

Member	Richard Riordan	Electorate	Polwarth
Period	01 July 2023 to 30 September 2023		

Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$12,403.50
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$2,863.68

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	\$6,119.52
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	Melbourne

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
Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims			16
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance			\$0.00
See attached travel report for further details			

PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL REPORT

India and Sri Lanka

5 September 2023 – 21 September 2023

Attendees

Mr Brad Battin MP, Member for Berwick
Mr Wayne Farnham MP, Member for Narracan
Mr Richard Riordan MP, Member for Polwarth

Itinerary – base cities

India

Amritsar, Punjab
Ahmedabad, Gujarat
New Delhi, Delhi

Sri Lanka

Kandy
Anuradhapura
Negombo

Contents

Overview	2
Summary	2
Travel and Accommodation:	2
Meetings	3
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Representatives.....	3
National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)	3
School of Forensic Science (SFS) – NFSU	4
Forensic Science	4
School of Police Science and Security Studies.....	4
Faculty tours at NFSU	5
TERI Advanced Studies	6
Topics of Discussion.....	6
Green Cities – Better Future.....	6
Delhi Technology University - DTU.....	7
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi - IITD.....	7
Quality Control of India (QCI).....	8
Anupam Creation Private Limited	8
Anuradhapura – Education Visit	9
Cultural Visits	9

Overview

Summary

The objective of this trip was to meet with various education facilities and government organisations to build relationships and continue discussions from previous tours and interactions. As India is one of Victoria's largest trading partners in Education it is important to build relationships to enhance future opportunities that will benefit both India and Victoria. There is continued competition from other states and international students return to Australia post the COVID era.

The meetings focused on an exchange of information in the portfolio areas of Environment, Climate Change, Energy, Water and water sustainability, Law and Order, Agriculture, Cyber Security, Forensic Sciences, and Health.

As representatives of three diverse electorates the topic range was designed around delivering ideas and opportunities to engage in future policy for Victoria as well as our individual electorates. As part of the study tour the delegation met with various religious groups and toured places of significance. Victoria has a rapidly growing Indian and Sri Lankan population, and it is important that as representatives of these communities we have a broad understanding of their culture and history.

Understanding the traditions and beliefs of the communities we represent assists with designing programs and support to ensure we give each person the best opportunity to be their best and create opportunities for work or involvement in the broader community.

This report will outline policy discussions and meetings conducted during the travel and highlight future engagement opportunities in the various fields mentioned previously.

Travel and Accommodation:

This trip included flights from Melbourne to Sri Lanka and India as well as internal flights. The total cost of the flights was \$4900 per person for 4 International flights and all internal flights in India. The accommodation was in each of the above listed cities. The accommodation was at a cost of \$3200 per person and was within the Victorian Parliament guidelines.

Meetings were conducted as listed below. With time difference travel days were 5/6 September, 8 September, 13 September, 16 September, and 20/21 September. All meetings are compliant with the parliament guidelines.

Meetings

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Representatives

The BJP, the current Government in India, have a strong relationship with Australia and our meeting was focused on building connections and introductions in the areas of Forensic Science and Cyber Security.

Cyber Security is a key concern across the globe and our visit coincided with the G20 Summit. The increase in global attention due to G20 can increase the risk on local security in India including, but not limited to, cyber-attack. The change in modelling and capability to protect India from cyber-attack was required for a specific period of time. This required high levels of planning and the requirement to procure experts in prevention, detection and support to the current agencies.

India has high levels of cyber defence capabilities year-round, the discussions with BJP and other representatives on the night were focused on enhancing international efforts and collaboration at times where risk was increased for short periods of time due to major events attracting international attention. Prior to arranging this meeting our focus and agenda was around the impact on possible cyber-attacks during the Commonwealth Games. Working in advance on prevention and considering India's prevention strategy when planning for an international event. Unfortunately the Commonwealth Games was cancelled by the Victorian State Labor Government without notice.

National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)

A brief overview of the National Forensic Sciences University including the opportunity to engage in many programs and courses between Victoria and India was presented by Shri C.D. Jadeja and Dr. J. M. Vyas. The university has 10 campuses across India and are currently extending into other nations. According to the NFSU documents, NFSU was the world's first and only University dedicated to Forensic Science and Allied Subjects. Many universities in Victoria have some subjects and options for research in forensic science, however there is always opportunity to grow our education base and engaging with a dedicated university could expand options.

