We also discussed positive programs to prevent young people engaging in harmful and antisocial behaviour.



I'm very appreciative of the opportunity to participate in this Victorian Members of Parliament Delegation, to commemorate 110 years of the landings at Anzac Cove, to pay respect to servicemen and women as both a representative of the Parliament of Victoria and as representative of the people of Broadmeadows. I also to learn so much about Türkiye, which deepened my understanding of the large local Turkish population in my electorate. I believe these learnings will enrich my role as a representative and member of Government. Discussions around health, food security, housing and education will also help to inform my thinking and policy development in my role as a parliamentarian as well as in my role as the Government representative on the VicHealth board. Following the delegation, I am keen to undertake further research on public health outcomes, worldwide prevalence of mental illness, drug abuse and alcohol consumption along with different programs of prevention and treatment.



Tragically, from the trenches of Gallipoli to the battlefields of the world wars, from Korea, to the jungles of Vietnam to the deserts of the Middle East, and throughout history, the cost of peace has been paid by the young repeatedly.

And as we pay tribute to the ANZACs and all those who have served, we cannot ignore the fragile nature of peace and the current threats to democracy.

In a world where peace is threatened by conflict, instability, division and misinformation, our work towards peace, truth and diplomacy are now as important as ever. Building relationship between countries through connection, collaboration and communication is critical to ensure that we never have to send our sons and daughters to war again.

Lest We Forget 🌸





I would like to thank the Turkish Government, in particular the protocol and security team who supported the Delegation with dedicated professionalism and thoughtful care and the generosity and openness of all the local Turkish people we met on our trip. I also thank the Australian Embassy for their assistance with logistics on ANZAC Day.



16 April 2025

- Boarded flight from Melbourne to Istanbul.

17 April 2025

- Arrived in Istanbul.
- Victorian Delegation briefed on the itinerary and arrangements
- Accommodation in Istanbul

18 April 2025

- Good Friday Service at Church of Saint Antony of Padua in Istanbul.
- Accommodation in Istanbul

19 April 2025

- Meeting with Parliamentary Protocol Team of the Turkish Parliament
- Ayasofya Mosque and Topkapı Palace Istanbul
- Accommodation in Istanbul

20 April 2025

- Dolmabahce Palace
- Travelled from Istanbul to Ankara (domestic flight).
- Accommodation in Ankara

21 April 2025

- Depart Ankara travel to Cappadocia (by bus)
- City Tour of historical sites, including “Uc Guzeller” and Goreme Open Museum.
- Kaymakli Underground City
- Meeting with Mayor Ali Ertugrul Bul and the Deputy Mayor of Municipality of Ürgüp
- Accommodation Cappadocia

22 April 2025

- Depart Cappadocia for Ankara (by bus)
- Official visit to Anitkabir – Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, wreath laying ceremony and signing of official memorial book.
- Accommodation Ankara

23 April 2025

- Delegation attended the Turkish Grand National Assembly Special Session for the Anniversary of Foundation, which coincides with National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Türkiye

- Guided tour and reception hosted by HE Halil Eldemir, the President of the Türkiye-Australia Interparliamentary Friendship Group and Member of Parliament for Bilecik. along with other Turkish Parliamentarians including Deputy Speaker Mr Bekir Bozdağ who joined this reception.
- Departed Ankara to Çanakkale. (domestic flight).
- Accommodation Çanakkale

24 April 2025

- Ceremony for the 110th Anniversary of the Land Wars of Çanakkale at Çanakkale Martyrs' Monument. Service delivered by the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture Gokhan Yazgi and HRH Princes Anne, the Princess Royal made a speech on behalf of the Allies. Director of Gallipoli Historic Site, Mr Ismail Kasdemirrs and many dignitaries in attendance.
- Military parade.by Armed Forces and Veterans including Turkish, Australian and Commonwealth Countries
- Visit the graves of the fallen Turkish Soldiers
- French Commemoration service at the French Military Cemetery
- Commonwealth and Ireland Memorial Service at Cape Helles
- Accommodation Çanakkale

25 April 2025

- Dawn Service and wreath laying at Anzac Cove, jointly conducted by the Australian and New Zealand Governments and attended by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, the Governor-General of Australia Prime minister of New Zealand, Christopher Luxon MP Ambassador of Australia Chair of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Ambassador of India, Consul of France and Britain and many other international dignitaries along with a record number of Australians attending in 2025, including Victorians from my electorate
- Service and wreath laying at Lone Pine Cemetery and Chunuk Bair.
- Accommodation Çanakkale

26 April 2025

- Depart Çanakkale for Istanbul (by bus)
- Troy Archaeological site and Museum
- Accommodation Istanbul

27 April 2025

- Sultan Ahmet Mosque
- The Basilica Cistern
- Bosphorus river Tour
- Accommodation Istanbul

28 April 2025

- Grand Bazaar including meeting with businesses representative CEO Mr Enver Cetin.
- Meeting with Mr Steven Young, Chair of the Council of Foreign Economic Relations of the Türkiye-Australia Business Council
- Accommodation Istanbul

29 April 2025

- Meeting with Maarif Vakfi Dr Murtaza Yetis and members from the Turkish Education Foundation.
- Depart Istanbul for Melbourne.

30th April 2025

- Arrive Melbourne



Date	Expense	Location of expense	Cost in AUD
17-19 April 25	Accommodation	Istanbul	\$1,333.48
20-Apr-25	Accommodation	Ankara	\$283.13
22-Apr-25	Accommodation	Ankora	\$284.83
23-Apr-25	Flight from Ankara to Çanakkale (Gallipoli)	Ankara	\$209.19
23-25 April 25	Accommodation	Çanakkale (Gallipoli)	\$771.15
26-28 April 25	Accommodation	Istanbul	\$1,263.21