

**OFFICIAL MINISTERIAL OVERSEAS TRAVEL
Outcomes Report**

Name of Department / Agency	Department of Health and Human Services	
Departmental / Agency Contact	Linda Cristine Director, Innovation, Industry and International Health Department of Health and Human Services	
Telephone Number	9096 5166	
TRAVEL DETAILS		
Minister's Name	The Hon Jill Hennessy MP	
Portfolio/s	Minister for Health Minister for Ambulance Services	
Did the Minister's spouse accompany the Minister in an official capacity?	YES (official capacity) <input type="checkbox"/> YES (private capacity) <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Accompanying Ministerial staff	Chief of Staff	
Countries visited	Sweden, United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates.	
Date of travel	25 July 2016 – 6 August 2016	
Number of official travel days	13 days	
Funding source	Department of Health and Human Services	
EXPENSES	\$	
Air fares (including taxes and fees)	\$20,145	
Accommodation (including taxes and fees)	\$6,565	
Other expenses (including surface travel and travel allowances)	\$12,212	
Travel cost for Minister and ministerial staff	\$38,922	
Are the above costs final and complete?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of travel

The purpose of my travel to Sweden, United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates was to meet with key experts, providers and agencies to:

- a) Build on Victoria's investment in medical research to grow Victoria's pre-eminence as a hub for world class research;
- b) Support opportunities for collaboration and investment in bio-medical research, with a specific focus on the treatment of cancer;
- c) Support planning and development of a National Centre for Proton Beam Therapy for Victoria and strengthen high level relationships with world leading providers;
- d) Strengthen patient safety outcomes across Victoria through the creation of strategic international partnerships;
- e) Enhance the development of Victoria's Cancer Action Plan by visiting a number of world-class cancer treatment facilities overseas.

Context

Victoria's healthcare sector is an important contributor to the economy, employing 12 per cent of the population and making a gross value added contribution to the Victorian economy of over \$30 billion per annum. Victoria's medical research/biosciences sector achieved revenue of more than \$9.9 billion Australia-wide in 2014, and commercial research and development by that sector exceeded \$800 million in 2014.

The Victorian Government is committed to working with our key international partners to continue to support, sustain and strengthen the health and medical research sector. In July 2016, the Government launched *Victoria's Health and Medical Research Strategy 2016-2020* and *Victoria's International Health Strategy 2016-2020*. These strategies provide a framework for our efforts to grow our health and medical research capability and revenue through international engagement.

Itinerary

In 11 days on the ground, I travelled to Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates.

Below are the key outcomes and benefits from my visit to Sweden:

I visited the Nationella Kvalitetsregistren, in Stockholm where I gained insight into Sweden's well-established system of clinical quality registries (CQRs), including their potential for use in clinical trials. Clinical quality registries are an essential tool for tracking and measuring health conditions, treatments, procedures and health outcomes. I met with the Director of the Central Registries Office and her colleagues to explore how to develop similar systems in Victoria. In particular, having commissioned Professor Stephen Duckett to review our patient quality systems, I was keen to understand and steer the work to strengthen patient safety outcomes across Victoria. In part this can be done through the creation of strategic international partnerships and in the most part driving the system changes in Victoria. A strategic approach is underway to use administrative, linked data and clinical registry information to identify outliers and clinical variation which will inform improvement strategies.

I visited the Karolinska Institutet, in Stockholm where I met with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

for International Affairs and a representative of the International Relations Office. Karolinska Institutet has become a globally-recognised institution for medical research, education and healthcare delivery. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to inform our strategies and initiatives as the Victorian Government works to grow the Melbourne's Biomedical (Parkville) Precinct's local and international impact and reputation.

Karolinska Institutet is a partner with the Karolinska University Hospital, a research and teaching hospital, which together form an academic health science centre, similar to the Melbourne Academic Centre for Health and the Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre. The Institutet is making great efforts to engage with industry to commercialise its medical research, a key goal of the Government's *Health and Medical Research Strategy 2016 – 2020*.

I also visited the Skandion Clinic in Uppsala, Sweden. The Skandion Clinic is a fully operational Proton Beam Therapy site co-located with Uppsala University, providing treatment with 360 degree gantry, pencil beam scanning and cone beam computed tomography. This visit was particularly informative and I explored options for the model to be developed in Victoria.

