

VICTORIA'S CHINA ENGAGEMENT

Draft, 17 March 2021

Contents

Dan Andrews's FIVE trips to China	1
Victorian Cabinet Trips to China	2
Chronology of Trips to China by Victorian Government Members	3

Dan Andrews's FIVE trips to China

Andrews has flown to China on five separate occasions as Premier of Victoria between September 2015 and April 2019 (details about each trip, below).

In China he set up arrangements and signed deals (some of them in secret) on behalf of Victoria.

These include (but not limited to):

- **MOU between China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and Victoria to cooperate on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI);**
- **Various Memorandum of understanding (MoU) to export Victoria's medical research and health information;**
- MoU between Victoria and the Chinese State Administration for **Foreign Experts Affairs**
- MoU between multiple Victorian TAFE institutes (Holmesglen, Victorian DET) and Chinese partners;
- MoU between Swinburne University and Jimei and Tongji Universities;
- Agreements between University of Melbourne and Monash University and Zhejiang University, China and Wenzhou Medical School, China to exchange data, research, and staff;
- MoU between Victoria and Zhejiang Provincial Commission of Health and Family Planning;
- MoU between Victoria and Jiansu Provincial Commission of Health and Family Planning;
- MoU between Victoria and Sichuan Provincial Commission of Health and Family Planning;
- MoU between Victoria and Gansu Provincial Commission of Health and Family Planning;
- MoU with China **National Health Development and Research Centre;**
- MoU between the Victorian Government and the Chengdu High-Tech Zone that will increase **exchange of medical and biomedical technology** inventors and companies;
- MoU between Visit Victoria and Ctrip.com that will increase **exchange of details of travellers between our countries;** and
- MoU between Grain & Bake, located at Moorabbin Airport and China State Farm Agriculture.

Daniel Andrews Trips (& cost*) to China:

- Sept 2015 for 8 days (\$74,716)
- Sept 2016 for 10 days (\$113,017)
- May 2018 for 4 days (\$56,121)
- Oct 2019 for 5 days (\$100,106)
- Apr 2019 for 5 days (\$37,264)

*Figure 1: *these costs are initial figures only and final costs will be higher.*

Andrews had plans to lead a trade delegation of 100 Victorian businesses to China as soon as it is safe to travel there.¹ It is not known if this is still on the agenda.

Victorian Cabinet Trips to China

Numerous members of Andrews Cabinet have flown to China to sign MOU's and establish networking deals. A summary of those trips include:

1. Minister for Creative Industries **Martin Foley** travelled to China for eight days in October 2015. The *initial* estimate cost of this ten day trip was \$31,139.² He travelled again to China in December 2018. The *initial* estimate of this three day trip was \$31,451³
2. Health Minister **Jill Hennessy** Chinese trip in February 2016 (Hennessy quit in December 2020). The *initial* estimate cost of this ten day trip was \$29,230.⁴
3. Minister for International Education **Steve Herbert** travelled to China for 13 days in June 2016. The *initial* estimate cost of this eight day trip was \$30,344.⁵
4. Minister for Education **James Merlino** (now Acting Premier of Victoria) travelled to China in July 2016. The *initial* estimate cost of this 7 day trip was \$27,060.⁶
5. Minister for Families and Children **Jenny Mikakos** travelled to China in July 2016. The *initial* estimate cost of this 7 day trip was \$22,036.⁷
6. Minister for Agriculture **Jaala Pulford** visited China, Indonesia and Singapore in September 2016. The *initial* estimate cost of this eight day trip was \$27,316.⁸
7. Minister for Ports **Luke Donnellan** travelled to China in March 2017. The *initial* estimate cost of this eight day trip was \$16,852.⁹
8. **Philip Dalidakis** MP travelled to China in May 2017. The *initial* estimate of this eleven day trip was \$26,798.¹⁰ He travelled a second time to China in May 2018. The *initial* estimate of this ten day trip was \$23,946.¹¹
9. **Jacinta Allan** MP travelled to China in July 2017. The *initial* estimate of this seven day trip was \$20,279.¹²

¹ <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/chinese-flag-colours-to-light-up-melbourne-as-andrews-orders-china-trip-20200219-p542eh.html>

² <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/about-us/overview/our-ministers-and-parliamentary-secretaries/ministerial-travel-reports/the-hon-martin-foley-mp-travel-report-china-october-2015>

³ <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/about-us/overview/our-ministers-and-parliamentary-secretaries/ministerial-travel-reports/the-hon-martin-foley-mp-travel-report-hong-kong-pr-china-5-8-december-2018>

⁴ <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/201705/Jill%20Hennessy%20MP%2C%2025%20February%20to%205%20March%202016.pdf>

⁵ <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/about-us/overview/our-ministers-and-parliamentary-secretaries/ministerial-travel-reports/the-hon-steve-herbert-mp-travel-report-china-june-july-2016>

