PARLIAMENTARIANS’ OVERSEAS STUDY TRAVEL REPORTS

JULY TO DECEMBER 2008

JUNE 2009
Background

The previous Government announced on 15 May 2004 that overseas study travel reports would be tabled in the Parliament.

The reports are consolidated in one document and tabled as a separate volume to the other two tabled documents, which cover current and former parliamentarians’ travel costs.

If a Senator or Member has accessed the entitlement but not submitted a report at the time of preparation of the six monthly document, a page with the name of the Senator or Member and dates of travel will appear in the document with the annotation ‘No report received at time of preparation of this document for tabling’. Reports subsequently received will be included in a future tabling.

Supporting Information

Attachments to reports are bulky and include a wide range of reference material such as copies of legislation, itineraries and reports prepared by other entities.

These will not be included in the tabled report but will be available on written request to the Office of the Special Minister of State.

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SENATOR HELEN POLLEY

United States of America
4 – 21 July 2008
7 August 2008

The Hon. Senator John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 61
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2005/09, I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey.

I) (a) CONFIRMATION OF PURPOSE(S):

The purpose of my study tour was to research the various initiatives being undertaken within the United States with regard to homelessness and social policy.

(b) ITINERARY:

The full itinerary is set out below:

04 July 2008 – Friday

SYDNEY – SAN FRANCISCO

13:55 Depart Sydney
10:15 Arrive San Francisco

07 July 2008 – Monday

SAN FRANCISCO - WASHINGTON

10:45 Depart San Francisco
21:00 Arrive Washington

..1/
11 July 2008 – Friday

WASHINGTON – NEW YORK

09:00 Depart Washington
11:45 Arrive New York

15 July 2008 – Tuesday

NEW YORK – BOSTON

11:05 Depart New York
12:20 Arrive Boston

19 July 2008 – Saturday

BOSTON – SYDNEY

18:35 Depart Boston
21:50 Arrive Los Angeles

23:50 Depart Los Angeles

21 July 2008 – Monday

07:25 Arrive Sydney

II) KEY MEETINGS AND OUTCOMES/FINDINGS

Friday 4 July

04:45pm Meeting with Father David Lowell of Raphel House, a not for profit homeless shelter for families. Raphel House 1065 Sutter Street, San Francisco 0011
Tuesday 8 July

09:30am  Meeting with Tom Grenchik, Executive Director and Richard Doerflinger, Associate Director from US Conference of Catholic Bishops  
3211 4th Street, NE  
Washington, DC

03:00pm  Meeting with Representative Christopher Smith at his office in the Rayburn Building.  
2373 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC

Wednesday 9 July

08:30am  Breakfast meeting with Michael Bassik and Liz Dunne of MSHC Partners at Palette, a restaurant in the Madison Hotel, corner of 15th and M Street, NW, Washington DC

10:00am  Meet with David Dougherty at Custom Strategic Research in Washington.  
National Democratic Institute, 2025 M Street NW, Washington DC

05:00pm  Meeting with Congressman Bart Stupak (D-Mi) at Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC

Thursday 10 July

11:00am  Meeting with Ms Nan Roman  
President of the National Alliance to End Homelessness  
1518 K St, NW Suite 410 Washington, DC

02:00pm  Meet with Ms Kristen Day (cancelled by Ms Day)  
Executive Director, Democrats for Life  
601 Pennsylvania Ave, NW South Building, Suite 900 Washington, DC

Friday 11 July

Travel to New York

03:00pm  Meeting with Senator Charles Schumer (cancelled by Senator Schumer)  
757 Third Avenue, Suite 17-02, New York NY 10017
Monday 14 July

09:30am  Meeting with Leah Sandals, Communications Associate, Homes for the Homeless at 50 Cooper Street, 4th Floor, New York, New York 100003

10:15am  Meet with Ms Gretchen Hernandz, Administrator and tour of shelter at Prospect Family Inn at 730 Kelly Street, The Bronx, New York 10455

03:00pm  Meet with Father Joseph Costantino, Pastor, St Francis Xavier Church and Cassandra Daigle, Director of the Xavier Mission at 30 West 16th Street, New York

Tuesday 15 July

Travel to Boston

Wednesday 16 July

09:30am  Michael Fetcho
         Director of Community Outreach
         Boston Rescue Mission
         39 Kingston Street, Boston, MA 02111

12:30pm  Mary Girard MS RN
         Director, Pregnancy Help

         Maryann Luthin, Director Pro Life Office
         Pro Life Office, Archdiocese of Boston

         Meeting at Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge, MA 02142

Thursday 17 July

11:00am  Morning Tea and tour of facilities with Program Director Ruth McDermott, and Terry Flynn, Regional Director
         New Chardon Street Shelter, 41 New Chardon Street, Boston 02114
Friday 18 July

09:30am  Commissioner Angelo McClain,  
          Lauran Smith, Assistant Commissioner of the Department  
          of Public Health,  
          John Auerbach, Commissioner of the Department of Public  
          Health,  
          Commissioner Julia Kehoe, Division of Transitional  
          Assistance  

          Michael P. Botticelli, Director of Substance Abuse  
          MA Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), 600  
          Washington St, 4th Floor, Boston, MA  

02:00pm  Fr Bryan Hehir,  
          Cardinal's Chief Adviser on Public and Social Services,  
          Kennedy School of Government,  
          Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.  

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS FROM MEETINGS FOLLOWS:  

1. HOMELESSNESS  

- The issue of homelessness is one that the United States is forced to  
  confront as a matter of urgency. There are reported to be almost 1  
  million homeless in the United States as a whole.  

- Both state based and independent organisations are working  
  towards helping the homeless. However there is a need to focus on  
  the causes of homelessness and breaking the cycle as well as  
  providing short term help and long term planning.  

- Unfortunately homelessness as an issue tends to slip underneath  
  the radar of most political parties, not only in the US but also here in  
  Australia.  

- The homeless struggle to attract powerful advocates who can push  
  for increased assistance.  

- More needs to be done to ensure that those who help the homeless  
  are involved in the development of policy – they are the ones at the  
  frontline who know what will be of most benefit.  

- The difficulty in attracting advocates means that there is a real role  
  there for non-profit organisation.
• The National Association of Homelessness has put forward a number of strategies aimed at developing community initiatives to target homelessness. A number of these strategies are covered in the papers presented in Appendix A.

• The state Government in Massachusetts realises that homelessness is something that should be addressed and works hard to ensure that it remains on the political agenda.

• There is a co-ordinated approach to tackling homelessness in Massachusetts that is being put in place.

• There is realisation that the current system is broken, and that rebuilding is necessary in order to achieve the goals of the Homeless Commission in Massachusetts.

• The rebuilding of the Transitional Assistance system in Massachusetts will work at ensuring that the right resources are provided to the right people at the right time. Rebuilding the system will make sure that the system is focused on helping people rather than on bureaucracy.

• The Department of Transitional Assistance in Massachusetts has three main goals (see Appendix B). These are:
  • Increasing the personal and economic well-being of our clients
  • Reducing homelessness and
  • Improving customer service

• According to their Key Facts document, tabled as Appendix C, the Boston Rescue Mission provides
  • Over 35,000 shelter beds
  • Over 130,000 meals
  • Over 30,000 meals served from our food pantry each year
  • Over 250 individual meals served per day

• There is real benefit to the community by rehabilitating the homeless instead of simply providing them with a bed.

• Massachusetts has recently embarked on a course of health care reform aiming to extend affordable health insurance to the uninsured through a public-private partnership. Since there is no comparable system to Australia's Medicare in the United States this is a remarkable initiative. Further information is available in Appendix D.
• The Special Commission Relative to Ending Homelessness in the Commonwealth recently tabled a report aimed at providing a blueprint for the reconstruction of how Massachusetts deals with homelessness. This report is available in Appendix E.

• Denver, Colorado has been successful in fighting homelessness through a combination of:
  • Emergency prevention
  • Establishing permanent housing
  • Providing mental health services
  • Finding employment
  • Evaluating existing strategies to ensure they work

Further information is available in Appendix F.

• There has also been action in San Francisco. Chronic homelessness dropped 28% in the city. This was achieved over a three year period from 2002 to 2005.

• San Francisco put forward a 10 year plan using initiatives such as:
  • Greater collaboration between city departments on the issue of homelessness
  • Working on providing housing for the homeless, as part of breaking the cycle of homelessness

Further information on San Francisco is available in Appendix G.

• The incidence of family homelessness is on the increase.

• Ending homelessness is possible.

2. SOCIAL POLICY

• There is a renewed confidence amongst people of faith about speaking out on issues such as homelessness. This has come about in recent times as the focus has moved from talking about life issues solely and instead using faith to guide the entirety of social policy development.

• Churches, and organisations such as the Conference of Catholic Bishops, have an important role to play in driving social policy to help disadvantaged groups such as the homeless.
• There are a number of initiatives and organisations in the United States that present pregnant women with choices and alternatives to abortion.

• The existence of baby safe havens is something that should be looked at in Australia. A safe haven is a place where women who are unable, or do not want, to look after their newborn baby are able to leave their baby to be cared for. They will not be prosecuted for child abandonment or endangerment if they do so. The child is then adopted.

• This is preferable to babies being abandoned and left to die.

• Safe havens provide a viable alternative to abortion.

• The number of abortions being carried out in the United States is actually decreasing.

• The provision of pregnancy support services by faith based organisations has successfully helped women who would otherwise have aborted their child.

• The widespread availability of adult stem cells and their proven effectiveness in research means that it is unnecessary for embryonic stem cells to be used.

• There has been much controversy over the use of public money to progress embryonic stem cell research due to the ethical and moral issues surrounding the procedure.

• There have been recent reports of embryonic stem cell lines being created without the destruction of an embryo. The new method works by taking an embryo at a very early stage of development and removing a single cell, which can be coaxed into spawning an embryonic stem cell line. With only one cell removed, the rest of the embryo retains its full potential for development.

• This is an area that the Federal Government should consider investigating. Ultimately, after nearly ten years of research, there are no approved treatments or human trials using embryonic stem cells.
iii) CONCLUSION:

I would like to acknowledge the help given to me by the DFAT officers Joanna Corbett and Elizabeth Willis in New York and Washington respectively who facilitated my appointments and helped to arrange my meetings with various groups. I would also like to thank Peter McArdle at the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference who was able to recommend a number of people for me to meet with.

I would like to thank those who provided me with material and gave me permission to incorporate that material into my report. These can be found in the appendices to this report.

The following conclusions were drawn from this study.

1. All sides of politics can agree that homelessness is something that is becoming an increasing problem in what should be prosperous First World countries.

2. There is a real difference between State run and independent homeless shelters in terms of funding models and outcomes.

3. Homelessness in the United States is a major problem, and the numbers of homeless dwarf our own. However the issues and causes of homelessness are comparable and similar strategies can be used in either country.

4. The lack of a national strategy, and differing funding models between States, mean that it is difficult for a coherent strategy to be developed in the United States.