I met with the Minister for Health Care, Public Health and Sport of Sweden. This was a reciprocal visit in which we discussed further health collaboration opportunities. I had previously met with Minister Wikström and a delegation from Sweden in Melbourne in October 2015. The purpose of the Swedish delegation's visit was information exchange, exploration of future collaborations and relationship building between Victorian and Swedish healthcare experts, industry and governments.

This reciprocal visit provided an opportunity build on the strong bilateral relationship between Australia and Sweden, particularly in the areas of trade, health and medical research and education services. I discussed furthering the partnership work through our respective health departments in the following areas:

- knowledge exchange between researchers about clinical quality registries, including their potential for use in clinical trials. This exchange can support identification of research priorities for potential co-investment and co-production and/or coordination;
- cancer research, prevention, control and management, including Proton Beam Therapy technology, facility size and configuration;
- combating the threat of antimicrobial resistance, including approaches to data collection and developing policy and practice regarding antimicrobial prescribing in both humans and animals.

At Swecare Foundation, I participated in a roundtable discussion with a range of Swedish based companies with links to Australia and discussed the potential for establishing a program of reciprocal meetings/missions in Sweden and Victoria for firms seeking health partnerships.

The presentations from trade-ready companies were informative as we discussed the opportunities for co-investment and co-production of medical research and clinical trials.

In the United Kingdom, I visited King's College (Guy's Hospital) and their new cancer hospital in London. This visit provided an opportunity to discuss the UK Integrated Cancer Centre model and how this would relate to the Victorian based integrated cancer centre. Noting the obvious comparisons between the cancer centre at King's College (Guy's Hospital) and the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) program, discussion focussed on furthering partnership

work between King's College and the VCCC.

I met with Australian paramedics from London Ambulance Service and toured the Emergency Centre. I heard first hand from the Australian paramedics working in London their experiences of what was rewarding about both services – Victoria's and London's.

Later in my itinerary, I returned to the London Ambulance Service and met with the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives. This visit provided opportunity to learn more about some of the significant reforms and operating models of the various ambulance trusts in the UK. We discussed the use of better metrics to assess ambulance performance which was very useful in the context of improving Victoria's results, and actions to reduce ambulance response times.

I hosted the official International launch of *Victoria's International Health Strategy 2016-2020* and *Health and Medical Research Strategy 2016-2020* at Australia House. I was able to discuss the strategies and meet a range of invited guests from medical associations, Healthcare UK and leading British universities to discuss partnerships with Victoria.

I visited the Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI), Imperial College London (St Mary's Hospital), where I witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding confirming Victoria's commitment as a member of Leading Health Systems Network which benchmarks quality and safety systems, between the Leading Health Systems Network project partners.

I visited the Barts Heart Centre, Europe's largest specialised cardiovascular centre and the world's biggest centre of excellence for adults with congenital heart disease. I toured their new state-of-the art facilities and discussed the development of a strategic partnership between Victoria and the Barts Heart Centre.

I participated in a meeting at Healthcare UK where I gained insight into the work of the organisation and discussed the potential partnership arrangements following the release of *Victoria's International Health Strategy 2016-2020*. Healthcare UK is a joint initiative of the Department of Health, UK Trade and Investment and NHS England. Its headquarters are in London and staff work with UK Trade and Investment's network of advisors located in more than 100 countries.

Healthcare UK helps UK healthcare providers to do more business overseas by promoting the UK healthcare sector to overseas markets and supporting healthcare partnerships between the UK and overseas healthcare providers. These objectives mirror the Victorian Government's objectives articulated in *Victoria's International Health Strategy 2016-2020*. In the aftermath of the UK referendum on European Union membership there was a renewed appetite to strengthen relations between our health organisations.

I visited the University College London Hospital (UCLH) where I gained an understanding of the physical and operational challenges of constructing a Proton Beam Therapy (PBT) facility on a brownfield site within the densely developed UCLH precinct. I also learned about how a university partner (as is proposed for Victoria) might integrate with, add further value to and generate revenue for government on any PBT investment. For instance, UCLH aims to maximise the development potential of its site by developing additional clinical facilities (separately funded) on the top of the PBT centre to take advantage of economies of scale in construction and overcome the scarcity of available development space.

