

<b>Member</b>	John Berger	<b>Electorate</b>	Southern Metro
<b>Period</b>	01 April 2024 to 30 June 2024		

<b>Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$12,079.83
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$0.00

<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
18-Mar-24	21-Mar-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$1,160.30	Melbourne	\$987.00
17-Apr-24	19-Apr-24	Regional Parliamentary Sitting	\$507.35	Echuca	\$350.00
29-Apr-24	02-May-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$1,047.85	Melbourne	\$877.00
13-May-24	15-May-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$810.29	Melbourne	\$698.00
23-May-24	23-May-24	Constituent Business - Victorian Community Tennis Awards, representing Minister Spence	\$431.80	South Yarra	\$369.00
28-May-24	31-May-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$1,066.24	Melbourne	\$907.00
05-Jun-24	06-Jun-24	Electorate business: CFMEU Victorian inaugural delegates dinner	\$329.00	Melbourne	\$329.00
17-Jun-24	20-Jun-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$1,155.69	Melbourne	\$917.00
<b>Total number of nights for travel allowance claims</b>			<b>18</b>		
<b>Total amount paid to member for travel allowance</b>			<b>\$6,508.52</b>		

<b>Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport
<b>Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims</b>			<b>0</b>		
<b>Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>		

<b>Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims</b>			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
20/04/2024	29/04/2024	Representing my constituents on Electorate Business at the ANZAC Day Service and Events in Turkey	\$8,026.98
20/04/2024	29/04/2024	Representing my constituents on Electorate Business at the ANZAC Day Service and Events in Turkey; Accommodation, Meals, International Transaction Fees and Transport	\$1,619.95
<b>Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims</b>			<b>9</b>
<b>Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance</b>			<b>\$9,646.93</b>

See attached travel report for further details

## Travel Report of John Berger MP

Constituent Business – ANZAC Day Commemorative Service 2024

18 April 2024 – 28 April 2024



### Attendees:

John Berger MP, State Member for Southern Metropolitan Region  
Minister Natalie Suleyman MP, Minister for Veterans, Youth and Small Business  
Tim Bull MP, State Member for Gippsland East  
Ella George MP, State Member for Lara  
Belinda Wilson MP, State Member for Narre Warren North  
Juliana Addison MP, State Member for Wendouree  
Emma Kealy MP, State Member for Lowan  
Luba Grigorovitch MP, State Member for Kororoit  
Pauline Richards MP, State Member for Cranbourne  
Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Ashwood  
Anthony Cianflone MP, State Member for Pascoe Vale  
Cindy McLeish MP, State Member for Eildon  
Martin Cameron MP, State Member for Morwell  
Tim McCurdy MP, State Member for Ovens Valley

## **Statement of Objectives:**

In April 2024, I honoured to join a bi-partisan group of my Victorian State Parliamentary colleagues, to visit Türkiye to for the purposes of attending the Anzac Memorial Services, visit places of cultural significance, and engage with the Turkish Government and Parliament. The overarching aim of the trip was to represent my constituents of the Southern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne on Electorate Business at the ANZAC Day Service and events in Türkiye.

For many years, across the Parliament, in a bi-partisan fashion, Victorian State Members of Parliament have travelled to Türkiye for this purpose. After a pause on travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this tradition has returned in 2024 – organised by the Minister for Veterans, Minister Suleyman.

Türkiye and Australia share a unique bond – through the shared experience that began on the battlefields of Çanakkale (Gallipoli). This year marks the 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Gallipoli campaign that forged the legend of the ANZAC – one 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. And in my community of Southern Metropolitan Region, we have one of the highest proportion of diggers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Gallipoli Campaign.

The arrival of Turkish Airlines' inaugural flight to Melbourne in March 2024, and the announcement that they would base their operations out of Melbourne Airport, illustrates the growing importance of these cultural and economic ties. This represents a major opportunity for increased international trade and tourism. Providing more competition and cheaper flights for Victorians while also creating hundreds of jobs for my constituents and Victoria. Melbourne Airport forecasts job creation to reach over 40,000 by 2038.