⁶ <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/merlinotravelreportjuly2016.aspx>

⁷ <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/travelreports.aspx>

⁸ <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/about-us/overview/our-ministers-and-parliamentary-secretaries/ministerial-travel-reports/the-hon-jaala-pulford-mlc-travel-report-china-indonesia-and-singapore-september-2016>

⁹ <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/about-us/overview/our-ministers-and-parliamentary-secretaries/ministerial-travel-reports/the-hon-luke-donnellan-mp-travel-report,-china,-11-18-march-2017>

¹⁰ <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/about-us/overview/our-ministers-and-parliamentary-secretaries/ministerial-travel-reports/the-hon-philip-dalidakis-mp-travel-report-china,-may-2017>

¹¹ <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/about-us/overview/our-ministers-and-parliamentary-secretaries/ministerial-travel-reports/the-hon-philip-dalidakis-mp-travel-report-china-12-21-may-2018>

¹² <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/about-us/overview/our-ministers-and-parliamentary-secretaries/ministerial-travel-reports/the-hon-jacinta-allan-mp-travel-report-china,-24-30-july-2017>

10. **John Eren** MP travelled to China in July 2017. The *initial* estimate of this eight day trip was \$24,850.¹³
11. Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Corrections **Gayle Tierney** travelled to China, Germany, Switzerland and the UK in January/February 2018. The *initial* estimate of this ten day trip was \$52,880.¹⁴
12. **Ben Carroll** MP traveled to China and America in April 2018. The *initial* estimate of this ten day trip was \$23,154.¹⁵
13. Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade **Martin Pakula** traveled to China in May/June 2019 for 8 days with 20 delegates from the private sector. The *initial* estimate of this trip was \$23,487.¹⁶

Chronology of Trips to China by Victorian Government Members

20 - 27 Sep 2015 (trip 1) – **Daniel Andrews** first official visit to China as Premier. He was accompanied by Mr **Hong Lim** MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Asia Engagement; The Hon **Marsha Thomson** MP, Special Adviser to the Premier and Member for Footscray; Mr **John McLindon**, Chief of Staff; Mr **Marty Mei**, Multicultural Affairs Adviser and Ms **Lisa Tucker**, Media Adviser.

Whilst there Andrews announced a deal to commence exporting **health and medical research** and experience to China.¹⁷

24 - 31 October 2015 (trip 1) Minister **Martin Foley** visited Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing where he met senior government, commercial and institutional partners. He also witnessed the formalisation of partnerships between Swinburne University and Tongji University.

25 Feb - 5 March 2016 – Health Minister **Jill Hennessy** visited China and Singapore. The purpose was reported to meet with senior government officials to export Victoria's medical research and health information with China.

24 Jun - 6 July 2016 – Minister for International Education **Steve Herbert** travelled to China. It was reported the purpose of this trip was to build government-to-government relations and promote the interests of Victoria's education sector. He witnessed multiple MoU signings on this trip including a **five year contract with the Communist Party's State Administration for Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA)**. SAFEA is a parent company for the China Association for International Exchange of Personnel (CAIEP). **According to the US 1999 Cox Report, CAIEP is "one of several organizations set up by the PRC for illicit technology transfer through contacts with Western scientists and engineers."**¹⁸

¹³ <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/about-us/overview/our-ministers-and-parliamentary-secretaries/ministerial-travel-reports/the-hon-john-eren-mp-travel-report-peoples-republic-of-china,-23-30-july-2017>

¹⁴ <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/Tierneytravel-report.aspx>

¹⁵ <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/about-us/overview/our-ministers-and-parliamentary-secretaries/ministerial-travel-reports/the-hon-ben-carroll-mp-travel-report-peoples-republic-of-china-and-the-united-states-of-america-1-11-april-2018>

¹⁶ <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/about-us/overview/our-ministers-and-parliamentary-secretaries/ministerial-travel-reports/the-hon-martin-pakula-mp-travel-report-china,-27-may-3-june-2019>

¹⁷ <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/exporting-our-medical-expertise-and-research-china>

¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Administration_of_Foreign_Experts_Affairs

3 - 9 Jul 2016 – Minister for Education **James Merlino** (now Acting Premier of Victoria) and Minister for Families and Children **Jenny Mikakos** flew to China together.¹⁹ They visited Shanghai, Chengdu and Tianjin. The trip was to strengthen the bilateral relationship between Victoria and China in line with the Victorian Government's 'China Strategy'²⁰. **Merlino met with the Chinese Ministry of Education, to discuss a draft MoU between the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET) and the Chinese Ministry of Education** – the fifth such agreement.

19 - 28 Sept 2016 – Minister for Agriculture **Jaala Pulford** visited China, Indonesia and Singapore. She met with key Chinese e-commerce platforms including Alibaba and G-Fresh. She also led a team of 10 regional local government representatives to Nanjing, China.