The NFSU is designed to be at the cutting edge of solutions to solve crimes, develop research to improve education in investigations and to use the latest technology against local and international criminals. Students come from around the globe as does the expertise in delivering the practical and academic classes. NFSU is also a leader in new research to tackle crime from high level ballistic facilities to the modern technology to remove and analyse data from phones or other communication devices.

Research through outreach activities that promote social justice, sustainability and community engagement is a core value of the NFSU. Part of this is engagement with other jurisdictions to collaborate and grow the knowledge base. Forensic science, crime investigation, cyber security, behavioural science and criminology are fields we as a state

can learn from other nations as well as create opportunities to collaborate and share our knowledge.

School of Forensic Science (SFS) – NFSU

The SFS offers five programs including Forensic Science, Forensic Biotechnology, and Multimedia Forensics and focuses on student excellence through research in their ultra-modern laboratories. SFS at NFSU encourage and promote the entrepreneurial skills of their students using the Students Start-Up Innovation Policy (SSIP). This program highlights the skills and strength of the students in training in their respective fields. NFSU promote the level of students who either move to consulting across the globe or continue in a research capability for the university or other leading universities.

There is an opportunity for Victoria to engage in a collaborative manner in criminal investigations research as India trail and utilise new technology. This is highlighted in the area of multimedia as India advances new options that are proving successful.

The conversation also focused on opportunity for further works and communication in new technology on extracting data from mobile services for use in criminal cases. The NFSU engage consultants, including from Australia, who highlighted the advancements in investigations when requiring data extraction from mobiles and computers. The ability to analyse the data in reasonable time and ensure continuity for legal proceedings is essential for future investigative practices around the world.

Forensic Science

Crime scene investigations and the skills required to thoroughly investigate or prevent major crimes including cyber-crime are rapidly changing. To remain at the forefront of new trends and options that offenders are using it is more important than ever to have open dialogue with jurisdictions that are trusted.

NFSU already are moving towards working with other nations in a collaborative manner across Africa and Asia. Victoria can learn from these nations as well as have an opportunity to engage with them. Victoria is in a strong position to offer ongoing and leading support in these fields.

School of Police Science and Security Studies

The School of Police Science and Security studies was established in 2021 after a successful period of delivering the master's program in Homeland security and anti-terrorism from 2013. The expansion was to move towards preventative models in the criminal justice system that use forensic sciences.

Cyber threats continue to increase and place pressure on government and the private sector. With a changing environment and increased international unrest, it is vital police services at both state and federal levels have improved training and intelligence to protect critical infrastructure and to work with the private and non-government organisations.

There are many areas the Victorian government could engage with to enhance the state ability to respond to future threats, but more importantly to prevent future threats.

The areas the School of Police Science and Security specialise in are:

- Land Border and Maritime Security
- Criminal Justice System
- Civil and Criminal laws
- Criminal Investigation
- Financial Accounting and Investigation of Economic Offences
- Contemporary Security Technologies
- Cyber Security
- Advanced Security Technologies
- Industrial Safety and Security
- Policing and Human Rights
- Crime Prevention and New approaches to Policing
- Criminal and Forensic Psychology
- Organisational Behaviour and Human Resource Management in Policing
- Disaster Management, and
- Practical Training and Research.

Faculty tours at NFSU

Our group toured or learned about various facilities of the NFSU gaining valuable knowledge. The tours included:

- Laboratory of Forensic Physical Sciences
- Laboratory of Forensic Biology and Biotechnology
- Laboratory of Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology
- Laboratory of Multimedia Forensics
- School of Police Science and Security Studies
- Centre of Excellence in investigative and forensic psychology
- School of Behavioural Science – Including the Centre for Happiness and Well-Being
- Cyber Defence Centre
- Centre of Excellence for research and analysis of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
- Ballistic research centre and testing range
- School of Management Studies
- School of Pharmacy, and
- School of Law – Forensic justice and policy studies (Decoding Forensics for Public Welfare)

The tours, education and connections encourage a strengthening of our relationships and opportunities for a collaborative approach between Victoria and the educational facilities in India.

TERI Advanced Studies

Topics of Discussion

- Water and Sustainability
- Education
- Health and Environment
- Advanced Studies in Energy and Building sustainable energy for the future, and
- Waste Management

The core focus of the meetings was policy and research outcomes that are designed at building a more sustainable future. India is in a different position to Victoria with high levels of people in poverty. The universities and government are focusing on improving the lives of their communities as well as providing sustainable options for the future.