By fostering these economic and cultural ties between Victoria and Türkiye, we can develop further economic opportunities for both communities. These bonds were never more important than when as the Member for Southern Metropolitan Region, I helped connected the Turkish community with Balwyn Rotary to facilitate aid relief in the wake of the 2023 Türkiye Earthquake. As a result, the Camberwell Sunday Market in my community of the Southern Metropolitan Region helped raise thousands of dollars to aid those affected.

In addition, I am regularly engaged in discussions with stakeholders to further enhance our cross-cultural connections and explore trade, tourism, and education opportunities for the electorate and for Victoria. Finally, I regularly represent the Minister for Veterans at commemorative services at the Shrine of Remembrance in Victoria.

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

### **20 April 2024**

Commercial transport:

Taxi Fare: Spring Street to Melbourne Airport = \$73.59 AUD

Melbourne to Istanbul

Arrived 21 April (local time)

Stayed in Istanbul for one night (21-22 April).

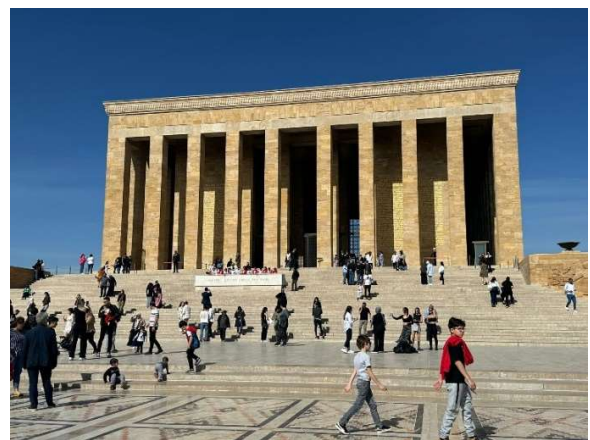
### **22 April 2024**

Accommodation: Istanbul (Bosphorous) = \$425.19 AUD

Depart Istanbul, travel to Ankara (flight).

Stayed in Ankara (22nd-23rd).

I had the honour of visiting the Mausoleum of Atatürk (Anıtkabir) to pay my respects, lay a wreath. It serves as the resting place of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.







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 Turkish forces.

After the Gallipoli campaign, Atatürk famously said:

*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 now 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.*

I paused to view the words inscribed into the stone of the Mausoleum and reflect on the significance of this statement, which has become an enduring symbol of the relationship between Türkiye and Australia.

I joined with the Australian Ambassador Mr Miles Armitage from the Embassy of Australia in Ankara, and Parliamentarians of the Türkiye Australia friends group from the Turkish Grand Assembly, including the Deputy Minister for Family and Social Services (Veterans), Mr Yavuz Selim Kiran.

### **23 April 2024**

Accommodation: Ankara = \$206.37 AUD

I visited the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA).

The TGNA has 600 members and is located in Ankara, the capital city of Türkiye.

I joined a reception hosted by HE Halil Eldemir, the President of the Türkiye-Australia Interparliamentary Friendship Group, Member of Parliament for Bilecik. Other Parliamentarians also joined this reception.

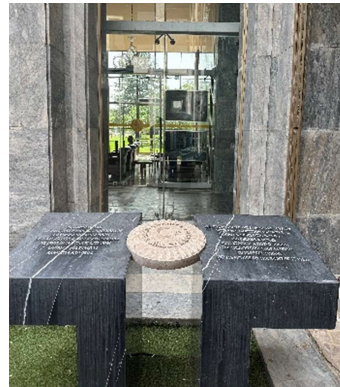
I had the opportunity to discuss the relationship between Türkiye and Victoria. I also contributed to a discussion on Global Victoria and learned about how Turkish migrants living in Victoria have benefitted from the support of Global Victoria to import and export goods.

I participated in a discussion on the economic and cultural opportunities between Türkiye and Victoria for businesses of all sizes. I also discussed the long history of Victorian State Members of Parliament travelling to Türkiye to attend the ANZAC Commemorative Services, and how this shared historical event has strengthened ties between Australia and Türkiye.

Victorian State Members of Parliament thanked the Turkish Government for their continued support in maintaining war memorials, allowing Australians to honour our country's veterans every year. And I reflected on the significant cooperation between the Australian and Turkish Governments to enable travel and commemoration on ANZAC Day, and throughout the year.