5. Helping the homeless is not enough. To help break the cycle it is necessary to deal with issues that cause homelessness, like mental illness, domestic violence and drug addiction.

6. Faith based organisations can provide the sense of community that is needed to help break the cycle of homelessness.

7. The growing rich-poor divide in the United States under the current administration means that there is a real risk that homeless people will be left behind and unable to break out of the cycle.

8. It is important that advocates for the homeless are better able to reach policymakers and put forward their suggestions.
9. There is a role for faith based organisations in dealing with moral problems such as abortion, the use of embryonic stem cells in research and therapeutic cloning.

10. Embryonic stem cell research is an issue that needs to be addressed again, as other scientific research techniques render it unnecessary.

11. The therapeutic cloning debate in the United States is at a similar stage as it is in Australia.

12. A number of initiatives that are being used in the United States to bring abortion numbers down should be looked at for use in Australia. These include baby safe havens, which provide a safe place for unwanted babies to be left.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2005/09 a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator.

I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

SENATOR HELEN POLLEY
Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 61  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose(s):

I made a three day visit as planned to East Timor encompassing the areas from Dili to Baucau and Viqueque, to observe the situation facing East Timorese development and increase my understanding of the role played there by the Australian Defence Forces, the Australian government and non-government organisations. In particular, I attended the opening of a senior high school as a special invited guest.

(b) Itinerary:

**SUNDAY JULY 6**

7:00am        Darwin to Dili flight Air North TL500.

8:15          Arrival Dili

            Party is met by ISF ground transport
            Meeting with Ambassador Peter Heyward

9:00          Depart for Baucau (approx 3 hours by road)

12:00         Arrival Baucau;

            check in Pousada de Baucau
            Visit ADF FOB Baucau – Security Briefing

15:00         Escort and Boswell party travel to Darasula village to visit Katilosa NGO building project.  
            Visit projects in Baucau. Return to Pousada Hotel
19:00  Evening meal Maristas

20:30  Retire (Pousada de Baucau).

Overnight  Baucau

**MONDAY JULY 7**

8:00  Departure for Viqueque (2.5 hours by road) with escort

10:30  Opening of Sao Estevoa School

Festa launch with townspeople.

13:00  Departure for Baucau (2.5 hours by road) with escort

15:30  Arrival Baucau

Visit ADF FOB Baucau; meet with ADF, address.

16:00  Visit to ICFP – Marist Teachers College and crèche – with escort

18:30  Pre-dinner drinks at Hotel followed by dinner (hosted by MSO and Baucau Maristas).

Overnight  Baucau

**TUESDAY JULY 8**

4:00  Departure for Dili (approx 3 hours) with escort

9:00am  Dili to Darwin

Air North TL501

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings:

Key meetings are listed above in the itinerary. In addition, I met with the Bishop of Baucau, the Vice-Education Minister, several village chefes (headmen), NGO staff and ADF personnel. The outcomes were firstly a rapid increase in my knowledge and understanding of a range of problems confronting the East Timorese as they try to get their new nation running in a democratic and economically self-sufficient manner. While possessing abundant natural mineral resources, there is minimum delivery of government services and basic infrastructure. The role of NGOs is very valuable to the country. The Marist Teachers Training College that I visited is the only source of primary school teachers in East Timor and cannot produce nearly the amount of teachers required. Education for the children is at the top of the priority list for ordinary village families, many of whom do not even have access to a village well for their water. With water, their whole outlook can improve overnight. Water brings not only sustenance but farming and business opportunities. The ADF personnel were outstandingly professional and committed to their role in East Timor. Opportunities for employment for local men are extremely limited and can be seen as a potential threat to stability if this situation continues. China and Cuba have built notable presences in East Timor. The demands on teachers, students and those wanting to interact with the Timorese at any level are
considerable and confusing where different languages are used for different functions (Portuguese, Tetun, English and Indonesian).

(iii) Conclusion:

East Timor is a neighbour state where Australia has invested much and where we will continue to play a significant role in the country’s development and security. It is in our interest to be informed about East Timor’s progress and the challenges ahead. I intend to follow up my contact with East Timor well into the future.

In particular, the situation facing many unemployed East Timorese has informed my understanding of the issues facing Australia as it considers whether to allow guest workers from East Timor to Western Australia – a proposal currently before the government.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Senator the Hon Ron Boswell

22 August 2008
DR ANDREW SOUTHCOTT MP

Singapore, United Kingdom, France and the United States of America
13 July – 3 August 2008
31 October 2008

Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 61
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

(i) (a) **Confirmation of purpose(s):**
To examine policy initiatives and developments in the area of employment and vocational education and training.

(b) **Itinerary:**
13th July - Adelaide to Singapore
15th July - Singapore to London
22nd July - London to Paris
24th July - Paris to New York
27th July - New York to Baltimore
28th July - Baltimore to Washington
31st July - Washington to Los Angeles
1st August - Los Angeles to Adelaide

(ii) **Key meetings and outcomes/findings:**
**Monday 14 July 2008 - Singapore**
Visit to Republic of Singapore Air Force Base (RSAF) Sembawang

**Key Findings:**
RSAF Sembawang houses Singapore’s helicopter squadrons. The RSAF include Apache, Chinook and Super Puma helicopters. These squadrons conduct Search and Rescue functions. There is a detachment of Super Puma helicopters based in Oakey, Queensland. Joint training exercises involving
these helicopter squadrons are conducted at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

Their helicopter squadrons have been involved in Search and Rescue in the relief efforts following the Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. This air force base was also the home to RAAF personnel during the Second World War.

**Meeting with Ministry of Manpower, Hawazi Daipi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry for Manpower and Ministry of Health; Ng Poei Eng, Head Tripartite Programmes Unit, Ministry of Manpower; Ong Yen Her, Divisional Director, Labour Relations and Workplaces Division, Ministry of Manpower; Goh Eng Ghee, Deputy Chief Executive, Singapore Workforce Development Agency**

**Key Findings:**

**Mature age participation**
Singapore uses a tripartite network of government, unions and employers to encourage mature age workforce participation. They have increased the retirement age from 62 to 65 and subsequently to 67. They believe a key factor is to change the mindset of employers and to provide incentives to older workers and workforce income support to low income workers. They offer training which is funded by the Workforce Development Agency and the Skills Development Fund. Retention is encouraged through training by the Workforce Development Agency. The amount workers may withdraw from the Central Provident Fund has been reduced. Their goal is a 65% participation rate for 59-64 year olds by 2012, which would be a similar level to Japan.

**Female participation**
The Skills Development Fund provides training for women and has shifted from employer based training to individual training. The unions have proposed an individual training account.

**Training**
12-15 different sectors have identified competency standards and established a national skills certification system. The training is delivered by government polytechnics and some private and some industry associations. Singapore plans to build the capacity of training of workers from 22,000 to 88,000 workers.

**Workforce**
Singapore has 40,000 enter their workforce every year but created 230,000 jobs last year. So they have a number of shortages in the workforce and provide work passes for professional, semi-professional and unskilled
workers. As well as a population of 4.4 million, there are 1.1 million non-Singaporeans who are part of the workforce.

**Thursday 17 July 2008 - London**

**Meeting with Policy Exchange, Dr Oliver Hartwich, Chief Economist; Lawrence Kay, Research Fellow; and the Rt Hon Peter Lilley, Former Minister for Social Security**

**Key Findings:**
The Blair Government brought employment and social security together. The British Government has commissioned a report on welfare and employment by David Freud. Policy Exchange has produced a series of articles looking at welfare reform in several countries, including Australia.

**Meeting with Mr Phil Willis MP and Tim Boswell MP, Chairman and Deputy Chairman, Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee**

**Key findings:**
The Committee is examining the Leitch Report into VET. Believe the status of skills education has declined and that a subject based system has wiped out the vocational pathway in education. The Committee is interested in developing the right pathways between apprenticeships, diplomas and higher education degrees. The UK is introducing diplomas into schools. Germany has 50% in VET stream. The Netherlands has 80% in VET stream, including law and journalism. The Committee is concerned about the Train to Gain program and do not believe it is working as well as it could and employers have said it doesn’t meet their needs.

The UK is piloting Skills Accounts in three regions. There are some administrative problems with the Individual Learning Accounts. The Leitch Report has noted that the UK has 6 million in unskilled jobs but by 2020 there will only be ½ to 1 million unskilled jobs. Therefore there are 5 million people who must be skilled. The Committee believes there is a mismatch between what vocational skills employers want and the qualifications being offered.

**Meeting with Mr David Lammy MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills**

**Key findings:**
The Government spends $4 billion on skills and employers spend $48 billion. Skills for Life include a focus on literacy and numeracy. Only 10% of employers are offering apprenticeships. Very interested in the Group Training Organisations of Australia. Would like apprenticeships to be higher status and more demand led and more employer led.

Train to Gain offers courses in workplace. Issues which need to be addressed are the low skill levels in the workforce, low literacy and numeracy. Plan is to
upskill millions. Diplomas in schools will help with skills. Twenty-five Sector Skills Councils which need to be more responsive.

**Meeting with Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith, Chairman of the Centre for Social Justice**

**Key findings:**
Liked the Australian model for employment services. Social housing is a fundamental part of welfare to work. In the UK there are dysfunctional families concentrated in housing estates. Objective of welfare is to take families from welfare to independent.

**Meeting with Mr David Willetts, Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills**

**Key findings:**
Conservative Party would like to boost apprenticeships especially in traditional trade areas. Believes the British Government have micromanaged the Further Education Colleges, who were given more autonomy under the Conservatives. The colleges want more autonomy and there must be contestability.

**Friday 18 July 2008 - London**
**Meeting with Department of Information Services, House of Commons Library**

**Key findings:**
Legislation is currently passing the House of Lords which is focussed on school to work transition. It includes more relevant curriculum for 14-18 year olds, new specialist diplomas and improved apprenticeships and training. It is designed to address those over 16 who are not participating in education.

The Leitch Review is an action plan to go forward on apprenticeships. Gordon Brown is a proponent of VET and amalgamated department reflects this – the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills.

On Wednesday 16 July the UK had a large rise in unemployment benefits. The Incapacity Benefit has risen but Job Seeker Assistance has fallen.

Confederation of British Industry has produced a report on work related learning called ‘Work skills’.

The Leitch Review had a big emphasis on demand led training. Skills Accounts and Specialist Diplomas which are employer driven. Labour has introduced Academies which are publicly funded independent schools who are encouraged to have partners in business. There have been a number of changes over the past twenty years to involve other bodies including
business, higher education institutions, NGOs to be involved in schools development and ethos.

The aim of the diplomas is to bridge the divide between schools and further education colleges.

Meeting with Mr Robin Shreve, Principal and Chief Executive, City of Westminster College

Key findings:
In the UK there is a huge distinction between work based learning and further education. There is also a huge distinction between further education and higher education. There are no group training organisation equivalents in the UK., instead it is the training provider who is funded for an apprentice.