I visited Cancer Research UK. This provided me the opportunity to discuss the operations of Cancer Research UK and its programs including the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership and the Grand Challenges awards. I witnessed the signing of the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership between Cancer Council Victoria and Cancer Research UK, an initiative which aims to understand the reasons behind varied rates of cancer survival in different countries with the goal of improving cancer treatment and care.

In Dubai, I met with Associate President-Middle East, North Africa & Central Asia (MENACA), Monash University to assist with progressing highly valued partnership opportunities for international education and health workforce training.

I visited Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC), which is a dedicated academic complex, including the Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences, the Al Maktoum Medical Library and the Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor Medical Simulation Center (KHMSC).

The KHMSC is the first comprehensive simulation training facility of its kind in the region and provides medical professionals with hands-on clinical simulation training through courses in specialties including respiratory care, cardiology, diabetes management, anaesthesiology and neonatology.

I met with the Australian Consul General and Senior Trade Commissioner in the United Arab Emirates to discuss opportunities for Victorian businesses and health services to market themselves with a view to entering or expanding in the UAE and broader markets of the Middle East.

This trip presented a valuable opportunity to stimulate innovation and drive improvements in health care outcomes for Victorians through greater engagement with our international colleagues.

It was an opportunity to share our knowledge, learn from others and enter into partnerships that provide jobs for our health workers in Victoria.

Developing strategic international partnerships with key reform agencies will support Victoria's ongoing commitment to safe, high quality, innovative health care.

This trip promoted Victoria's capabilities in health, health education, and health research internationally and fostered opportunities for collaboration and investment in bio-medical research, with a specific focus on the treatment of cancer.

Key benefits to Victoria and outcomes

1. Following discussion with the Swedish Minister for Health Care, Public Health and Sport regarding partnership opportunities between the countries to advance future health innovation, the following areas for future collaboration were identified:
 - Knowledge exchange between researchers about clinical quality registries, including their potential for improving the safety and quality of healthcare and advancing clinical research. This exchange can support identification of research priorities for potential co-investment and/or coordination.
 - Cancer research, prevention, control and management, including Proton Beam


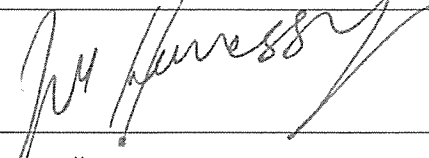
Therapy technology, facility size and configuration.

- Combating the threat of antimicrobial resistance, including approaches to data collection and developing policy and practice regarding antimicrobial prescribing in both humans and animals.
2. The roundtable forum at Swecare with the nation's leading academic, public and private health care providers and researchers discussed ways to join forces on future health challenges that both jurisdictions face.
 3. The visit to Nationella Kvalitetsregistren provided an opportunity to gain insights into Sweden's well-established system of clinical quality registries which may be applicable in the Victorian context.
 4. Valuable insight was gained from visiting the Proton Beam Therapy cancer treatment facility at Skandion Clinic in Uppsala, Sweden, and partnerships formed that will be of benefit in the establishment of facilities in Victoria.
 5. Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding at Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI), Imperial College London (St Mary's Hospital), confirming Victoria's commitment as a member of Leading Health Systems Network systems. This will confirm and strengthen a strategic partnership with the Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI) and enhance the opportunities for Victoria to collaborate and lead on health innovation globally.
 6. Witnessed the signing of the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP) between the Cancer Council Victoria and Cancer Research UK. The ICBP will support Victoria to understand what drives differences in cancer outcomes, and what policies and services may make a difference.
 7. Identified partnership opportunities around, education and workforce training, knowledge transfers and innovation. The United Arab Emirates is a target market under *Victoria's International Health Strategy 2016-2020*. This visit provided an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of specific market needs in the UAE and promote Victoria's reputation as a global provider of healthcare, medical research and education and workforce training services.

Next Steps

Since returning, I have written to each of the organisations described above, thanking them for the opportunity to meet with them and issuing an invitation for a reciprocal visit to Victoria to further strengthen bilateral relations with partners in Sweden, London and the United Arab Emirates.

The Department of Health and Human Services is in the process of developing an action plan to progress agreed collaboration opportunities in Sweden, United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates.

Noted by Department Acting Secretary (Signature)	
Name	Melissa Skillbeck
Date	19/9/16
Approved by Minister (Signature)	
Name	Hon Jill Hennessy MP
Date	29/9/16