

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
11-Mar-22	18-Mar-22	Flights to and from Athens as part of the World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (WHIA) delegation	\$7,247.41

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 7
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$7,247.41

Travel Report – World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (WHIA)

11 March – 18 March 2022

Kat Theophanous MP

Summary

The World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (WHIA) is an interparliamentary organisation of the Greek diaspora bringing together legislators of Greek origin from around the world.

Its purpose is to work constructively to build links between legislatures around the world, and the Parliaments of Greece and Cyprus through trade, tourism, geopolitics and cultural links. It also cooperates closely with the Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad in order to tackle issues regarding the Greek Diaspora.

Additionally, one of its core roles as an inter-parliamentary group is to provide professional development opportunities and networking for members and associates across the world.

WHIA holds regular board meetings, conferences, delegations for its members. On this occasion, Ms Theophanous was invited to attend the March delegation and represent Steve Georganas at the WHIA Board Meeting, as an Alternate Board Member. She was also invited to take part in all delegation activities.

Mr Georganas is the Australian representative and 2nd Vice President on the WHIA Board. Ms Theophanous attended as these activities relate to her parliamentary duties.

Itinerary

Date	Itinerary
11 March	Depart Melbourne
12 March	Arrival in Athens – greeted by WHIA President, Leonidas Raptakis Meeting with the Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency (Invest Cyprus)
13 March	Flight to Thessaloniki WHIA Board Meeting
14 March	Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Interior, responsible for Macedonia-Thrace Mr. Stavros Kalafatis Meeting with the Mayor of Thessaloniki Mr. Konstantinos Zervas Meeting with the Rector of the University of Macedonia Mr Stylianos Katranidis Meeting with the Regional Governor of Central Macedonia Mr. Apostolos Tzitzikostas Meeting with the President of the International Hellenic University Mr. Athanasios Kaisis Visit of the American Farm School Visit of the American College ANATOLIA Dinner hosted by the Regional Association of Municipalities of Central Macedonia Mr. Ignatios Kaitetzidis
15 March	Tour of the Port of Thessaloniki Joint Meeting of the Hellenic Parliament Special Standing Committee on Hellenism of the Diaspora with PADEE Board on: "One Hundred Years Since the Asia Minor Catastrophe" Dinner-reception hosted by the President Mr. Savvas Anastasiadis and the members of the Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad
16 March	Conference – “Egnatia of the Ports” – Developmental and Geostrategic Role Working dinner hosted by the Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Mr Nikolaos Papaioannou at the Porto Palace
17 March	Flight to Athens Meeting with the National Archeological Museum regarding the upcoming Melbourne Museum Open Horizons Exhibition
18 March	Depart for Melbourne

Highlights

Melbourne-Thessaloniki Sister Cities

On 14 March Ms Theophanous had the opportunity to meet and speak with the Mayor of Thessaloniki Mr. Konstantinos Zervas. They spoke about the longstanding sister-city relationship between Melbourne and Thessaloniki, which has seen the establishment of 'Melbourne Square' within Thessaloniki.



Joint Meeting of the Hellenic Parliament Special Standing Committee on Hellenism of the Diaspora

On 15 March the delegation attended a joint meeting of the Hellenic Parliament Special Standing Committee on Hellenism of the Diaspora to speak about "One Hundred Years Since the Asia Minor Catastrophe".

Ms Theophanous had the opportunity to address the delegation and spoke about the progress being made in Australia towards recognition of the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek genocides – including through a recent motion of the Australian Parliament. She also highlighted the impact these events



have had on many migrant families in her own community back in Australia, parallels to the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and the need to assist Ukraine as they now suffer the impact of an unjust war.

Building connections with the Greek University Sector

The delegation had the opportunity to meet and speak with a number of major universities based in Thessaloniki, including the University of Macedonia, the American Farm School, Anatolia College and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.



This was a fantastic opportunity to investigate opportunities for cross-promotion in the university sector, particularly for the Greek speaking community of Melbourne who would benefit greatly from the chance to study abroad and gain a deeper connection with their language and culture.

It was insightful to hear about the diverse study offerings of these universities, including some available entirely in English. Ms Theophanous promoted Victoria's strong university sector and opportunities for Greek international students.

She also spoke about her work to retain tertiary Greek language studies at La Trobe University and explored how collaboration with Greek universities might occur to bolster this program long term.

Meeting with the National Archaeological Museum

A significant highlight of the trip was the opportunity to meet with the National Archaeological Museum of Athens (NAM) regarding the upcoming Open Horizons Hellenic exhibition at the Melbourne Museum.

Open Horizons is a partnership with NAM and the Victorian Government, which will see 44 ancient artefacts dating from the Early Bronze Age to the Roman period come to Melbourne and be displayed in an exclusive exhibition at Melbourne Museum.

Funded by the Victorian Government, the exhibition will take visitors on a journey through Ancient Greece exploring how the trade of ideas and goods influenced Greek culture and how they in turn influenced the ancient world.

Ms Theophanous has been working on this exhibition as part of the Open Horizons Advisory Group, and it was wonderful to be able to meet with some of the collaborators at NAM who will soon be arriving in Melbourne, and speak about the details as we move into the final stage of preparations for the April exhibition launch.