Monday 21 July 2008 - London
Meeting with Dr Ken Boston AO, Chief Executive Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
This meeting was cancelled.

Meeting with Mr Chris Grayling, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Key findings:
Ten years of employment programmes are not working. After spending 3.6 billion pounds over 10 years, the numbers into sustainable employment is much less than what you would expect. The Conservative Party has adopted a lot of Freud’s recommendations and believe there is strong support for the Conservative proposals. Welfare Reform is very important to help break the cycle of dependency.

Meeting with Frances Adamson, Acting Australian High Commissioner

Key findings:
General discussion
Attended the Debate on the Green Paper on Welfare Reform in the House of Commons.

Tuesday 22 July 2008 - London
Meeting with Rt Hon Stephen Timms, Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform

Key findings:
The British Government has taken a lot of inspiration for the Green Paper on Welfare Reform from Australia. Minister Timms is familiar with Centrelink’s service delivery and Salvation Army and Mission Australia’s role in employment services. The British Government has Job Point Terminals which
have 400,000 job vacancies available at a kiosk. They want to reward Employment Service Providers when jobseekers stay in a job for more than 6 months.

Wednesday 23 July 2008 - Paris
Meeting with OECD Employment Section - John Martin

Key findings:
OECD is doing a major overview of sickness and disability employment. They are looking at the issue of activating people on benefits including sole parents and disability support and are looking at a range of countries experience in this. They are also looking at youth employment and are currently doing a review of Australia. The OECD has done a report on older workers called ‘live longer, work longer’ and will be publishing a report on Norway in September.

Only one county has reassessed stock of disability beneficiaries and that is the Netherlands. They have controlled inflows and addressed stock of disability beneficiaries up to 53. A number have been reclassified. It has been a very expensive process and has been done over a number of years. The Netherlands were able to do it because there was a strong economy and a large number of part-time jobs.

Norway has low unemployment rates and high rates of DSP. They need unique medical practitioners, i.e. specialist rehabilitation doctors to reassess the claims. To focus on certifying capacity for work rather than degree of disability. In the Netherlands employers are assigned a much greater degree of responsibility. It is the employers’ responsibility for two years with up to one year on health benefits and the second year in a rehabilitation scheme. Sickness benefits could be done through an insurance market with experience rating for large enterprises. Finland does this.

The role of employers with sick employees varies enormously across the OECD. Many countries are unwilling to add this obligation to employers.

Meeting with OECD Education representatives

Key findings:
Two important reports on VET will be released by OECD in November 2008. One is a policy review of VET in eight countries including Australia. The Group Training Organisations, the NCVER and the Australian Technical Colleges were examined. The other one looks at innovation in VET in six countries and features of the system which will encourage innovation.

Noted that in English speaking countries the streaming into VET is done towards the end of schooling. In European countries it is done early.
Friday 25 July - New York
Meeting with MDRC, Rob Ivry, Dan Bloom, David Butler, Jim Riccio

Key findings:
School to work transition and VET
MDRC are focusing on low wage workforce and how to help them get work supported and career pathways to facilitate advancement. The Community Colleges play an important role in workforce development leading to a certificate qualification and remedial tracks for English, writing and maths. Community Colleges are much more agile than the public school system. Employers will meet with community colleges to design training programs, which could be on the job. Community Colleges respond well to workforce needs. They have articulation between the colleges and higher education.

MDRC have conducted research on the career academies. Their goal is to help disconnected youth. They try to make the curriculum cohesive. The career academies have led to better earnings and employment outcomes. Some high schools have converted entirely to career academies. The cost per student is only $500. They liaise closely with employers.

Disability Employment
Disability insurance has grown enormously over the last 20 years. Only 1% of Disability Insurance Beneficiaries go into employment. There is a progressive goal achievement program which is used in New Zealand and Canada. Early intervention is important because of young people who go onto disability benefits 70% will stay on it for life. There is an initiative in Rhode Island which focuses on getting women with depression back to work. Developed by Harvard Medical School there is a phone intervention with psychiatric social workers.

Welfare Reform
MDRC found that work first achieved good results. Programmes which were solely work first were not quite as successful as those who had some training. It is important to screen those who will benefit from education. Also need to monitor those who are not making progress in education.

The Centre for Employment Training in San Jose, California has had a successful multi-site study in welfare to work but this has not been replicated by the Department of Labour.

GAIN is a Californian Welfare to Work program. Riverside County has been well studied and has shown strong employment and income effects. Both Riverside County and Portland Oregon were very effective. Portland had a mix of basic skills and some short-term training. The completion of training is a big issue. A mixed strategy seems to work better.
Employment Retention and Advancement project is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. Findings are that many people are not taking advantage of their earned income tax credits, Medicaid and food stamps. Early results show that not everything works. Fort Worth is the most promising of the centres studies by MDRC and focuses on simple financial supplements.

MDRC believe the next level of innovation is Retention and Advancement.

**Meeting with Consul General to New York, Hon John Olsen**  
General discussion

**Meeting with Seth Diamond, Human Resources Administration, Dept of Social Services - City of New York**

**Key findings:**  
Visited an office on 14th Street to observe New York City’s Welfare to Work programme (WeCARE). Those with medical or mental health barriers will be assessed by a physician. Participants are also required to take part in a work experience program. They will spend two days a week in a classroom doing literacy or job search activities and three days a week in work experience activities. Half will be in New York City agencies and half will be in not-for-profit agencies.

New York City law prohibits work experience with private sector employers. In New York City there are 180,000 households receiving public assistance. Of these 35,000 are child only cases where the adult is not eligible for public assistance.

Mayor Giuliani had a huge program in Parks Department and Sanitation Department for Work Experience.

**Tuesday 29 July - Washington**  
**Meeting with Congressman John Kline (R-Minnesota)**

**Key findings:**  
Workforce Investment Act was a Federal Act which established one-stop shops which did resume preparation, job search, skills assessment and retraining; including referrals to community colleges. These one-stop shops are run at a county level and receive federal, state and county funds. All unemployment insurance programs have end dates 11% of private workforce is unionised.

Community colleges work well and are integrated into the one-stop shops. They can see where skills demands are growing and can bring in teachers and instructors very quickly. They are more agile and do this better than the high
schools or four year colleges. Employers work well with the community colleges.

**Wednesday 30 July - Washington**

**Ms Karen Furia and Ms Diane Faulkner, Special Assistant, Women's Bureau, US Department of Labour**

**Key findings:**
Focus on demonstration projects with a hope that these demonstration projects will be replicated. These lessons learned are disseminated to 400 service providers across the country. Examples of demonstration projects include; single mothers, women business owners, Native Americans, rural women, substance abuse, victims of Hurricane Katrina, US female workforce participation is 59%. 46% of workforce are women.

**Ms Julia Mankata-Tamakloe, Chief, Civil Rights Centre, Department of Labour**

**Key findings:**
Under the Civil Rights Act, any entity receiving financial assistance from the Federal Government must comply with anti-discrimination laws. The Civil Rights Centre will conduct compliance reviews into the states requirements under this Act.

**Mr Howard Radzely, Deputy Secretary of Labor**

**Key findings:**
The US has good participation amongst older Americans. Work practices are flexible - they can work part-time and 401k plans have an incentive to continue working. There are strong laws against discrimination against older Americans. Job Corps is targeted against most disadvantaged youth. 65,000 participants. Runs for 3-9 months. The US Government is trying to expand their apprenticeship program. It is a joint federal/state program.

**Mr John Davey, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Disability Employment Policy, Department of Labour**

**Key findings:**
The Office of Disability Employment Policy is a policy office whose role is to come up with good ideas for employers. They have no regulatory or enforcement function. The material is disseminated to staff of the one-stop shops. Some innovations have included the emergency preparedness for people with disabilities. They also recognise good employers with a national recognition awards ceremony; eg the Marriott has been very good at hiring people with disability in food preparation. They also hold a two day summit with academics, employers, advocates and government to look at best practice in disability employment.
Professor Harold Holzer, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute

Key findings:
Welfare reform has worked better than expected. The majority have been better off although the bottom third or quarter may be worse off. Rebecca Blank has done some academic work on disconnected mothers. The majority are doing better in the labour market with the help of child care subsidies and earned income tax credits.

The US spend less on workforce development than any other country. Believes the US do a poor job with at-risk youth and career academies work better for young males. Examining career pathways for working poor. Believe they need a post-secondary qualification, a tie with a growing sector such as health care or construction and support services to keep them in a job. Research is being undertaken into career pathways and career ladders.

Portland was effective because they screened and were selective about who did the training.

Interesting things happening at a state level. Incumbent worker training being done by California, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Kentucky and Arkansas are focussed on low income workers. Believes the answer for workforce development is to integrate community colleges into workforce development. Does not believe central planning will work.

Future directions are likely to include industry/sector oriented training, coherent training around industries, community colleges working closer with industries and a better transition from school to work.

Friday 1 August - Los Angeles
Meeting with Cal WORKS and GAIN at Cal WORKS Rancho Park Office, Department of Public Social Services - County of Los Angeles

Key findings:
- Federal aid runs out after five years
- TANF began on 1st January 1998

GAIN
Everyone in GAIN is exposed to one day motivational training and building self-esteem. Then a one hour interview with goal setting and screening for any learning disabilities. The majority are only on Cal works for two years and never come back. They receive monthly contact from a GAIN worker and are tracked as long as they receive Cal works.

Meeting with Innes Willox, Australian Consul-General to Los Angeles
General discussion
Meeting with Dr Arie Kapteyn, Director RAND Labor and Population

Key findings:
Discussed work to welfare reform in California.

Meeting with Michael Hurd, Director, Rand Centre for the Study of Ageing

Key findings:
Discussed population, ageing and retirement policy around the world.

(iii) Conclusion
The overseas study travel afforded me the opportunity to examine the education and employment policy developments in Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States as well as receive briefings from the OECD of developments in a wide range of countries.

I would like to thank the Department of Finance and Deregulation and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their assistance during this trip.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Southcott

ANDREW SOUTHCOTT MP
Federal Member for Boothby
THE HON DR SHARMAN STONE MP

Chile, Argentina, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany and Hong Kong
15 July – 3 August 2008
Friday 22 August 2008

Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG61
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following report on my recent overseas study journey.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member of Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Sharman Stone
Shadow Minister for the Environment,
Heritage, the Arts and Indigenous Affairs
Report on the Study Tour undertaken by Dr Sharman Stone, Member for Murray and Shadow Minister for the Environment, Heritage the Arts and Indigenous Affairs: July 15th to August 2nd 2008.

