



**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.

Name of Department / Agency	Department of Health and Human Services	
Departmental / Agency Contact	Emily Lee-Ack Chief Executive Officer Office for Women	
Telephone Number	03 9096 1047	
TRAVEL DETAILS		
Minister's Name	Hon Natalie Hutchins MP	
Portfolio/s	Women Prevention of Family Violence	
Did the Minister's spouse accompany the Minister in an official capacity? If Yes – please outline the role of the spouse in achieving the outcomes of the visit	YES (official capacity) <input type="checkbox"/> YES (private capacity) <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Accompanying Ministerial staff	Mr Robert Larocca, Chief of Staff	
Countries visited	China (Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong)	
Date of travel	16 April – 20 April	
Number of official travel days (include day of departure and day of return)	6 Days Departure date: 16 April Arrival date: 21 April	
Funding source (list Department/s or Agency)	Department of Health and Human Services	
EXPENSES		\$

<i>Include combined expenses for Minister, accompanying staff and spouse (if accompanying in an official capacity)</i>	
Air fares (including taxes and fees)	\$13,892.30
Accommodation (including taxes and fees)	\$4,523.86
Other expenses (including surface travel and travel allowances)	\$13,395.32
Travel cost for Minister and ministerial staff (<i>and spouse or de facto partner if applicable</i>)	\$31,811.48
Are the above costs final and complete?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of travel

The purpose of this travel was to improve our understanding of women's participation and gender equality in China; promote and build international connections to foster the trade relationship between China and Victoria and promote Victorian women-owned businesses in China to enhance their export potential.

Context

International engagement is critical to ensure that Victoria remains a world leader in gender equality policy and achieving international best practice outcomes for women. This trip was to meet the remit from *Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy* for the first Australian all-women trade delegation to travel to China, as well as fulfilling the Premier's commitment that all ministers travel to China once during this election term.

Benefits of travel to the State of Victoria

My itinerary included Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Tuesday 17 April

I arrived in Beijing from Melbourne early in the morning of Tuesday 17 April.

Meeting with Jan Adams, Australian Ambassador

My first meeting was with Jan Adams, the Australian Ambassador to China. I met with Ms Adams and discussed current priorities and opportunities for furthering Victoria's relationship with China. We also discussed the important role that women play in contributing to China's entrepreneurial success, and the specific views opportunities that this might create for Victorian women.

Visit to Chinese Museum of Women and Children

I was fortunate to have two representatives from the All China Women's Federation accompany me on my private tour of this museum. The All China Women's Federation is the largest non-profit organisation in China advocating for women's rights. I was very impressed by the quality of the collection in the Museum and the wonderful way in which it brought to life the history of women and children in China. This was an important tour for me as it demonstrated the importance of establishing an institution that would recognise the contribution of women to all aspects of social, economic and political life. Following my tour of this Museum, I was pleased to announce funding of \$60,000 for *Her*

Place to run another regional pop up exhibition, which will showcase the lives of 25 Victorian women from diverse backgrounds.

Travel to Shanghai from Beijing on High Speed Train

I travelled with the delegation to Shanghai from Beijing on the high speed train. This was the first opportunity to meet with them and I was impressed with the 14 women who were all looking to expand their Victorian businesses into the Chinese market over the next few years.

Wednesday 18 April

AustCham Shanghai Briefing for Trade Delegation

At this event, I had the privilege of formally welcoming the Delegation. I noted the historic nature of the Trade Delegation, and that we were meeting 8,000 kilometres from Victoria because our Government is committed to promoting gender equality in all aspects of Victorian business, including international trade. This mission will work with delegates to attract foreign investment to their business, to enhance their international profile, and help them to acquire resources and advice needed to build a sustainable international enterprise.

Meeting with Shanghai Women's Federation

I met with Ms Li Rong, the vice chairperson of the Shanghai Women's Federation and her colleagues Ms Jin Weiqing and Ms Hung Dongfang.

Of great interest to me was the discussion on the efforts of the Shanghai Women's Federation to strengthen equality between women and men, as enshrined in China's constitution, and the concrete steps to support the reform of policies in a range of important areas and to measure the progress of change in a systematic way. This included the Federation's progress in responding to the needs of women and children who have experienced violence, including extensive growth in the provision of shelters, as well as efforts to increase the numbers of women in decision-making roles in political and economic spheres. As a great example of practical, innovative thinking, I was also particularly interested in their plan to ensure that, for every one male restroom, they would advocate to changing planning laws to create 2.5 female restrooms, to better meet the needs of women.

Meeting with Shanghai Deputy Consul General Katrina Harrigan

I met with Katrina Harrigan to hear her insights on current priorities and opportunities for furthering Victoria's relationship with China. She provided her views on the important role that women play in contributing to China's entrepreneurial success, and the specific niche opportunities that this might create for Victorian women.

