

To
Ms. Jessica Shaw MLA,

Chair
Economics and Industry Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly of Western Australia

From: Dr Papori Barua

Thank you for the opportunity to make a written submission to this important Inquiry into Western Australia's Economic Relationship with India.

1. Western Australia India Business Exchange program

- Initiatives such as two-way ministerial visits, business missions, trade fairs, expos, conferences, that facilitates interaction between the Indian and Western Australian business community.
- Engagement of various associations to find potential business groups or individual who have visions.
- Showcasing WA premium products to key importers in India.
- Providing Western Australian Industry skills partnership programs with India.
- More visibility of WA in the market of India

2. Direct flight from Perth to India

- This will open a huge opportunity in growth of all businesses, investors and small scale business operators. Recently while organising the ISWA Naari event celebrating International women's day, as the coordinator of the event, I got the opportunity to work closely with many women entrepreneurs. Many of them were having problems getting the merchandise on time as all the courier companies were via Melbourne or Sydney. Some of the goods we have ordered from India for the event did not arrive on time.
- Direct flight from India to Perth will encourage the tourism WA and India as well.

3. Working holiday visa for Indian Passport Holders

- India has large pool of young, highly skilled professionals who are not always financially secure to travel to WA. Working holiday visa will help Indian students/ professionals to explore the opportunities in the industries with a better understanding of work compliance with Australian standard.
- This will also give more opportunities of skilled migrations after the working experience in Australia.

4. International education

- Reaching out to the smaller cities of India than limiting to only metro cities. International education is high in demand in every state of India.
- Having Exchange Program - Educator/Student opportunities.

- Collaboration with universities and research institutes to discover the various investment and partnership opportunities in India's agribusiness and food technology sectors.
- Marketing WA as an "international education destination". At present Indian students are mainly inclined to join in Universities of Eastern states due more visibility advertisement and information availability.

5. Tourism

- Improving connectivity between states of India and WA. All states of India have unique culture and attraction. For example eastern state Assam with one horned rhino, tea, and orchids, world's largest river island etc.
- Involve tourism businesses of both the countries to make destination holidays. Many of the Indian/ Australian population now like to have theme weddings, milestone birthday parties and exploring places like Indonesia, Thailand, and Mauritius etc.
- Encourage Bollywood industry to explore and utilise our fantastic destinations.
- Strategic policy to attract Indian visitors, keeping in mind the cultural requirements and what will attract them to choose WA a destination.

6. Food and beverages

The market demand for Australian food and beverage products, continues to grow in India. Mainly there is huge popularity of Australian wine in India. Assistance to Australian companies to capture the business opportunities, by organising events in India to showcase

- Grain and cereal products
- Packaged food and beverages
- Condiments and edible oil
- Premium WA wine