The purpose of the tour was to gain information to better inform policy development and understanding of international comparisons and developments across my shadow portfolio responsibilities, and of direct relevance to the electorate of Murray. These issue areas included:

**Responses to environment sustainability in agribusiness in the light of climate change in Chile, Argentina and the UK**

Including alternative renewable energy development and legislation/regulation, other escalating input costs of agribusiness production effecting viability, research developments in methane reduction from livestock, and the role and efficacy of ecosystem stewardship programs;

**Indigenous and post colonial built heritage regulation and protection in Chile, Argentina, UK.**

Including trends and dimensions of costs of protecting and maintaining designated heritage; the source of this funding (public versus private); the regulatory interface between local, provincial and the national regulatory regimes for dealing with urban development pressures; and the identifying, ranking, funding and preserving of heritage, issues of public access, multiple usage and private ownership,

**The preservation of WW2 Commonwealth War Graves in Germany:**

In particular an assessment of the awareness, maintenance and interpretation of the only Commonwealth War Graves WW2 Cemetery in Germany.

**Australian-Chinese Cooperation in Heritage Protection and training: Hong Kong** in particular in relation to collections, museums and urban development.

**The Role of the National Trust in heritage protection in the UK**

**Heritage theatre renovation:Argentina.** Consideration of a large scale opera theatre restoration to better inform the way forward for the Sydney Opera House interior refurbishment.

**The potential for circus for promoting disadvantaged youth development:Chile**

In particular assessing the potential for Australian indigenous youth support.

**Indigenous support and development programs:Canada.** In particular programs for indigenous people in custody, the role of indigenous managed programs, the role
of cultural maintenance in reducing social isolation, building self esteem and independence.

**Program of consultations:**

1. **Alternative energy and biodiversity protection**, in Chile, in particular in relation to renewable energy was explored through meetings in Santiago, Chile with senior management of GHD (an Australian based engineering company) who have contracts to undertake environmental assessments and monitoring, public consultation and communication in the development of hydro and wind turbine power in Chile. They are assisting in particular with the environmental impact assessments for new developments, designing new methodology for assessments where there are no local audits of species or benchmark data to use.

Chile has only implemented a regime of Environmental Protection law two years ago. Of particular interest to Australia is their regime for reducing speculation in the acquisition of water rights. For example, when water rights are not used for consumption or other development purposes they attract a tax.

The Chilean Water Act also set a 10% environmental flow for rivers. GHD has been doing the work for the government to validate these environmental flows, however they have had to set the critical habitat needs for native fish species using data for similar species in other countries.

Australian companies are significant investors in Chile, in mining and now in new energy diversification. Chile Government statistics put the value of Australian investment for 2006 at US$3billion.

Meetings with the General Manager of Latin America Pacific Hydro (another Australian grown company) built on this information, in particular about Chile’s regulatory regime and further opportunity for Australian involvement, the scope and scale of wind power generation and the potential for hydro power in Chile.

Pacific Hydro has a 50% stake in the joint venture construction of the 155 MW La Higuera plant on the Tinguiririca River, and other significant contracts.

Chile has recently and with little warning lost its security of supply of natural gas from Argentina, and now is in a race against time to become more self sufficient in energy production.

2. **Agriculture and Climate Change Adaptation**

In Argentina I met with senior officers of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), a government funded research development agency dealing exclusively with the agricultural sector. It has a budget of some US$60m a year drawn from taxes on imports. It operates 42 experimental stations, 240 smaller technology
transfer units and 12 research institutes located across the agricultural regions of Argentina.

Besides aiming to increase production efficiency, diversification, sustainability and technology transfer, it also is charged with enhancing the living conditions of rural populations.

Argentina also has the familiar problems of few skilled workers entering the industry and the declining status of agriculture as an industry attracting top graduates and entrepreneurs.

The INTA has joint ventures with the private sector but has also international agreements for cooperation with Germany, France, the World Bank and FAO. They are seeking closer cooperation with Australia and NZ, in particular in relation to their research work in reducing emissions from cattle. They are currently also considering feed alternatives and issues of measurement of emissions.

Progress to date with this research was shared.

In the UK discussions were held with specialists from the Department of the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) including the managers of the Climate and Energy/Agriculture and Climate Change Project, the Bio-diversity and Agri-Environment Schemes and the Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change policy and programs team.

A great deal of work is now being undertaken in preparation for hotter, wetter, and stormier conditions climate change is likely to bring to the UK. UK along with the EU has determined that at this stage agriculture will not be included in the ETS, but rather, will be given a great deal of incentive to adapt and mitigate detrimental effects of changing climatic conditions. Much of this policy direction is informed by the government’s view that the UK should not allow carbon leakage to other food producers and it retains a strong belief in the need to remain self-sufficient in fresh food production.

The incentives for biodiversity protection, the better management of livestock emissions, the build up of more carbon in soils and in vegetation sinks are being offered through their Environmental Stewardship payments. (An environmental stewardship program was funded and promoted by Australia’s Coalition but has not been funded by the new Rudd Government.)

The nexus between the EU CAP subsidies and UK’s Environmental Stewardship financial support was analysed. There are additional financial incentives for organic agricultural production systems.

The managers discussed how they aim to maximise the opportunities climate change presented to the UK in the shape of longer and warmer growing seasons and the reduced competition they anticipate from traditional competitors in the markets from the southern hemisphere.
The expectations of the additional risk from some livestock diseases and plant pathogens is being researched as ranges are expected to extend into the UK.

Alternative renewable fuels derived from the agriculture sector are under detailed consideration, and traditional practices such as peat extraction is now being serious review.

Other agricultural sustainability research and programs in the EU were identified, compared and evaluated.

3. Personal development programs for Canadian indigenous men in custody, their families and communities to reduce recidivism, build financial independence and self actualisation in Alberta Province, Canada.

As in Australia, Aboriginal people in Canada tend to be overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

The Native Counselling Services of Canada is a long established and highly successful not for profit organisation which has a plethora of programs delivered under contract for Alberta Justice, Justice Canada, the Correctional Services of Canada, Alberta Child and Community Services, Health Canada, the Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada (Government of Canada) and Canadian Heritage.

The focus of many of the programs is to ensure clients have culturally appropriate reliable assistance as they come into contact with Child intervention services or with courts. Family court workers are trained in alternative dispute resolution and peace making. This service has been offered for over 30 years.

Visits were made to the Stan Daniels Healing Centre, Edmonton, a 72 bed community correctional centre with a section 81 designation under Canadian Law. Residents are either on day or full parole or continue to have inmate status.

A key to the program is the engagement of Elders who work with inmates in a variety of personal development programs that address family loss, relationship breakdown, violence, drug and alcohol addiction and employment readiness. Courses in computer repairs are also taught. "In Search of Your Warrior” is a program central to the building of identity and self esteem of inmates. Elders facilitate ceremonies, sweat lodges and individual counselling through the use of traditional teachings.

The involvement of community elders is considered one of the main ingredients for success, with these men providing inmates with a new sense of identity and a spiritual foundation. Recidivism has been significantly reduced through this program, which provides on going mentoring once inmates are released.

The Native Counselling Services of Alberta is seeking to re-establish a live in "bush-camp” experience for offenders and those at risk. This took the form of camps of several weeks duration where men learned survival skills and addressed some of their personal problems. Community concern about the possibilities of anti-social behaviour in minimum security situations in the country-side saw the program close
some years ago. Its success in helping disadvantaged youth and others was well established however and there is now strong support for the program to recommence. This program bore more than passing resemblance to NT bush-camps for juvenile offenders.

A Canadian Indigenous Youth-Northern Ireland exchange appears to have great benefits, where each year five 16 to 19 year olds exchange, and are expected to learn about the cultures of one another, to challenge the stereotypes and develop trust and respect. The participants are expected to raise between $500 and $1500 to finance part of the cost. Following the exchange the youths involved are expected to present their own experiences and train their peers in their new found information. This has often been a life changing experience for the participants. I can see how, with proper sponsorship and mentoring a similar type of exchange, say, with NZ could be a very valuable experience for Australia’s indigenous youth participants. The Canadian program is managed by the Native Counselling Services of Alberta.

Cunningham Place: Transitional Youth Housing Project in Edmonton. This was a very impressive program and place with highly dedicated staff supervising a low rental but very well appointed and 24 hour supervised hostel situated close to the CBD.

Cunningham Place offers places for newly released ex-offenders as well as to previously homeless, or inadequately housed individuals, or those coming from remote parts of the Province who need accommodation while the study or undertake training. The place is very functional but attractive, including a healing room for counselling. Residents pay according to their means, with adjustments made as their circumstances change. Men and women are co-located in the same building. Residents are expected to have a goal. Progress towards that goal is discussed between the management and resident on a regular basis.

There is great need for such accommodation in Australia’s capitals and regional centres. How this project was funded and its ongoing management was most instructive.

4. Circus in support of disadvantaged youth development: Chile

The Cirque du Monde is part of a growing international network of circus companies which are promoting circus as one of the fastest growing areas of performance and entertainment.

The Cirque du Monde in Santiago Chile, (which has close ties with the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) in Australia) has been funded by their government and philanthropic trusts to take circus training to some of their most disadvantaged suburbs in Santiago, where the whole family is engaged to support the student selected to learn modern circus skills. These skills include aerial work, gymnastics and dance related skills, balancing, juggling and clowning.

Students with school retention and other behavioural issues are targeted via the schools from some of the poorest parts of the city, and invited to participate in
afterschool and weekend training. Results have shown that such engagement has built student’s self esteem, physical and emotional well being, their trust in peers, and commitment to completing their schooling.

Students participate from age 10 to 17. They may graduate into professional circus training at the end of the special school level classes.

Despite it being a public holiday in Chile, the students voluntarily returned to the circus to perform for me in a special program which included each participant describing their own experience of Cirque du Monde, their aspirations, their personal development and life changes through the experience of the circus.

The program managers, including the family counsellors added valuable information about funding challenges, the role of the government and schools and their relationships with the international movement.

This program compares with indigenous community engagement with circus training provided with the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) in Australia. It is part of a world wide movement in engaging challenged children through the skills of circus performance. This programme demonstrated how much more can be done in Australia developing like minded programs, with adequate funding arrangements.

5. Heritage Opera House Refurbishment, Argentina

South America’s most famous opera house the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires was closed for refurbishment in 2006. It was expected to be reopened for its centenary in 2008. It is now predicted that the works will not be complete until 2010.

The Colon shares the distinction with the Sydney Opera House of being visited by 70% of the foreign tourists to the city where it is located, and was suffering from inadequate fire prevention infrastructure, disability access, and performer spaces. In a comprehensive tour of the reconstruction site followed by further discussions with the construction manager and artistic director the problems of construction funding and lost performance opportunity was identified and quantified, the management and costs of the continuation of the more than 1500 opera company, orchestra and opera house management staff, and the problem of maintaining subscribers and finding suitable alternative performance venues was also discussed. A small performance/costume museum has been opened in one of the underground levels of the theatre to maintain some access for visitors with mixed success.

These discussions helped identify the challenges ahead with the refurbishment of the interior of the Sydney Opera House.

