

ATTACHMENT 1



**OFFICIAL MINISTERIAL OVERSEAS TRAVEL  
Outcomes Report**

The provision of the information below is consistent with the *Guidelines for Official Ministerial Overseas Travel*. This report must be sent to the Premier within 40 working days of return, and published on the relevant department website within 60 working days of the Minister's return. The published version of the report does not need to include the 'next steps / follow up' section or the signature block.

<b>Name of Department / Agency</b>	Department of Health and Human Services	
<b>Departmental / Agency Contact</b>	Kathryn Whitfield, Director, Cancer, Specialty Programs, Medical Research and International Health	
<b>Telephone Number</b>	9096 2150	
<b>TRAVEL DETAILS</b>		
<b>Minister's Name</b>	Jenny Mikakos, MP	
<b>Portfolio/s</b>	Minister for Health and Ambulance Services	
<b>Did the Minister's spouse accompany the Minister in an official capacity?</b> <b>If Yes – please outline the role of the spouse in achieving the outcomes of the visit</b>	<b>YES (official capacity)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES (private capacity)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Accompanying Ministerial staff</b>	Jacob Clifton, Chief of Staff	
<b>Countries visited</b>	Singapore and India	
<b>Date of travel</b>	01 December 2019 – 07 December 2019	
<b>Number of official travel days (include day of departure and day of return)</b>	7	
<b>Funding source (list Department/s or Agency)</b>	Department of Health and Human Services	
<b>EXPENSES</b> <i>Include combined expenses for Minister, accompanying staff and spouse (if accompanying in an official capacity)</i>	\$	

Air fares (including taxes and fees)	\$24,770.04
Accommodation (including taxes and fees)	\$5955.67
Other expenses (including surface travel and travel allowances)	\$5902.08
Travel cost for Minister and ministerial staff ( <i>and spouse or de facto partner if applicable</i> )	\$36,627.79
Are the above costs final and complete?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Purpose of travel:**

I met with senior health sector stakeholders in Singapore and India to progress the government's priorities, and to progress health partnerships with India under Victoria's India Strategy. Priority areas for this delegation included infectious disease responses, health promotion, antimicrobial resistance, nutrition, policy reform, digital health and workforce development.

Singapore has an innovative and high quality health system, with similar challenges to Victoria in ageing population and rising chronic diseases. This visit enabled sharing of information and exposure to international best practice and has enabled the establishment of new partnerships. India has a dynamic and highly innovative healthcare sector, renowned for providing high-quality care with digital health technologies. This visit increased engagement with leaders from India's health sector and progressed the 2018-2020 whole-of government *Victoria's India Strategy: Our Shared Future*.

**Benefits of travel to the State of Victoria**

My visit showcased Victoria's strengths in healthcare, including in antimicrobial resistance, genomics, medical research and precision medicine. The delegation was also able to build on important relationships with key organisations and government in healthcare.

My trip to India and Singapore provided insights for future policy and program considerations. Opportunities identified include potential use in Victoria of innovative cancer screening technologies developed in India, joint exercises on infectious disease response and implementation of the International Health Regulations, a medical workforce exchange program and research collaboration, and establishment of a new collaboration on utilising data from wearable fitness trackers to help scope public health priorities.

I spent two days in Singapore and three days in India. In India I travelled to Bangalore for one day and spent two days in New Delhi, India's capital city.

## Singapore

I met with Alexandra Hospital, who have recently worked with Singapore's Ministry of Health's Office for Healthcare Transformation to develop an Integrated General Hospital model. We discussed their integrated care model being piloted, which is a holistic care approach to address the needs of elderly patients with multiple co-morbidities. This approach has so far reduced patient stay lengths by 20 per cent without increasing costs. Pilot features include a sliding scale of acute care to sub-acute and patient rehabilitation in the same bed, led by a single doctor. I also toured the facility and discussed new IT systems, the involvement of family in providing care and infrastructure redevelopment.