Victoria has the ability to assist with development of alternative fuel supplies including gas and biogas in the future as clean alternatives. Whilst waste to energy is under consideration for India, it did not appear as a strongly supported option at this stage.

Solar and wind will be a part of the solution, and Victoria can feed into the technology required to develop large scale solar and wind farm options. However, they are both options that are inconsistent with the required level of power required for base load in a country with the population of India.

TERI has an association with Deakin University and continues to develop on opportunities in education for students and research in India and Australia. This relationship enhances access to research to assist with development of ideas that will benefit both nations. As Victoria has multiple Deakin campuses and many international students, we are pleased to support this association and look forward to it growing over time.

Green Cities – Better Future

India is working towards education in schools to improve environmental outcomes long-term. The current model in many parts of the world is educating children about the doom and gloom of climate change. This increases anxiety among young people and fear for their future.

TERI is working to change the attitudes and use education to explain to future generations about previous changes the world has seen like the industrial revolution. At this time many were fearful, and much of the concern was not warranted. The goal to remove the fear of change and work with people to develop new ideas and encourage research that can focus on positive change that impacts the climate.

TERI is moving to a Youth Dialogue process, rather than a Youth Activist. This change allows young people to be involved in positive change that will impact their future. Programs like Eco-Club and alternative programs available in school settings and government settings allow constructive ways to build confidence in young people that with their support we can change the future, improve environmental outcomes and avoid the fear driven activity that fails to offer any solutions.

Delhi Technology University - DTU

The Delhi Technology University offers a range of opportunities and are active in looking for international partnerships that will benefit both organisations. DTU is investing in research and development in recycled water that can be utilised for landscaping and other uses to save potable water.

As the population of our globe continues to grow a need improved options for recycled water including technology to create class 'A' drinking water. There is an opportunity for Victoria and India to work on options that would be a benefit to both our regional areas with a higher use of recycled water for crops and other agricultural needs. The benefit will also support the entire state as we work towards improving the quality of water to a level it can be used in homes and protect one of the most important resources for our future.

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi - IITD

IITD gave a brief overview and understanding of the various elements of delivery of on campus study including the various co-sponsored projects. The level of industry sponsored and access to many institutes including various Centres of Excellence, and other major research projects, highlights the options available for Victoria to engage with IITD in the future.

The focus of the meetings were energy related technologies and renewable options. A presentation on a future mix of energy that offers the best opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint, but at the same time keeping the lights on with a consistent base load.

In Victoria we are continuing to see a failure of Government for having an energy plan that can offer three elements required to protect our future:

- Options for renewable energy
- A guarantee there will be base load energy, and
- Ensuring power is affordable for households.

If Government policy is consistent with the three main elements above this will allow the industry grow. Ensuring reasonably priced and a guarantee of supply will also encourage growth in other business and industry including manufacturing.

Whilst India is in a period of change, and the requirement for energy grows, Victoria can learn and work with organisations including IITD to solve the three points needed to guarantee supply and, in a cost, efficient manner.

IITD gave a briefing on the use of Nuclear to supply 2% of energy across the nation and Victoria must look at these technologies to protect our own supply. Victoria can potentially have a large manufacturing industry to increase employment and entrepreneurial opportunity if Victoria can return to having affordable and reliable energy.

In India it is highlighted that natural gas is part of the transition to a clean energy supply for their population. Again, Victoria could learn from this, if we are to move towards renewable energy, net zero alternatives including nuclear, then natural gas must remain. This includes in new developments and would require a change of policy from the current State Government.

Quality Control of India (QCI)

QCI, established in 1997 after the Indian Cabinet made a decision they require a national board for quality control across the nation. QCI can audit, set standards, and operate with organisations, government departments and the private sector to ensure a level of quality control to give the final consumer confidence in the product or service.

The establishment of this board allowed an increase in confidence for business-to-business deals. Many government departments set the requirement of having a QCI sign off as the approved minimum standard to offer services or products to government projects.

Our meeting was to discuss options for improving standards of trades and training in India and improve outcomes and results to an acceptable level of international standards. QCI is inviting the Victorian Government to work with them on opportunities to engage in discussions of setting standards for local workers and their trade qualifications.