Site Visit to Australian Landing Pad with Delegation

The Landing Pad is a business incubator funded by the Australian government. Through a highly, competitive process, participants are selected to attend a three-month immersion course. The session attended by myself and the delegation enabled current participants in the Landing to showcase their experience.

The Shanghai Landing Pad is a gateway to China's dynamic and growing innovation ecosystem, and will enable Australian startups access to a broader network including leading innovation hubs such as Shenzhen and Beijing. My visit enabled me to see firsthand the opportunities provided by the Landing Pad to Victorian business. Megan Gathercole, director of film fund group 8media, discussed her experience in setting up a film festival, and more recently a film studio. She noted that Victoria has a very powerful cultural presence in China, and that women are the most important demographic for independent filmmakers.

Trade Delegation Reception Dinner at M on the Bund

The welcome reception for the delegation was held at M on the Bund, a very successful business established by Michelle Garnaut, a China based Victorian business woman. The delegation was addressed by Susie Hefferman, CEO of Soozar, a China-based homeware company. Susan Corbisiero, Austrade Commissioner, was also in attendance. The evening was very productive, with the service and food demonstrating Ms Garnaut's success in doing business in China. Unfortunately Ms Garnaut was unable to be at the reception but I was able to meet her in Hong Kong.

Thursday 19 April

Luncheon Event with Ladies who Tech with Delegation

Ladies Who Tech was established to encourage more women to discover their potential in the field of technology and STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Maths) fields. It aims to raise awareness of the lack of women in the technology industry and to support companies in gaining better gender equality in their workforces.

In my address to the group, I discussed *Safe and Strong*: Victoria's Gender Equality Strategy and the important focus that it places on growing the participation of girls and women in STEM education and careers.

The networking lunch brought together a large group of tech-oriented entrepreneurs. The innovative approach of the group provided the opportunity for all attendees to provide a two minute "pitch" of their product, which provided a basis for knowing who to approach in the networking session. All Victorian delegates participated and it was a lively, engaged event.

I then flew to Hong Kong from Shanghai on this evening.

Friday 20 April

Mentor Walks with Delegation

I accompanied the delegation in Hong Kong on a Mentor Walk which gives women the opportunity to partner up and receive professional advice from mentors in their chosen fields whilst walking. During this event, I announced an \$80,000 boost to Mentor Walks in Victoria, and to apply this model to encourage entrepreneurship in Victoria.

Meeting with Secretary of the Welfare and Social Bureau, Dr Law

I met with the Welfare and Social Bureau of Hong Kong's Secretary Dr Chi-Kwong Law, as well as his colleagues Professor Celia Chang and Ms Elaine Ho from the Women's Commission. Discussion centred on maternity leave, the gender pay gap, childcare, flexible work, gender differences in retirement income, and family violence. These are all issues that are common across both Hong Kong and Victoria, and I was particularly impressed by some of the systematic measures that Hong Kong are putting in place to address them, such as gender budgeting and gender impact analysis in the early stages of the development of new policies, alongside rigorous data collection and the measurement of progress.

Networking lunch with Consul-General Michaela Browning

I accompanied the delegation on a final lunch meeting with Hong Kong women professionals. I met with Ms Pansy Ho, Executive Chairman and Managing Director of Shun Tak Holdings Limited, as well as Michaela Browning, the Australian Consul General to Hong Kong and Macau. The discussion centred around the important role that women play in contributing to China's entrepreneurial success, and the

specific opportunities that this might create for Victorian women.

I departed from Hong Kong for Melbourne that evening.

Next Steps / Follow Up

- This trip marked the first Victorian all women trade delegation to China, meeting the commitment in Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy. Due to the success of this delegation, the Minister has committed to a second Trade Delegation that will take place.
- Since returning, the Minister has written to each of the organisations listed above, thanking them for the opportunity to meet and issuing an invitation for a reciprocal visit to Victoria in the future.
- The 14 female delegates have continued to stay in contact with each other on the social media networks from the trip.
- Following the tour of Chinese Museum of Women and Children, the Minister announced funding of \$60,000 for Her Place to run another regional pop up exhibition, which showcases the lives of 25 Victorian women from diverse backgrounds.
- The Minister participated in Mentor Walks Hong Kong and was able to announce an \$80,000 boost to Mentor Walks in Victoria to apply this model to encourage women's entrepreneurship.
- A full evaluation of the Women's Trade Delegation is currently being undertaken by TradeVic. The Office of Prevention and Women's Equality continues to work closely with TradeVic to monitor outcomes.
- A post mission networking event for the delegates and Minister was hosted by Ms Maggie Zhou, Managing Director of Alibaba on 24 July.

Noted by Department Secretary (Signature)	
Name	
Date	/ /
Approved by Minister (Signature)	
Name	
Date	/ /