I also met with the Agency for Integrated Care, Singapore's coordination body for the delivery of aged care services. We discussed the role of the Agency in relation to hospitals and coordinators of long-term care, and its increasing importance due to Singapore's ageing population. We also discussed Singapore's approach to integrated care, in which they run multiple pilots before selecting one for implementation. The Agency discussed the need for consumer-centred care and attempts to get insurance companies to increase funding availability for non-tertiary care services.

I met with Singapore's Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong, to discuss our shared challenges in healthcare, such as cyber security, ageing populations and infectious disease control. I also attended a networking event hosted by Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore, Bruce Gosper, where I met a variety of Singaporean health stakeholders.

I met with the National Centre for Infectious Disease, which is a new \$900 million, world-class infectious disease hospital, and coordination centre for emergency response and outbreak management. The Centre prioritises specialist training for its workforce, including conducting regular drills to improve team capacity. I toured the new facility and discussed their work in antimicrobial resistance. We also discussed Singapore's need for significant investment in infectious disease capacity following the SARS outbreak and their position as a regional hub. The Centre also houses the Antimicrobial Resistance Coordinating Office. They discussed the implementation of Singapore's One Health-based National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy.

Meeting with the National Cancer Centre allowed me to understand the work of the Centre in treating cancer patients and their work in research, clinical trials and cancer screening programs. The Centre is a subsidiary of Singapore General Hospital - one of the world's leading hospitals - and is Singapore's specialist cancer treatment and research centre, seeing almost 65 per cent of the public sector's oncology cases. We discussed the new proton beam for cancer therapy which is currently under construction, and their plan to release a National Cancer Strategy in 2020. They also discussed the challenges of the health sector, such as cyber security, increasing competition for grants and an ageing population. We also presented and discussed Victoria's Optimal Care Pathways for Cancer.

I met with the Health Promotion Board, a government organisation which funds and manages a range of programs in prevention and population health across Singapore, including in schools, workplaces and community-settings. I met with them to understand their work in preventive health, including: a food reformulation program to lower food sugar levels,

increase wholegrain content and promote foods with a low-GI; their Healthy Meals in Schools program; and the National Steps Challenge. Discussion focused on Singapore's War on Diabetes, legislative approaches such as the banning of advertising for sugar-sweetened beverages and using data from fitness trackers to drive public health priorities and behaviour change. Following the meeting, I was also taken to a local Hawker Hall for lunch, to experience the results of the food reformulation program which the Hall had implemented.

## India

I met with representatives from Narayana Health, including CEO Dr Devi Shetty, to discuss the work of Narayana Health, the future of healthcare and the heart surgery expertise that Victoria and Narayana Health plan to share through a pilot surgeon exchange. Narayana Health was established by Dr Shetty, former surgeon for Mother Teresa to provide safe, affordable care to Indian communities. Narayana Health are leaders in low-cost innovation and offer a unique practice model in which their health workforce all operate at their highest scope of practice. Discussion topics included the need to optimise the role of health care staff and increase data usage, the need to improve system integration, and the importance of increasing the uptake of low-cost technologies.

I attended an event to launch Victoria's Soapy Heroes program into schools in Karnataka, adapted and implemented through our partner organisation, Biocon Foundation. Biocon Foundation are a corporate social responsibility subsidiary of Biocon and Syngene corporations to provide sustainable solutions to a variety of developmental challenges in India, including education, healthcare and environmental issues. The 'Soapy Heroes' launch took place at a local primary school and included a hands-on, hand washing activity using the 'Glitterbug' resources to demonstrate the importance of hand hygiene for children to reduce the spread of avoidable infectious diseases. Soapy Heroes is a free online resource developed by Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education and Training and used in schools across Victoria.

I met with Dr Mazumdar-Shaw AM, Chairman and Managing Director of Biocon. Biocon is one of India's largest pharmaceuticals company which manufactures and develops a variety of pharmaceuticals. Ms Mazumdar-Shaw is also Victoria's Business Ambassador. During the lunch meeting we discussed the need to improve data utilisation in healthcare provision and increase research, particularly in human genomics, as well as discussing digital health technologies.

At the Public Health Foundation of India I participated in a roundtable discussion on the challenges of improving nutrition in India and Victoria. The Public Health Foundation of India is a public-private organisation which strengthens India's public health institutions and systems capacity to achieve better health outcomes for all through promotive, preventative and therapeutic services. The event concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the department and the Public Health Foundation of India, focusing on collaboration in population health and workforce development.