I also attended the TGNA General Assembly Special Session for the Anniversary of the Foundation of the TGNA, and participated in a guided tour of the TGNA. This coincided with National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Türkiye – a significant day in Türkiye that celebrates democracy and the importance of young people.

Finally, I met with HE Bekir Bozdağ, the Deputy Speaker of TGNA.



I then departed Ankara to Çanakkale (domestic flight). **Stayed in Çanakkale (23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>).**

**24 April 2024**

I attended the Ceremony for the 109th Anniversary of the Land Wars of Çanakkale, where the President of the Gallipoli Historic Site, Ismail Kasdemir, delivered a moving speech. Mr Kasdemir particularly spoke about the common ground that Gallipoli now represents as a sacred meeting place to reflect and commemorate.

That afternoon, I personally visited gravesites at the following cemeteries, to pay tribute to our fallen diggers.





**Lancashire Landing Cemetery (please see images directly below)**



**Redoubt Cemetery, Helles (please see images directly below)**





**Embarkation Pier Cemetery (please see images directly below)**



**No. 2 Outpost Cemetery (please see images directly below)**



**Beach Cemetery, ANZAC (please see images below)**





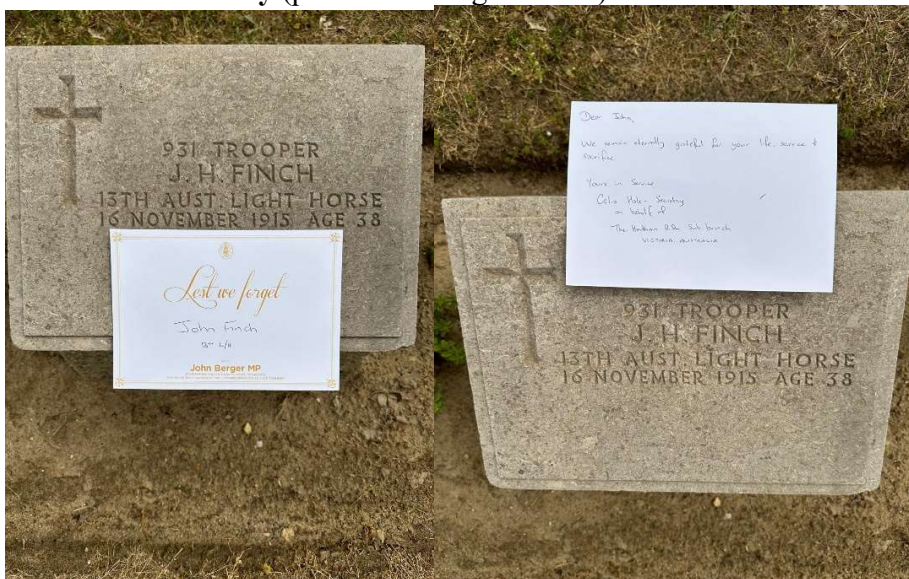
Shell Green Cemetery (please see images below)



Shrapnel Valley Cemetery (please see images below)



**Ari Burni Cemetery (please see images below)**



I am deeply grateful to the many RSL's in my Community of Southern Metropolitan Region, who kindly hand wrote a message on card, for me to deliver to diggers associated with their RSL. You can see some of the many messages, above.

**Other photos:**





**25 April 2024**  
**Dawn Service**

I attended the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at ANZAC Cove.

The Dawn Service is an important time for reflection on the service and sacrifice of our state's veterans.

I then joined over 1500 travellers from Australia and New Zealand, as well as Turkish and other dignitaries, at the former World War I battlefields at Gallipoli for a solemn service at dawn. As the sun rose, participants held a minute of silence to reflect on the sacrifices of tens of thousands of soldiers from the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps, who landed at the beaches at Gallipoli, in north-west Türkiye. Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles gave a moving speech, reflecting on the spirit of the ANZACs who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their nation.



It is vital that we never forget the sacrifices made. As Australians, Victorians and residents of the Southern Metropolitan Region, we must continue to make the journey to Gallipoli, to pay our respects to our ANZACs, and remember our significant wartime history. And as a Parliament and Government, we should continue to support Australians participation in these services in the future.



Following the Dawn Service, we paid our respects at the Lone Pine Monument, commemorating the 3,268 Australians and 456 New Zealanders who died in the Gallipoli campaign and have no known grave, and the 960 Australians and 252 New Zealanders who were buried at sea. This was a significant service, and I was grateful to have the opportunity to visit some of the graves of the soldiers from my electorate honoured at Lone Pine, along with the memorial wall.