6. Heritage Protection and regulation: Chile, Argentina, UK and HongKong

Meetings with the Director of the Council of National Monuments, Commission of Architectonic Heritage and Urban Patrimony in Santiago, Chile gave great insight into the challenges of indigenous antiquities preservation in Chile, as well as the
protection of post colonial built heritage in rapidly growing and heavily polluted cities. Legislation regimes in Chile were compared with those in Australia, in particular where land holders may purchase a property which includes buildings or places of national significance. Such places come under the management and protection of the government. Indigenous sites of significance are protected through the creation of national reserves. The problems of recruiting staff with appropriate skills to manage heritage collections and to identify places and artifacts at risk is a significant problem.

Chile looks to Australia to assist in Pacific Island heritage preservation policy and skills development, given the Easter Islands are in their control. They will soon be participating in conferences to be held in Australia.

Chile’s interpretative materials are well developed and expert comprehensively documenting their built heritage. Australian materials can be much improved.

Clearly Chile has challenges much like those in Australia, although their quantity of indigenous heritage is far less.

Chile does not have a developed voluntary sector engaged in heritage protection in the way that UK and Aust have evolved. They see this as a future prospect.

7. Built Heritage protection in Buenos Aries, Argentina

I met with the Under Secretary of Heritage, Ministry of Culture, Buenos Aries City Government and their Director of Institutional Relations in their magnificent heritage building in BA where we discussed the difficulties of managing the protection of heritage in a city where inner city real estate in particular is priced at a premium.

The heritage protection regimes of Argentina and Australia were compared along with the strategies available to induce developers to comply with regulations.

The City has difficulty in maintaining a consistent approach to planning given the number of national government properties, and their ability to ensure their planning dictates prevail. There are also the usual problems of the cost of refurbishing historic buildings built without regard for disability access, modern fire control and other occupational, health and safety considerations.

The training of modern tradesmen in older skills, for example maintaining frescoed ceilings, wall murals etc is a problem, and the cost is so prohibitive that the private sector is often unable to do the necessary work. At the same time the City Council understands and appreciates the need to protect the heritage of the city. The standards of maintenance and upkeep of the public precincts, in particular the area declared an historic zone in the 1970s, San Telmo, had to be appreciated.

8. Heritage protection in the UK in particular the work of the National Trust was investigated through interviews with key Trust personnel, in particular those involved in the preservation, interpretation and funding of historic garden/landscapes, and the
fund raising challenges as properties deteriorate or age and more are offered to the nation for protection.

Three quite different heritage listed, national trust properties were visited with trust specialists providing information about the expansion of tourist product offered on location and special events development to supplement (the not inconsiderable) entrance fees. The issues and costs associated with adaptations to the heritage properties to accommodate multiple uses to broaden the appeal to children and families, for training classes, musical performances, creative workshops etc was detailed.

The UK is experiencing a downturn in heritage property visitor numbers, causing much concern about future funding. The trust is making use of raffles for fund raising and aiming wherever possible to replace professional staff with volunteers, in particular volunteers embedded in organisations different to the National Trust so these groups can apply for grants from the government for garden preservation, related nature conservation, or climate change adaptation in heritage farmland etc.

Comparisons were made between the legislation in UK and Australia governing the declaration and protection of different levels of heritage, and the public/private ownership interface. Compared with Australia the UK has a far bigger inventory of built heritage, as well as very significant archaeological sites to protect and preserve, but it also has a much bigger population and more developed tourism to help fund the work through properly managed visiting.

Australia’s National Trust has not developed the same volunteering network and numbers who are now the mainstay of guiding and maintenance of the heritage properties open for visiting in the UK. For example, Clandon Park, a medium sized property has 160 “stewards” rostered on a full day at a time, or for a morning or afternoon from March to November. The inducements are discounts off NT admission changes and in their shops, access to their library and a Christmas lunch.

The NT is concerned about the ageing of their volunteers, and their steady decline in numbers. As many of the historic gardens are now becoming heat stressed and watering systems are being considered for the first time in some places, more skilled volunteers are needed. The NT is also becoming more discriminating in accepting the number of properties offered to them for inheritance or to be maintained by the NT while the owning families remain in residence.

There is much for Australia to learn in presentation and interpretation, as well as multiple uses and associated product development if we are to put our heritage stock on a better financial footing.

8. The Commonwealth War Graves managed RAF cemetery in Germany contains the remains of commonwealth crews flying with the RAF and shot down between 1939 and 1945. This is one of the smallest, least known and least visited war cemeteries in Europe, located in the middle of Reichswald Forest near Essen and the Dutch border. It contains Australian, NZ, Canadian and British aircrew, as well some Commonwealth infantry killed nearby in the Dutch-German border region.
The cemetery is very carefully maintained, but not signposted and difficult to find. Its location is not marked on most maps. Locals seemed unaware of its existence. The prominently displayed visitors book showed virtually no listings of Australian visitors over the years since the book began. As an important part of Australia’s remembered WW2 war effort in Europe and respect for the very young Australian men buried there the location of and information about this cemetery needs to be better integrated into Australia’s references and ceremonies of remembrance. I will endeavour to do this.

9. Museum and private collection challenges and built heritage protection in Hong Kong

Australia has signed an MOU with the Chinese government recognising our mutual interest in heritage protection and the potential for skills transfer. Sydney Uni sends staff to teach conservation courses and museum studies in Hong Kong.

The Chief Curator of the Hong Kong Museum of History and several of her senior managers briefed me on the challenges of maintaining the collections in the Hong Kong Museum.

The museum employs 100 staff and is 94% government funded. Admission fees are very small and free for children. There is 15% from sponsorship, mainly from the bank of China, but the museum of Arts tends to attract greater levels of private sponsorship.

There is now much concern on the mainland of China that tourist numbers are now damaging the fabric and experience of built heritage places. Like in the UK, the number of visitors is taking gardens off limits and challenging the policy of open access to the interiors of some buildings.

There continues to be few restrictions on the sale and export of antiquities from China. Thus, while the current and very excellent temporary exhibition in the HK museum is the representation of the horse in China through the ages, the local antique galleries and shops were taking advantage of this focus and heightened interest in advertising and offering museum quality, authentic ancient depictions and other horse pieces for sale. The Curators were very concerned at the continuing loss of China’s heritage in this unregulated and unrestricted market.

There are now Antiquities and Monuments regulations in HK designed to retain what pre or post colonial heritage remains. Land exchange is offered to help save building otherwise to be demolished.

The HK government is now considering a Heritage Trust along the lines of that in UK to bring more private citizen involvement and sponsorship to heritage protection. The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust was formed in 1997 but there have been insufficient funds to achieve much so far.

Dr Sharman Stone

20 August 2008.
THE HON ANDREW ROBB AO MP

Papua New Guinea
21 – 23 July 2008
4 September 2008

Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 61
Parliament House
CANBERRA  ACT  2600

Dear John,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose

In my capacity as Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, travel was undertaken with the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Senator Marise Payne. The purpose of the visit was to study the effectiveness of Australia's aid in improving areas of human rights, HIV Aids, gender issues and business development. The visit included meetings with parliamentarians, business organisations and non-government organisations.

(b) Itinerary

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Accommodation in Sydney was at the Airport Mercure Hotel.
Accommodation in Port Moresby was at the Holiday Inn, Port Moresby.
(ii) **Key Meetings and Outcomes / findings**

Attached please find the programme scheduled with the assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. I attended all meetings as scheduled.

(iii) **Conclusion**

The study tour contributed to a greater understanding of the many challenges faced in helping Papua New Guinea deal with the issues of human rights, HIV AIDS, gender issues, aid programs and business development opportunities. In addition, the tour helped me make a number of significant contacts at a Parliamentary, bureaucratic and NGO level. These contacts will help to further inform me of steps Australia can take to assist this important neighbour.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

ANDREW ROBB
Programme for the
Visit to the Independent State of
Papua New Guinea

by

The Honourable Andrew Robb AO MP,
Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs,

And

Senator Marise Payne,
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs

21-23 July 2008
SECURITY AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

A high degree of personal security awareness should be exercised at all times. There is a high prevalence of crime in Port Moresby. In Port Moresby, you should not leave your accommodation except by car.

The Australian High Commission Medical Clinic in Port Moresby is staffed by a registered nurse and is open between 0800 and 1600 each day. The Clinic’s number is 325 9333 ext 243.

Should you require the services of a medical practitioner outside Clinic opening hours we suggest the following clinics/hospitals.

For GP consultations:

Port Moresby Medical Service
Cnr Vaival Avenue and Mavaru Street
Boroko (behind St Jospeh’s school)
Ph 325 6633

For X-rays, scans and emergencies:

Pacific International Hospital
Above 4 Mile PMV stop
Boroko
Ph 323 4400
VISIT PROGRAMME

Monday 21 July

11.25 Arrive Jackson’s Airport Port Moresby from Sydney on QF313

Met by: Ms Ann Harrap, Acting High Commissioner
         Mr Simon Fellows, Third Secretary

11.45 Depart airport for Holiday Inn

12.00 Arrive Holiday Inn, check-in and freshen up

12.30 Meet at Kopi Haus Restaurant, Holiday Inn, for introductory briefing over lunch.

         With: Ms Ann Harrap, Acting High Commissioner,
                and Ms Margaret Thomas,
                Minister Counsellor, AusAID

13.45 Depart Holiday Inn for Credit Haus

14.00 Arrive Credit Haus for presentation and briefing on PNG LNG project

         Met by: Mr Patrick Henretty, Managing Director,
                 Esso Highlands,
                 Ms Anna Schulze, Public Affairs Manager,
                 Esso Highlands,
                 Mr Simon Fellows, Third Secretary, and
                 Mr Sandy Campbell, Third Secretary

15.00 Depart Credit Haus for Pacific Place

15.15 Arrive Rio Tinto, 6th Floor Pacific Place, for mining briefing

         Met by: Mr Paul Coleman, Manager,
                 Rio Tinto Minerals Ltd (PNG)
         With: Mr Simon Fellows, Third Secretary, and
                Mr Sandy Campbell, Third Secretary

15.55 Transfer to 3rd Floor
Monday 21 July (continued)

16.00 Arrive InsPac, 3rd Floor Pacific Place, for Transparency International briefing

Met by: Mr Richard Kassman,
Transparency International Board Member
With: Mr Simon Fellows, Third Secretary, and
Mr Sandy Campbell, Third Secretary

16.45 Depart Pacific Place for Holiday Inn

17.00 Arrive Holiday Inn

17.15 Meet at Holiday Inn poolside terrace for informal discussion

With: The Hon Bart Philemon MP,
Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and
Mr Qwentan Cholai, First Secretary to Mr
Philemon.

