

Member	Brad Battin	Electorate	Gembrook/Berwick
Period	01 April 2023 to 30 June 2023		

Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$11,310.60
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$3,228.05

Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$5,997.53
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
20-Mar-23	23-Mar-23	Parliamentary Sitings and Party Meeting	\$1,039.50	Melbourne	\$1,039.50
11-Apr-23	12-Apr-23	Shadow Minister Meetings	\$234.00	Ballarat	\$234.00
01-May-23	04-May-23	Parliamentary Sitings and Party Meeting	\$895.50	Melbourne	\$895.50
15-May-23	18-May-23	Parliamentary Sitings and Party Meeting	\$837.00	Melbourne	\$837.00
22-May-23	23-May-23	Parliamentary Sitings and Party Meeting	\$279.00	Melbourne	\$279.00
29-May-23	31-May-23	Parliamentary Sitings and Party Meeting	\$620.00	Melbourne	\$620.00
04-Jun-23	05-Jun-23	Shadow Cabinet and Community Meetings	\$289.00	Melbourne	\$289.00
19-Jun-23	22-Jun-23	Parliamentary Sitings and Party Meeting	\$997.20	Melbourne	\$997.20
Total number of nights for travel allowance claims			17		
Total amount paid to member for travel allowance			\$5,191.20		

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
27-Jun-23	01-Jul-23	Travel from Melbourne to New Zealand. Study tour to discuss policy and review opportunities for future connections in Victoria. Youth Justice, Corrections and Police.	\$1,162.97
Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims			16
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance			\$1,162.97
See attached travel report for further details			

PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL REPORT

Wellington, New Zealand

27 June 2023 – 1 July 2023

Attendees

Mr Brad Battin MP, Member for Berwick

Itinerary – base cities

Wellington

Overview

The objective of this trip is to meet with members of the New Zealand Parliament in portfolio areas of Crime Prevention, Police, Youth justice and Criminal Justice Reform.

New Zealand has made significant changes and progress over the past 15 years aiming to alter the course for young people who are at risk or enter the justice system.

Restorative justice is the centre of many of the programs as well as culturally specific programs that target offenders in communities through proactive engagement.

Victoria faces a challenge with increased crime and youth offending at 10-year highs. The government have not altered options in Victoria to identify high risk young people and create support services. In fact, in Victoria in the 2023/24 state budget Labor cut funding to many community led intervention programs. This \$10 million cut will lead to further increases in crime and will put community safety at risk.

This report will outline policy discussions that were conducted during the travel.

Travel and Accommodation:

This trip included flights from Melbourne direct to Wellington and accommodation for four nights (Tuesday to Saturday) in the city of Wellington. The accommodation was at a cost of \$1244.67, however the claim amount was \$1004.00 as per the Parliament guidelines.

There was a night prior claimed at the Melbourne Airport. The early flight required a check in of 5am. The accommodation for the night prior was \$226.

Meetings were conducted at the Parliament of New Zealand and surrounding areas (offices of MPs) on Wednesday 28, Thursday 29 and Friday 30 June. Tuesday and Saturday were both travel days.

Chris Penk MP – Shadow Attorney General

The meeting was focused on Criminal Justice Reform and policy options used in New Zealand as well as new alternative interventions that will form policy as New Zealand approach a general election.

Alcohol and drug courts are under review, the review is to gain best outcomes from these courts and aim to improve rates of success for people who are processed using these courts. A key to crime prevention is treating the illness of drugs and alcohol and finding alternative options.

In discussion there was agreement to review drug and alcohol rehabilitation options from around the world and discuss best practice. Victoria and New Zealand are similar in our rates of crime that stem from mental health, drugs, and alcohol. There are many areas we can work collaboratively to achieve improved outcomes for offenders and victims. There

was broad agreement the victim must be the centre of the justice system and the focus on long-term community safety.

New Zealand is facing an increase in property crime and ram-raids. Whilst in Victoria our increase in crime is a move to more violent crimes including major increases in aggravated burglaries, the correlation between an increase in cost of living and disconnect from education can both be attributed to this increase.

In New Zealand currently there is an option for offenders to request a discount on sentencing due to cultural reasons. The funding for arranging statements is a state paid initiative and has had concerns raised with where this money is allocated. The National Party have stated they will remove the funding to protect the integrity of applications with some of the applications having links to outlaw motorcycle gangs. The National Party are looking at alternatives to ensure a fair and just system that is aimed at rehabilitation and reducing repeat offending.

Paul Goldsmith MP – Shadow Minister for Justice, Workplace Relations, Regulatory Reform

As New Zealand create policy for the general election there are areas of concern raised by the National Party that are impacting on crime, and they need urgent attention.

The current New Zealand Government have continued to target investors of properties and the impact is felt by those who most need assistance. Changes to tax, increase in expenses and rule changes that place increased regulations on investors has resulted in less private rentals available in the market.

New Zealand, like the rest of the world face challenges with interest rates and other cost of living concerns. Added to this is a government have a responsibility to create an environment to invest and build the available properties in the private market to reduce the pressure on public housing. There must be a mix of available land, homes and apartments for lease and purchase to keep downward pressure on the cost of housing and rent.

Currently in Victoria the State Labor Government are heading towards a similar path as New Zealand treating any investor as a 'rich person.' It is assumptions like this that now see New Zealand in a housing crisis they have never experienced before. Increased numbers looking for public housing, less stock in the private sector leading to unaffordable rent for many in the community who can least afford it.

I encourage the Victorian Labor Government to consider the negative impact in New Zealand and wind back the taxes that will create a long-term housing and rental crisis.

In addition to the housing crisis, we discussed the impact on homelessness on crime, mental health and other health issues. Creating an environment people can afford a place to call home, either a rental or via a private purchase is proven around the world as a positive to improving mental health, reducing drug and alcohol addiction, and reducing crime.

Chris Bishop MP – Shadow Minister for Housing, Infrastructure, Urban Development

Housing is an area as per above the National Party are focused for the future of people in New Zealand. Mr Bishop highlights the importance of creating a healthy market for people to invest and placing downward pressure in the rental market.

Mr Bishop spoke of options to assist the community by delivering a government that is there to support those who need it, but to strengthen the economy to deliver investment and attract businesses from across the globe. New Zealand are in direct competition with Victoria, and they will aim to deliver opportunity for business to consider relating to New Zealand. A competitive tax system, rewards for building the private sector jobs economy and opportunity to grow with certainty.

This will be in comparison to Victoria, who are already a target of South Australia. Businesses in Victoria need to have confidence the Government is not looking at them as an opportunity for a quick fix to a budget crisis. Working with business the state would benefit to look at the Nationals New Zealand to create a longer-term approach to build investment, create employment, deliver a smaller government, and build our economy to what it was, the envy of Australia.

Hon. Mark Mitchell – Shadow Minister for Corrections, Counter Terrorism, and Police.

The Hon. Mark Mitchell was unavailable at a suitable time due to parliament commitments. In our communication we have discussed the best ways to ensure we have a strong and viable police force and a corrections system that is aiming to reduce repeat offending.

The focus for Victoria must be on every person who comes in to contact with the justice system to make them employment ready, return to education or to provide the support services they need.

We acknowledge the increase in youth crime and will continue to work to develop ideas for the future that will benefit both jurisdictions.