The Australian Dawn service was followed by service for New Zealand. We also visited the Conkbayırı Monument. I then flew from Çanakkale to Urfa on the evening of the 25th of April, to learn about its rich historical and cultural significance, including Göbekli Tepe - the world's oldest known temple, dating back 11,500 years.

**25-26 April 2024 - Accommodation:** Çanakkale = \$556.27 AUD

**26 April 2024**

Şanlıurfa/ Şanlıurfa to Istanbul.

In the morning, I visited Göbekli Tepe which is a Neolithic archaeological site in the Southeastern Anatolia Region of Türkiye. The settlement was inhabited from 9500 to at least 8000 BCE famous for its large circular structures that contain massive stone pillars – the world's oldest known megaliths.

I then travelled to the Pool of Abraham in Sanliurfa and the Mevlid-I Halil Mosque. Balıklıgöl and neighbouring Aynzeliha pools are among the most visited places in Şanlıurfa and have significance in Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Balıklıgöl, is a pool in the southwest of the city center of Şanlıurfa, Turkey.



Evening flight from Urfa to Istanbul

**26-28 April 2024**

**Stayed in Istanbul (26th-28th).**

Accommodation: Istanbul = \$882.67 AUD

28th: Istanbul to Melbourne (flight)

Commercial Transport: Taxi from Melbourne Airport to Spring Street = \$68.09 AUD

**Concluding remarks:**

Victoria and Türkiye have long had strong cultural, historical, social and economic ties which can be strengthened even further between our communities and governments. In February 2023, in response to the earthquakes in south-eastern Türkiye, the Victorian Government donated \$1 million towards the recovery efforts.

On 5 October 1967, the Australia-Turkey Migration Agreement was signed between the Australian and Turkish governments - a bilateral agreement to provide assisted passage to Turkish migrants, to help build Australia's population and expand the workforce.

Since then, Victoria is home to many successful Turkish migrants. Opportunities can continue to grow in this area with further investment, trade and tourism.

It was an honour to represent my community of the Southern Metropolitan Region – in particular the RSL's, veterans and fallen – in my capacity as a Member of Parliament. It is an experience I will never forget. To take part in the commemorative services in Gallipoli, Türkiye, and honour our brave soldiers, most of whom were barely adults, was a privilege.

It is vital that we continue to remember and honour the ANZACs, and indeed all veterans, and reflect on our wartime history. There are many occasions across the year for Victorians to honour and respect veterans both at home and overseas, and I would encourage all Victorians to take part in these important services. Programs such as SOAP are important to educate our Victorian Students of the Anzac journey, and I'm pleased that this, Year 12 students will also travel to Gallipoli, Türkiye as part of the winning prize.

Lest We Forget.



**Appendix: Amount claimed.**

Date	Description	Type	Folio Number/Check Number	Cost - LIRA	Cost - AUD	Amount claimed - AUD
20-Apr-24	Spring Street to Melbourne Airport	Transport - Taxi			\$ 73.59	\$73.59
21-Apr-24	Conrad Hotel - Istanbul (Bosphorus)	Accommodation	1086157A	8738.62	\$ 425.19	\$226.38
21-Apr-24	International transaction fee				\$ 14.88	14.88
23-Apr-24	Kolin Hotel - Ankara	Accommodation	850300A	4265.77	\$ 206.37	\$123.38
23-Apr-24	International transaction fee				\$ 7.22	7.22
25-Apr-24	Kolin Hotel - Canakkale	Accommodation		11632.56	\$ 556.27	556.27
25-Apr-24	International transaction fee				\$ 19.47	19.47
27-Apr-24	Conrad Hotel - Istanbul	Accommodation	1086164A	18472.57	\$ 882.67	\$452.00
27-Apr-24	Conrad Hotel - Istanbul	Meal		1020	\$ 47.78	\$47.78
27-Apr-24	International transaction fee				\$ 30.89	30.89
29-Apr-24	Melbourne Airport to Spring Street	Transport - Taxi			\$ 68.09	68.09
				44129.52	\$2,332.42	\$1,619.95 <b>TOTAL</b>