20 - 27 Sept 2016 (trip 2) – Victorian Premier **Daniel Andrews** visited China and Japan²¹²² He was accompanied by **Marsha Thomson** MP, Special Adviser to the Premier and Member for Footscray; **Trent Kear**, Deputy Chief of Staff; **Marty Mei**, Multicultural Affairs Adviser; **Lisa Maksimovic**, Media Adviser and **Elida Jaksic**, Advisor.

11 - 18 Mar 2017 – Minister for Ports **Luke Donnellan** MP traveled to China to progress the objectives of the **Victorian Government's China Strategy (Victoria's New China Strategy : Partnerships for Prosperity)** in relation to Chinese and Victorian ports, creation of regulation, operational and supply chain efficiencies. Donnellan met with multiple Chinese government and industry representatives, including Tianjin Vice Mayor, Tianjin Port Authority, Shanghai Municipal Transport Commission, Shanghai Yangshen Deep Water Port, Tewoo Group (office based in Melbourne), AusCham, ChemChina to name a few.

12 - 22 May 2017 (trip 1) - **Philip Dalidakis** MP travelled to China for 25 reported meetings, events, and interviews. These including witnessing MoU signings between Swinbourne University and two Chinese universities; AliBaba; Google – Hong Kong operations; AusCham and VIP.com to name a few.

23 - 30 July 2017 – **John Eren** MP visited Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Beijing and Shanghai over an eight day trip. Whilst there he met various China based airlines, tourism operators, and sporting groups and organisations in order to advance trade outcomes. Eren officially opened the Visit Victoria Beijing office.

24 - 30 July 2017 – **Jacinta Allan** MP visited China for seven days. Whilst there she met with MTR Corporation. MTR is a majority State-owned company that runs Hong Kong's Mass Transit Railway (MTR), is also a major property developer; landlord and investment holding company.²³

26 Jan - 4 Feb 2018 – Minister **Gayle Tierney** travelled to China, Germany, Switzerland and the UK with Ms **Cathy Whelan**, Chief of Staff, Minister for Training and Skills. The Chinese portion of the trips was to facilitate further agreements to exchange information between universities of Victoria and China.

1 - 11 Apr 2018 – **Ben Carroll** MP travelled to China and the USA and attended 22 meetings and events. Carroll travelled to China to progress opportunities in relation to medical technologies and pharmaceuticals, among other reasons. This included meeting Vice President of Shanghai

¹⁹ <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/building-stronger-education-links-with-china-0>

²⁰ <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorias-china-strategy>

²¹ <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/victoria-benefit-premiers-visit-china-and-japan>

²² <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/melbourne-secures-national-ballet-china-showstopper>

²³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MTR_Corporation

Pharmaceutical Holding Co. Ltd to discuss and promote Victoria's capabilities in medical research and manufacturing, and potential partnership opportunities.

12 - 21 May 2018 (trip 2) - **Philip Dalidakis** MP travelled to China. Whilst there he witnessed a variety of MoU signings and led a Victorian Trade Mission to the China International Beauty Exhibition (CIBE). Whilst at the CIBE Dalidakis witnessed an agreement between the Victorian Government and Australia Post that will speed up access to the Chinese market for Victorian businesses through Australia Post's joint venture with China Post - Sai Cheng Logistics International. The Victorian Government signed an MoU with Australia Post in March 2016 to strengthen e-commerce trade with China.

29 May - 1 June 2018 (trip 3) – **Daniel Andrews** was accompanied by Ms **Lissie Ratcliff**, Chief of Staff; Mr **Marty Mei**, Press Secretary; Ms **Georgia Brumby** Senior Media Adviser & Press Secretary and Ms **Elida Jaksic**, Senior Adviser.^{24 25}

20 - 24 Oct 2019 (trip 4) – **Daniel Andrews** was accompanied by Mr **Danny Pearson** MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Mr **Adam Sims**, Director of Media; CCP affiliate Mr **Marty Mei**²⁶, Senior Adviser; Ms **Elida Jaksic**, Manager Advance Unit to China on this occasion. Where **he meet with some of 'China's biggest Belt and Road Initiative companies, including one subsequently blacklisted by the US government**, to help build Victoria's huge pipeline of infrastructure projects including his signature Suburban Rail Loop – **Andrews was quoted saying "Victoria...would become 'China's gateway to Australia.'"**²⁷ **On this trip he signed a fresh deal with the Chinese government and its global Belt and Road infrastructure project.**²⁸

Nov 2018: News reports surface that Andrews signed a secret MOU between Victoria and China on the Belt and Road initiative.²⁹

24 - 31 Dec 2018 (trip 2) – Minister for Creative Industries **Martin Foley** traveled to China.