18.00 Free time

18.50 Depart Holiday Inn for Jepello Restaurant

19.00 Arrive at Jepello Restaurant for dinner

With: Ms Ann Harrap, Acting High Commissioner
Mr Ross Hammond, Managing Director
Westpac PNG,
Mr Julian Barry, Regional General Manager
QANTAS,
Mr David Guinn, Principal GuinnPKK
Chartered Accountants, and,
Mr John Brand, Senior Trade Commissioner,
Austrade

21.30 Depart Jepello Restaurant for Holiday Inn

21.40 Arrive Holiday Inn – no further engagements
Tuesday 22 July

08.00  Breakfast briefing at Holiday Inn Kopi Haus restaurant

With: Federal Agent Steve Hulbert, 
     AFP Senior Liaison Officer

08.45  Depart Holiday Inn for Parliament House

Accompanied by: Ms Ann Harrap, 
     Acting High Commissioner

08.55  Arrive Parliament House

Met by: Mr Simon Fellows, Third Secretary

09.00  Meeting with Hon Ferao Orimyo MP, Room B1-78, 
     Parliament House

With: Ms Ann Harrap, 
     Acting High Commissioner, and 
     Mr Simon Fellows, Third Secretary

09.45  Meeting with Hon Sasa Zibe MP, Minister for Health and 
     HIV/AIDS, and 
     Mr Yawa Silupa, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, 
     Room B2-14, Parliament House

With: Ms Ann Harrap, 
     Acting High Commissioner, and 
     Mr Simon Fellows, Third Secretary

     Joined by: Ms Margaret Thomas, 
     Minister Counsellor, AusAID

10.30  Meeting with Hon Sam Basil MP, Room BG-20, 
     Parliament House

With: Ms Ann Harrap, 
     Acting High Commissioner, and 
     Mr Simon Fellows, Third Secretary

11.15  Meeting with Hon Timothy Bonga MP, Chair of the Public 
     Accounts Committee, Room BG-4, Parliament House

With: Ms Ann Harrap, 
     Acting High Commissioner, and 
     Mr Simon Fellows, Third Secretary

11.45  Depart Parliament House for Tisa House
Tuesday 22 July (continued)

11.55   Arrive Auditor-General's office Tisa House

Met by:  Mr Mark Bailey, Counsellor, AusAID
         Mr John Hawley, Strongim Gavman
         Program adviser

12.00   Meeting with George Sullimann, PNG Auditor-General

With:    Mr Mark Bailey, Counsellor, AusAID

12.45   Depart Parliament House for Australian High Commission

13.00   Arrive Australian High Commission for lunch

With:    Ms Margaret Thomas,
         Minister Counsellor, AusAID
         Mr Mark Bailey, Counsellor, AusAID
         Ms Ann Malcolm, Senior Program
         Coordinator, HIV/AIDS program
         Mr Abraham Opito, HIV/AIDS adviser
         Dr Ninkama Molya, HIV/AIDS adviser
         Ms Angela Madie-Filer, gender and
         social development adviser

14.15   Depart Australian High Commission for Business
         Coalition against HIV/AIDS (BAHA), Nasfund Building,
         Four mile

Accompanied by:  Mr Mark Bailey, Counsellor, AusAID

14.30   Arrive BAHA for briefing on HIV program

With:    Mr Mark Bailey, Counsellor, AusAID

15.20   Depart BAHA for Deloitte Tower

15.30   Arrive Deloitte Tower for UNICEF briefing

With:    Ms Jacqui Badcock,
         UNDP Resident Coordinator, and
         Ms Phazin Oo, UNICEF Deputy Director and
         officer in charge
         Mr Mark Bailey, Counsellor, AusAID

16.15   Depart UNICEF for Crowne Plaza

Accompanied by:  Mr Mark Bailey, Counsellor, AusAID
Tuesday 22 July (continued)

16.30    Arrive at Crowne Plaza Café for meeting

         With:    Mr Henry Braun,
                   Director CARE Australia PNG
                   Mr Mark Bailey, Counsellor, AusAID

17.15    Depart Crowne Plaza for Holiday Inn

17.30    Arrive Holiday Inn – free time

18.15    Depart Holiday Inn for Ela Beach Hotel

18.30    Arrive at Ela Beach Hotel for dinner

         With:    Ms Ann Harrap, Acting High Commissioner,
                   Sir Mekere Morauta,
                   Leader of the Opposition, and
                   Lady Roslyn Morauta

21.00    Return to Holiday Inn – no further engagements
Wednesday 23 July

07.45 Breakfast at Holiday Inn

08.30 Check-out

08.45 Depart Holiday Inn for Jackson’s Airport, Port Moresby

Accompanied by: Mr Simon Fellows, Third Secretary

09.00 Arrive Jackson’s Airport, Port Moresby

09.45 Depart Port Moresby for Brisbane on QF350
AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION CONTACT DETAILS

NB: The Australian High Commission security section is staffed 24 hours a day.

Phone no: +675 325 9333 (Ext 312)
Fax no: +675 325 9183 (Security)

Ms Ann Harrap
Acting High Commissioner Ext 212
Res 320 2272
Mb 683 9809

Ms Margaret Thomas
Minister-Counsellor Ext 314
Res 320 3201
Mb 686 1278

AusAID

Mr Mark Bailey Ext 289
Res 320 0134
Mb 682 4338

Mr Simon Fellows
Third Secretary (Political) Ext 215
(Visit Controller)
Res 320 0027
Mb 678 2598

AUSTRALIAN CONTACT NUMBERS

CALLING AUSTRALIA FROM PNG:

Dial: 05 61 + area code (omitting zero) + local number

e.g. 05 61 2 6261 1111

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Mr Geoff Tooth
Assistant Secretary, PNG Branch
Tel 05 61 2 6261 2795
Fax 05 61 2 6261 2332
SENATOR MARISE PAYNE

Papua New Guinea
21 – 23 July 2008
Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Friday 17 April 2009

Dear Minister

I submit the following statement reporting on my overseas study visit to Papua New Guinea. I trust it accords with the requirements of the Determination. I would be happy to provide further information if required.

I confirm that the purpose of my visit was a brief study tour to meet with members of the Papua New Guinea Government and Parliament, representatives of Australian and international business, non government organisations and to receive briefings from senior Australian DFAT and AusAID officials to assist in my role as Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and as a continuing member of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. On this visit I travelled with my colleague Hon Andrew Robb AO, MP, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs.

A copy of my itinerary is attached as required, for your information.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Acting High Commissioner Ann Harrap and her team for their substantial assistance in coordinating the programme and facilitating the visit to Port Moresby. It was very much appreciated.

On arrival, Acting High Commissioner Ms Harrap and several post officials assisted us with an initial briefing on key issues and areas of interest in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

At our first external meeting on Monday 21 July we were briefed on the very important PNG LNG project by senior officials from Exxon Mobil in Port Moresby, Patrick Henretty, Managing Director and Anna Schulze, Public Affairs Director. The project is a joint venture including Exxon Mobil, Oil Search, Santos, AGL, Nippon Oil, Landowner Interests, and Eda Oil. PNG State nominees will join as equity participants at a later date. It is an integrated development comprising gas processing facilities, pipelines and LNG plant facilities.

The development is a massive undertaking in PNG and will have a very significant impact on the PNG economy both in the development phase and when it comes online. The project involves the development of gas fields in Southern Highlands and associated gas from currently operating oil fields. The central gas processing plant will be at Hides and the project will entail over 700 kilometres of pipeline, 400 km of which will be sub-sea. The liquefaction plant will be located 20 km north west of Port Moresby. It is expected to generate 6.3million tonnes per annum of LNG sales.
This year the Gas Agreement has been signed and the Front End Engineering and Design phase commenced. In 2009 it is hoped that the Benefit Sharing Agreement might be signed and early works including roads and bridges may commence. Construction is planned to occur between 2010 and 2013. On this timetable the project will be operational from 2014.

As previously observed, the project will have a very significant impact on the economy of PNG. It is expected to contribute to a doubling of GDP during its operational life. It represents the largest private sector investment ever contemplated in PNG. In terms of employment the construction phase will generate approximately 7500 jobs, of which about 20 percent can be expected to be filled by local workers. In the operational life the estimate is of 850 full time equivalent positions, of which approximately 75 – 90 percent is expected to be held by local workers.

Exxon Mobil has identified a number of challenges facing the development and appears to be addressing these in a realistic way. They note in particular the potential impact of the demand for labour on other sectors of the economy and also the need to ensure good budget management and transparency to maximise the economic gains from the project and their translation into positive socio economic development.

There will be significant opportunities for PNG as well, and Exxon Mobil wants to ensure they provide sustainable ongoing effects to and in labour markets, local industry and landowners.

Mr Robb and I then attended a briefing with Mr Paul Coleman, Manager, Rio Tinto Minerals Ltd (PNG). Mr Coleman briefed us on the history of Rio Tinto's engagement in PNG and provided an outline of their current mining and research activities. We also discussed labour and staffing issues and economic development in PNG generally.

Following our meeting with Rio Tinto, we attended a briefing with senior representatives of Transparency International PNG (TIPNG), Mr Richard Kassman and Mr Peter Aitsi. Both Mr Kassman and Mr Aitsi fulfil their roles at TIPNG in a voluntary capacity, whilst maintaining their personal professional roles in insurance and the media respectively. TIPNG is committed to making PNG 'an independent country in which government, politics, businesses, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption' (TIPNG Vision Statement).

The briefing covered events around the 2007 election, including the role of money in local campaigns, the lack of effectiveness of the polling process, the impact of block voting and the inadequacy of the roll. For the 2007 election, TIPNG conducted a joint seminar on limited preferential voting (LPV) and electoral integrity with the Electoral Commission and the Ombudsman's Commission. TIPNG made it clear that they appreciate the importance of a strong awareness/education campaign before the next poll, which they intend to mount. They also made specific mention of the challenges of dealing with endemic corruption and the need for community wide changes in attitude and approach. I was struck by the clarity of their message, in
stating that the community needs to demand change before that message will necessarily be heard by leadership.

TIPNG has also acted in founding the Community Coalition Against Corruption. As well as leading a well attended Walk Against Corruption, their key activities focus on civic education and awareness. I note that TIPNG is supported by a number of donors, including AusAID.

The High Commission arranged an informal dinner meeting with business representatives in Port Moresby for the first evening of our visit. Those attending included Ms Harrap, Acting High Commissioner and Mr Ross Hammond, Managing Director Westpac PNG, Mr Julian Barry Regional General Manager QANTAS, Mr David Guinn, Principal GuinnPKK Chartered Accountants and Mr John Brand, Senior Trade Commissioner, Austrade. The dinner was a valuable opportunity to hear at first hand from local business representatives about the business environment and factors impacting on business engagement including law and order, relationships with government and labour. We appreciated the time and input of those attending and the insights they were able to give us.

On Tuesday 22 July Mr Robb and I attended a breakfast briefing with the representative of the Australian Federal Police in Port Moresby, Federal Agent Steve Hulbert, Senior Liaison Officer. Federal Agent Hulbert briefed us on matters concerning corruption, violence and law and order issues in the PNG community and the presence and use of firearms. It was an interesting and useful opportunity to further understand the work of the AFP in relation to PNG, especially in light of the events surrounding the role of the AFP in the Enhanced Cooperation Programme.