The current shortage in the workforce in Victoria needs to be addressed. The priority must remain the with building skills in Victoria, however, as we continue to face a shortage in skilled workers to build homes and infrastructure projects, it is important the Government look to alternative options to continue to build our future.

Anupam Creation Private Limited

A tour of the facility and discussion with senior management regarding manufacturing in Sajpur-Gopalpur, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The core focus of the visit was to strengthen trade ties between Victoria and the textile industry. India requires a lot of cotton and wool in the manufacturing of digitally printed bed linen and clothing. As India is a developing nation, there is often a shortage of raw materials required to achieve mass production for export.

Anupam Creating Private LTD can generate approximately 40,000 lineal meters of material per day, and regularly deliver over 2 million lineal meters per year. This facility was constructed in 2017 and employs over 300 people mostly employed from the local village nearby. Our discussions focused on the importance of organisations from India complying with fair employment and standards including environmental outcomes and reporting to ensure we maintain our goal of ethical trading.

The facility main focus is digitally printed bed sheets with very high cotton thread count of up to 152 thread count in some of the products they produce. The quality and modern facilities will have the ability and options to purchase raw materials from Victoria and as a

follow-up to the travel all details will be exchanged with various organisations in Victoria for future opportunities.

Anuradhapura – Education Visit

An important part of a local MP's job is to support community projects. Over the last six months we joined former Sri Lankan medical professionals who now provide permanent surgical and anaesthetic care in Polwarth to provide much needed resources in an isolated school in north central Sri Lanka. The small school with 88 students was located two hours east of Anuradhapura in the rural village of Dutuwewa.

The project raised funds from Victorian donations to supply the school with its first computer room with 5 computers, a new and safe outdoor toilet block, an outdoor teaching space and a small stage for school assemblies. The project helped bring the community together and was facilitated by the local Buddhist monks and their connection with Drs Duminda and Roshini Gunawardane who now live in Colac. The project had a hidden benefit of helping break down barriers with the local Sri Lankan community, who traditionally have a very different understanding of the role of local MP's.

The visit to the school involved a large community gathering, a Buddhist ceremony, and a programme of local dance, music and speeches. The half day event concluded with a community meal to celebrate the improvements at the school.

The Sri Lankan economy is currently suffering from a chronic period of high inflation and stifling government debt, which is having a crippling effect on the provision of basic educational supplies. We learnt that this year's midyear exams had been cancelled for six months because there was insufficient paper available to print exam papers.

Cultural Visits

As part of this tour it was important to visit various organisations including religious organisations that many in our community are attached and associated with. It was a learning experience and gave the members of the tour the opportunity to understand the traditions and culture that presents itself in Victoria on an increasing basis as the number of people from India and Sri Lanka increase.

We celebrate having a large number of people from both nations and as time develops we are seeing more second, third and further generation Indians and Sri Lankans.

With support from the community in Victoria the members of this tour visited:

- The Attari-Wagah Border (Border between India and Pakistan)
- Harimandir Sahib – the Golden Temple
- Jallianwala Bagh

- BAPS Akshardham Temple, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- ISKCON Temple, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- ISKCON Temple, Vrindavan, Uttar, Pradesh
- Taj Mahal, Agra, Uttar, Pradesh
- Akshardham Temple, New Delhi
- India Gate, New Delhi
- Red Fort, New Delhi
- Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, Kandy, Sri Lanka
- Temple of the Tooth Relic, Kandy, Sri Lanka
- Tea Houses, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Attendees as Meetings include:

- C.D. Jadeja (NFSU)
- Dr. J.M.Vyas (NFSU)
- Dr.S.O.Junare (NFSU)
- Dr. Digvijaysinh Rathod (NFSU)
- Prof Purvi Pokhariyal (NFSU)
- Dr Varinder Kanwar (QCI)
- Dr Ravi Singh (QCI)
- Anshuman (TERI)
- Livleen Kaur Kahlon (TERI)
- Richa Sharma (TERI)
- Saswata Chaudry (TERI)
- Suneel Pandey (TERI)
- James Gomes (IITD)
- Dr. Vamsi Krishna Komarala (ITTD)
- Anurag Rathore (IITD)
- Hyacinth Gunawardena – Executive Director Jetwing Hotel Group
- Various Religious Leaders
- Narendra Patel (Lions Club India)
- School Executive Sri Lankan Schools

We submit this report to the Parliament of Victoria as per the requirements of the Members Guide current in September 2023.