25 - 29 April 2019: (trip 5) **Andrews** was accompanied by Mr **Adam Sims**, Director of Media and Mr **Marty Mei**, Senior Adviser. The purpose of this travel was to represent Victoria at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) in Beijing.³⁰ **Andrews travelled to Beijing and the Jiangsu and attended the Belt and Road Forum** and met key Chinese government officials and business leaders to discuss potential opportunities in delivering Victoria's record pipeline of infrastructure investment.³¹

29 May – 3 Jun 2019: – Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade **Martin Pakula** took more than 20 delegates from 16 companies and organisations, including La Trobe & Melbourne Universities to

²⁴ <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/china-visit-takes-relationship-strength-strength>

²⁵ <https://www.vic.gov.au/dpc-travel-outcomes-report-daniel-andrews-2018-travel-china>

²⁶ https://www.skynews.com.au/details/_5859015109001

²⁷ <https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/china-s-gateway-daniel-andrews-belt-and-road-pitch-to-beijing-20201002-p561b9.html>

²⁸ <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/chinese-flag-colours-to-light-up-melbourne-as-andrews-orders-china-trip-20200219-p542eh.html>

²⁹ <https://www.9news.com.au/national/comment-victorian-government-secret-deal-china/de1589cb-ab2f-4f76-8da8-d9d541607d18>

³⁰ <https://www.vic.gov.au/dpc-travel-outcomes-report-daniel-andrews-2019-travel-china>

³¹ <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/jobs-and-trade-strengthening-our-china-relationship>

meet potential investors in China. This trip was also to set up the NBA and AFL games held there (St Kilda & Port Adelaide played in Shanghai in R11 2019).³²

³² <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/scoring-points-china-victorias-sports-sector>



Image 1: Andrews first visit to China (Sep 2015)³³



Senior Advisor to Daniel Andrews Marty Mei (CCP affiliate) flew with him to China on every trip



Image 2: Hennessy: Hangzhou 4 Bilateral meeting with Zhejiang Dept of Health and Family Planning (27 Feb 2016)³⁴

³³ <https://twitter.com/DanielAndrewsMP/status/645550678564147200>

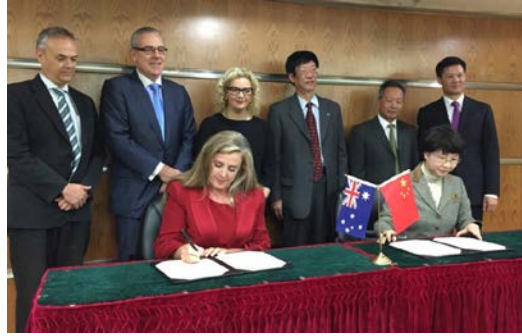


Image 3: Hennessy: Signing of MOU between Monash University and Wenzhou Medical School (28 Feb 2016)³⁵

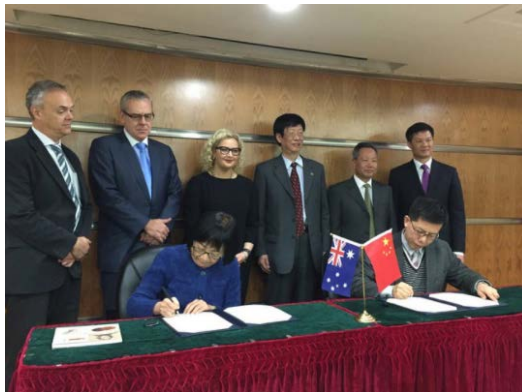


Image 4: Hennessy: A second MOU signing of the medical exchange program between University of Melbourne and Zhejiang University (28 Feb 2016)³⁶

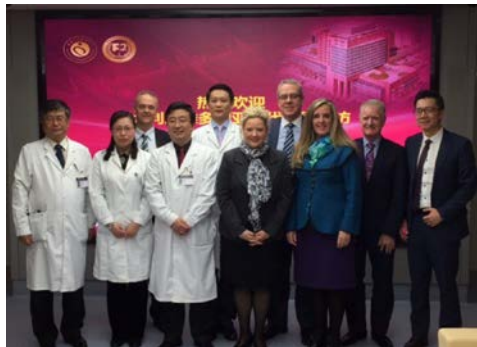


Image 5: Hennessy: Victorian Heart Hospital and China's leading cardiac hospital, Fuwai Hospital, Beijing (2 Mar 2016)³⁷

³⁴ <https://twitter.com/JillHennessyMP/status/703459012491149313>

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/JillHennessyMP/status/703778650403909633>

³⁶ <https://twitter.com/JillHennessyMP/status/703780514415546369>

³⁷ <https://twitter.com/JillHennessyMP/status/704869833838465024>



Image 6: Hennessy at Sichuan Hospital for Women and Children (3 Mar 2016)