The High Commission arranged meetings for us with two members of the PNG parliament, Hon Ferao Orimyo MP and Hon Sam Basil MP. Both meetings were valuable chances to discuss parliamentary activity and electorate work, and to gain a greater appreciation of the role of an MP in the PNG parliament. Both Members referred to the role of grant allocations in their electorate and the priority areas of health, education and roads and the diminished resources apparently allocated to many regional areas. Mr Orimyo for example noted the diminution of health aid posts from the previous number of 27, to just 4. Mr Basil noted the importance of PNG thinking beyond the current boom situation, a timely observation in view of the significant shifts in the world economy.

In discussion, we also compared the respective committee processes of our two parliaments and the work done by committees. We discussed the operation of the new LPV system in the last election. We were very grateful for the time both Members made available to us and their preparedness to meet in Port Moresby, notwithstanding that the day’s parliamentary sittings had been cancelled at short notice.

We also attended a meeting with Hon Sasa Zibe MP, Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS and the Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Mr Yawa Silupa. The Minister indicated that the government wanted to pursue a primary health care focus. He also
addressed a number of other issues, including the challenges of infrastructure, communications and access in remote and regional areas, noting that 87% of the population lives in regional PNG. He also noted that the focus on HIV may have some impact on other health areas. He noted as serious challenges the number of community health workers who have given up their roles due to an absence of support, and referred to 89 districts having no doctors. We were grateful for the opportunity to meet with the Minister, particularly in the context of Australia’s significant support for addressing the dire HIV/AIDS problems of Papua New Guinea. We also received a very useful and interesting briefing from the PNG Auditor General Mr George Sullimann. He discussed the operation of his office and its role in relation to the parliament, the Public Accounts Committee and related offices and the review of the large number of trust funds held by departments. The Auditor General has a very important role in PNG, which was also adverted to in our meeting with TIPNG.

It was interesting to note that Mr Sullimann referred to a copy of the Hansard of an Australian Senate estimates committee where questions had been asked by me in a hearing relating to a report of the PNG Auditor General and certain trust funds and missing funds from the PNG Department of Finance. Mr Sullimann mentioned that the Hansard discussion made a useful addition to his training materials. He also discussed the refinement of his office systems and the valuable role played by AusAID staff as part of his team in that regard.

Given the extremely important engagement of Australia with PNG on the challenges presented by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in that country our lunch briefing by senior AusAID staff on the Sanap Wantaim (Stand Together) programme was very useful. I acknowledge and thank those senior AusAID staff and local staff who assisted us in that meeting. We were also very pleased to visit the Business Coalition against HIV/AIDS (BAHA) following that briefing. As a long term supporter of Australia's strong regional engagement on these issues and former Chair of the Australian Parliament's Liaison Group on HIV/AIDS and related diseases I particularly valued these briefings.

The AusAID team presented a graphic picture of the challenges facing both PNG and donor countries. One of the important aspects of the response is the actual effective coordination of that response, between the PNG government, NGOs, donors and other interested stakeholders. AusAID is endeavouring to support a decentralised, multisectoral approach response to HIV. AusAID and other contributors are also working in a highly challenging environment of competing government priorities, poor resourcing, difficult access, strong cultural issues, many provincial AIDS committees, surveillance teams and the attendant difficulties manifest in such an environment. AusAID provided us with a brief on those NGOs funded by Australia and the nature of their projects. This provided a very useful perspective of the breadth of activity and engagement by these highly skilled NGO groups across PNG. I note that in 2008 AusAID was by far the most significant source of funds for the HIV response in PNG, including in comparison to the PNG government.

The activities of BAHA are a very important aspect of addressing and managing the HIV crisis in PNG. BAHA is a coalition of businesses in PNG which came together in
2007 to address HIV related issues in the corporate and business world. Their initial aims were to firstly, develop a reliable and efficient client service arm to deal with HIV/AIDS queries from private sector workers and their employers and act as a referral agency; and secondly to develop a business case for HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness from an employer perspective to bridge the current lack of coordinated response by employers. The final aim was to work with employers to develop a workplace policy with emphasis on elimination of HIV based discrimination in the workplace, to ensure a consistent approach within the private sector in dealing with employees who are living with HIV/AIDS, to develop and coordinate HIV/AIDS awareness and behaviour change programmes for private sector workers and to ensure private sector employee access to HIV treatment and support services.

Our visit and meeting at BAHA provided an excellent opportunity to observe the work of the organisation at the ‘coal face’, including observing workers taking calls and collating responses to telephone inquiries received in the BAHA office from employers and private sector workers. We received a comprehensive briefing about the services provided by BAHA and the increasing interest from employers in dealing constructively with HIV related issues in their workplaces. The growing corporate membership of BAHA is a positive indicator of the developing role it plays. BAHA notes on their website the importance of this work, not just in social terms but ‘because of the potential economic cost to the country if an HIV epidemic is left unchecked. We implore you to join us in our endeavour to protect PNG’s greatest natural resource – its people’.

Our next meetings were held with UN representatives in Port Moresby, Ms Jacqui Badcock UNDP Resident Coordinator and Ms Thazin Oo, UNICEF Deputy Director and officer in charge. We were advised that the UN's attention in PNG is focussed on governance, crisis prevention, disaster relief, population and sustainable livelihoods. Ms Badcock and Ms Oo provided us with copies of the comprehensive programme the UN is pursuing and outlined the relationship between the workplans and the programme of the PNG government. The briefing included consideration of some of the challenges faced by UN agencies in PNG, in particular addressing leadership questions, issues of family violence, a lack of local health care and ageing workforces.

Our final NGO meeting was with Mr Henry Braun, Director CARE Australia PNG. CARE has been in PNG since 1989, with a country office since 2006, and has done much work in emergency response and disaster management. They are based in Goroka to be closer to more remote areas of the country where road access is difficult, soil is poor and market access is limited. They work in the HIV/AIDS area and also have a focus on water and sanitation and agricultural work.

We also had a brief informal meeting with Mr Steve Marshall, the ABC's PNG based correspondent.

Mr Robb and I met with Leader of the Opposition Sir Mekere Morauta and Lady Ros Morauta over dinner on our final evening in Port Moresby.
Again, I reiterate my thanks to the Acting High Commissioner Ann Harrap and the staff of the High Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their assistance in facilitating this study visit. Although a brief visit to PNG it was a valuable opportunity to see at first hand some of the key issues in a very important strategic and regional relationship for Australia. I appreciate the opportunity to have undertaken the visit.

Yours sincerely

MARISE PAYNE
Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Affairs
Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance
SENATOR TRISH CROSSIN

East Timor
28 – 30 July 2008
Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey to East Timor.

Confirmation of Purpose(s):
The purpose of the Journey was to travel to East Timor to meet with organisations involved in population and development in third world countries, especially matters concerning women’s maternal health needs and services.

Itinerary:
(i) Details and Itinerary were as follows:
Fly to East Timor from Darwin on Monday 28th July and returned on Wednesday 30th July to Darwin.

Key meetings and outcomes/findings and Conclusion:
Please find attached a comprehensive report of my time in East Timor which outlines the importance of changing the current restrictions on the AusAid guidelines and directly relates to my involvement in the Parliamentary Population and Development Group.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

[Signature]
Senator Trish Crossin
10.2.09

[Contact information]
Timor Leste Reproductive Health Report

Visit to Dili, Monday 28 July – Friday 1 August 2008 by Senator Trish Crossin and ex-Senator Lyn Allison, accompanied by Christina Richards, Independent Consultant on Reproductive Health, and Dr Jo Dower and Vikki McLeod; ex Senator Allison staff members.

Objectives of the visit

1. To discover the contributing factors to the extremely high maternal and child death rates of Timor Leste (TL) women and children.

2. To assess the impact of the AusAID Family Planning Guidelines on Australian development assistance to TL and on maternal and child death rates and poor reproductive health outcomes.

3. To assess the opportunities for greater Australian development assistance in reducing the TL maternal and infant mortality rates and for improving women’s health and human rights, in particular their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Two Conclusions

1. Australia should sizeably increase its development assistance support in all aspects of reproductive health to the women and men of Timor Leste.

(a) The Ministry of Health (MoH) in the Government of Timor Leste (GoTL) has developed an excellent Reproductive Health policy which states:

"Reproductive health has the highest priority of the Government of Timor-Leste as the country grapples with the highest fertility rate in the world and unacceptable maternal and child mortality rates while attempting to raise the strings of human capital through public health interventions. This National Reproductive Health Strategy will provide a significant input and sense of direction into addressing these issues."

There is obviously scope for donor assistance to help implement this strategy and Australia could easily take a leading role in this.

There has been a marked absence of family planning and reproductive health within the current AusAID country program which is unconscionable given the clearly stated policy position of the GoTL and dire need for it.
(b) The enabling environment in TL and Australia is conducive given that:

i. The aid program budget has sizeably increased in recent years and sizable future increases are expected given current government commitments for ODA to reach 0.5% of GDP.

ii. The needs are so compelling.

iii. Australia is unlikely to reach its targets for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly Goal 5 (reduce maternal mortality), without immediate substantial increases in funding for family planning.

iv. The opportunity in TL for assistance in this area is available now. The new TL Reproductive Health Policy (RHP) is almost complete and there is strong support for the policy within the GoTL. The policy is clear about the need for and desirability for donor assistance but the AusAID country program has yet to respond to these clear policies.

v. The Australian development assistance program in TL is already engaged with the MOH on other initiatives and supportive of the new RH Policy. Funding support in this area would ensure Australian engagement and policy consultation in a key area of work for the GoTL and enable Australia to better demonstrate its commitment to meeting the MDGs.

2. The AusAid family planning guidelines should be abolished.

No serious reproductive health policy that aims to save lives can exclude access to comprehensive reproductive health. To meet our international obligations and to remove the hypocrisy of accessing for ourselves what we deny others in developing countries, we should follow every other respected donor and use ICPD principles and practices to guide our aid program family planning assistance. If we are to assist our nearest neighbours we need to be clear that there are no Australian barriers towards helping them implement their own policies. The dearth of family planning activities in the Australian NGO Cooperation Programs suggests that the guidelines have discouraged applications for them by Australian aid NGOs despite the GoTL’s clear policy objectives in this field.

What we learned

Compelling need
There are strong reasons why Australia should assist the GoTL to reduce the unacceptably high death rates of women and children. Much of the data in this report is extracted from the GoTL’s National RH Strategy 2004.

Timor-Leste has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the region with estimated rates of up to 860 mothers dying every 100,000 live births of problems related to pregnancy, delivery or early post-delivery. One of the reasons is the low utilization of skilled assistance for antenatal care, delivery, and postpartum care services however more recent research suggests that more than 60% of delivery complications are not being detected prior to birthing with shock and excessive bleeding being unpredictable and requiring well organized referral systems to higher level emergency care facilities.
The impact of poor sexual and reproductive health is greatest in rural areas where 92% of the population lives and where low levels of education and extreme poverty are significant barriers to improving health. In 1999 the destruction or damage of 85% of health facilities and the exodus of health staff caused a near collapse of health services.