I attended an event to announce the upcoming joint Call for Solutions on Infection Prevention and Management project between Victoria and Innovation Knowledge Park. Innovation

Knowledge Park is a leading innovation incubation centre, based in a 200 square kilometre site in India's Genome Valley in Hyderabad, Telangana. The Park aims to create a world-class ecosystem for fostering leading innovation and promotion of technology-based innovation. The Call for Solutions was announced with the CEO of Innovation Knowledge Park, Ms Deepanwita Chattopadhyay. Dr Renu Swarup, Head of the Department of Biotechnology and Chairperson of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, also attended the event and participated in discussions on the importance of combatting antimicrobial resistance through community-level programs.

I met with Ms Harinder Sidhu, Australia's High Commissioner to India, to discuss the differences in health contexts between Victoria and India, including the role of public advocacy, public and private health insurance and regional variations.

### **Next Steps / Follow Up**

Opportunities and outcomes arising from the delegation include:

**Alexandra Hospital:** The hospital has agreed to share the results of their integrated care pilot currently underway for potential adaptation into Victoria.

**Agency for Integrated Care:** Victoria was invited to attend their Community Care Conference in Singapore in 2020.

**National Centre for Infectious Disease:** The delegation was invited to act as an observer during their annual outbreak response drills, which showcase world-leading infectious disease prevention methodology. In addition, in-principle support was achieved for Singapore and Victoria to cooperate in conducting joint exercises on the International Health Regulations on Global Security to boost internal and regional capacity in line with World Health Organization recommendations.

**National Cancer Centre:** Victoria invited the National Cancer Centre to attend the MD Anderson Conference being hosted by Melbourne in 2020. In addition, the department will support the National Cancer Centre to pursue formal collaborative relationships with Victoria's cancer sector in research and clinical trials.

**Health Promotion Board:** The meeting with the Health Promotion Board has provided strong evidence to support preventive health policies and programs which are being considered for adaptation and implementation in Victoria.

**Narayana Health:** The Minister and CEO, Dr Devi Shetty announced the 2020 launch of a pilot program for Victorians and Indians to undertake professional development through surgical exchange opportunities. Victorian surgeons will gain exposure to low-incidence Victorian cases which are high volume at Narayana and a programming scoping delegation will be supported by the Department of Health and Human Services in 2020.

**Biocon Foundation:** The launch of the Soapy Heroes program established Victoria as a

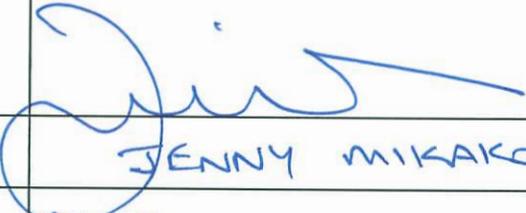
committed leader in preventive health and in combatting antimicrobial resistance through evidence-based policy.

Public Health Foundation of India: This meeting provided the basis for a potential collaborative project between India and Victoria to tackle nutrition challenges. This collaborative opportunity is being further refined in consultation with partners.

Innovation Knowledge Park: This meeting announced the launch of a joint Call for Solutions on Infection Prevention and Control. This project is a startup challenge to commence in March 2020, with implementation of two digital education solutions in 2021. This project will deliver two innovative, low-cost digital health solutions for implementation into Victoria to improve community knowledge about preventing and managing infections.

Department of Biotechnology: Dr Renu Swarup invited Victoria to participate as an expert partner on their forthcoming One Health antimicrobial resistance centre.

The Department of Health and Human Services is following up with organisations to progress opportunities.

<b>Noted by Department Secretary</b> (Signature)	
<b>Name</b>	KYM PEACE
<b>Date</b>	18/2/2020
<b>Approved by Minister</b> (Signature)	
<b>Name</b>	JENNY MIKAKOS
<b>Date</b>	18/2/20

<b>Approved by Premier (Signature)</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Daniel Andrews
<b>Date</b>	23 / 07 / 2020