**Infant death**

Eight to nine out of every 100 children born will die before reaching their first birthday. Another 3 to 4 die before reaching age 5. Risk of dying is markedly higher in rural than in urban areas and particularly in highland regions of the country. Studies indicate that the causes are similar to those experienced in similar developing countries – newborn babies die or are damaged because of birth asphyxia, trauma or infections.

**Fertility**

At current age patterns of fertility each woman in Timor-Leste will give birth to 7.7 children during her lifetime – one of the five highest fertility rates in the world. This level of fertility is consistent with extremely short birth intervals of well under 3 years over much of this age range and this clearly poses a significant problem for the health not only of mothers, but also of their children. Children born after a short birth interval are at greater risk of illness and death than children born after a long interval.

Duration of breastfeeding for older children may be shortened due to the need to breastfeed the younger child. The immediate impact of such high reproduction rates is on the mother; higher risk of pregnancy complications plus the inability to develop and control their own lives as individuals, mothers and partners.

There are the primary danger signals as well for children in such a high fertility regime which suggest that programs to provide appropriate means and education for potential mothers regarding the benefits of sound reproductive practices could have a marked impact both on the health of the woman and on that of her children.

At current fertility levels, the population of TL will double within 18 years putting extraordinary pressure on already inadequate food supplies, housing, education and health services. There seems little doubt that high levels of unemployment have already caused serious social unrest and no feasible strategy could be put place to employ so many more people within this short timeframe. Youth unemployment rose from 40% to 58% after the 2006 crisis. According to the GoTL, percapita income last year in the (non-oil) economy was 20% lower than in 2002 implying that poverty is worsening and rapid population growth is a cause.

**Contraception**

The MoH estimates contraceptive prevalence to be just 13%. Over 60 percent of women and 70 percent of men surveyed failed to recognize any method of common contraception methods. Along with a general lack of knowledge of methods of birth spacing and birth limiting, 75 percent of women, when asked, had no knowledge of where to obtain a method (TL-DHS, 2003).

The levels of knowledge of the small group who did recognize at least one method varied by age group of women, but even among those in the prime reproductive ages (20-34), less than 9% are protected. Two methods, injections and contraceptive pills cover the majority of use and use is highest among women 25-44 years of age. Men knew even less about contraception than women. Planning family sizes was noted as almost absent from inner-family discussion.
The TL-DHS, 2003 showed that only three-quarters of the current demand for family planning is being met in Timor-Leste. The many women in the older age groups with already large sized families requesting information regarding possibilities for contraception services suggested that there is a need for increased provision of family planning services, particularly in the urban regions.

**Adolescent sexual and reproductive health**

Following the national surveys in 2002 and 2003, evidence indicates that issues of sexuality and reproductive health in general are not currently a common consideration. There is no sex education in schools. This is despite concerns over suggested trends of younger marriages, premature marriages due to teenage pregnancies and teenage women seeking termination of pregnancy.

The population of late adolescent and young adults will increase by 50% over the next 5 years. Social pressures will increase as the exposure to international influences raises awareness, concerns and expectations for individuals and relationships between couples. The growing threat of sexually transmitted infections (STI) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) must be understood with healthy lifestyle decisions being made. Awareness of their sexuality, and their rights, along with the challenge of entering into relationships should they choose, will require sensitive public health responses to enable these young adults to enter society as maturing adults in a responsible manner.

**Sexually transmitted infection (STIs) and HIV/AIDS**

Knowledge about STIs generally is very limited and only 16% of women aged 15-49 in Timor-Leste have heard of HIV/AIDS and only a fraction of these can correctly identify all three major ways of preventing transmission. In fact, even among those who have heard of HIV/AIDS, only about 1% has “sufficient knowledge” defined by being able to correctly identify ways of preventing transmission and misconceptions about the disease. Most presentations to the Marie Stopes International clinic are for STIs.

There is a massive demand for condoms by the huge numbers of UN and other armed forces stationed in TL and education programs around STI’s and HIV/AIDS prevention with these groups have started prompted by a recent survey of 982 police and army recruits that found a 0.64% prevalence of HIV.

**Sex trafficking and sex work**

Both are very active at least in Dili. The Alola Foundation (a national NGO established and supported by Kirsty Sword Gusmao) conducts a small pilot projects to raise awareness about sex trafficking and sexual violence against women and children. There is much scope for this work to increase with further NGO support. Sex trafficking has grown as a problem in Dili due to the use of the US dollar as currency, TL’s position as a gateway to other Asian countries, its limited laws and the fact that it is not yet a signatory to international agreements on trafficking.

Only 1% of sex worker’s clients said they used condoms in commercial sex, and not a single sex worker reported always using condoms with clients. Indeed, fully 40% of sex workers did not even recognize a condom when shown one. Overwhelmingly the most common reason for not using condoms was that condoms are simply not easily available.

Anecdotally HIV is starting to rise in TL due in part to the low level of condom use, epidemic STI rates and increased migration to TL by UN and other personnel.

**Unsafe birth practices**
It is common for many women to severely restrict food intake in the last three weeks of pregnancy perhaps in order to assist in having an easier birth with a low birth weight infant. The mothers themselves are likely to suffer from malnutrition as their diet is low in protein and fat in any event.

Outside major centres like Dili, almost all women give birth at home without trained attendants. Cultural imperatives such as no light or ventilation and a wood fire under the birthing mother’s bed to drive out evil spirits contribute to respiratory problems for both mother and child especially in a protracted labour. Once born, the infant stays with the mother in the smoke and heat filled room for days. Many families are reluctant to use hospital style facilities and a very small number of birthing centres have been set up that are dark, more private and allow family involvement and these are proving successful.

**Newborn care**
There is a huge need for information and training in newborn care for the general public and amongst health professionals. The early signs of illness are not detected because checkups are typically not done until babies are 6 months old and, as a result, 40% of deaths in under 1 year olds occur in the first 28 days.

Exclusive breastfeeding rates are increasing but still low at around 34%. Cultural beliefs contribute to most mothers feeding babies tea and a syrup of sugar and water for the first three days after birth in the mistaken belief that early breast milk (colostrum) is dirty milk that can cause jaundice and the baby must wait until the white breast milk is available. The baby then misses out on the most nutritious and immune protecting parts of breast feeding in the early days.

Although most babies are breastfed mothers are often nutritionally compromised and feeding generally stops as soon as the mother becomes pregnant again which may be soon after the preceding birth. The Alola Foundation’s *Strong Women – Strong Nation* initiative supports breastfeeding and child nutrition but struggles to meet demand.

Rates of malnutrition amongst children are around 60%, there is limited knowledge of their nutritional needs and many children are fed little more than rice for the first three years. Complex traditional food distribution rules may also contribute to limited food availability for children.

**Men’s role**
Most men want large families and are neither culturally nor socially educated about contraception. Few know what condoms are or that they can be used to protect against sexually transmitted infections. There is no demand for vasectomies. The TL RH Strategy recognises men as a key target group in any reproductive health, family planning or anti-violence education campaigns and interventions. Without men’s active participation, the quality of life for all TL citizens is compromised.

**Gender Violence**
Anecdotally the incidence of gender violence is very high in TL with both sexual and physical abuse against women and children being almost commonplace. As in many developing countries when the usual constraints of law and order are removed in conflict or people are isolated, the incidence of violence against the weakest members of society significantly increases. Violence against women is heavily associated with poor reproductive health and this will not be addressed unless initiatives to tackle
violence engage men, women, youth and children. It is particularly important for men to participate in and be educated by such programs.

**Health workforce**

There is a **critical lack of health professionals** – just 20 TL doctors, 225 midwives and 1000 nurses. Around 300 Cuban doctors have been placed in TL and several hundred TL people are being trained as doctors in Cuba, the first of whom are expected back in 2010 and will be deployed in regional districts. Most health workers are male and whilst there is an acceptance of this in the community it is unclear what impact this has on women’s willingness to access RH services.

Fifteen midwives were trained in family planning in 2005 and 2006 and TL, assisted by Indonesia and the Philippines, is establishing a midwifery school but it will be some years before locally trained people will graduate. There are strict role delineations between health professionals, some of which limit access to services. For example, IUDs and contraceptive implants can only be provided by midwives, not nurses but the lack of midwives and training and competency checks for them means access to these two popular forms of contraception is limited. Training is needed for doctors in tubal ligation techniques and for staff in ordering and managing medicines.

**Demand for services**

According the NGOs we spoke with there is significant demand for family planning from women who have already had a number of children. Like many women they wanted methods that were discrete. At one clinic education session we attended near a village outside Dili, the women had travelled long distances with their children to hear about family planning.

**The role of the Church**

The Catholic Church apparently acknowledges and supports the concept of better ‘child spacing’. It maintains its opposition to condoms but does not appear to oppose discrete forms of contraception such as Depo provera (injectable), the Pill and IUD. Despite this and the very clear position of the MoH to provide universal access to family planning, nurses and midwives are often reluctant to tell people about contraception and impose their own judgements and values on people.

**Youth**

48% of the population is >17 and the current generation of young people will soon be parents. Education programs around nutrition, contraception, protection against disease, pre natal care and birthing practices must start with young people. It is essential that programs start now in educating about harmful practices that contribute the high death rates and poor quality of life of the women and children.

**National Reproductive Health Strategy, Sept 2004**

The GoTL established clear objectives and ambitious targets for reproductive health:

**Objectives**

1. To substantially increase the level of knowledge in the general population on issues related to sexuality and reproductive health.

2. To promote family planning to stabilize population growth rate and reduce the incidence of unintended, unwanted and mistimed pregnancies.
3. To ensure that all women and men have access to basic reproductive health care services, health promotion and information on issues related to reproduction.

4. To reduce the level of maternal mortality and morbidity.

5. To reduce the level of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.

6. To reduce the burden of STIs/HIV.

7. To meet changing reproductive health need over life cycle and to improve the health status of reproductive age people.

**Targets to be achieved by the end of 2015**

1. Reduce the maternal mortality ratio by 40% from 2004 levels.

2. Reduce the perinatal and neonatal mortality ratio by 40% from 2004 levels.

3. Increase the contraceptive prevalence rate of married and unmarried couples to 40%.

4. Reduce the percentage of all births that occur to adolescents by 30%.

5. Increase the coverage of antenatal and postnatal care to 80%, the rate of deliveries assisted by skilled attendants to 50% from 2004.

6. Reduce the level of STI by 40% from 2004 levels.

7. Reduce the incidence of STI/HIV among young people by 30%.

The MoH is concentrating its efforts on what is known as the Basic Services Package providing 442 village centres with a basic health team made up of 1 doctor, 1 midwife and 2 nurses servicing two centres. The aim is to provide basic and emergency obstetric care in community health centres across the country.

**Information gathering**

The group met with a number of NGOs currently providing services in sexual and reproductive health to women in TL. They also met with AusAID, UNFPA, WHO and an Australian aid NGO, Australian Aid International providing health services in remote communities. The group toured the Marie Stopes International Australia (MSAI) SRH clinic which provides services in Dili and observed in an outreach education session at a countryside location where women may have walked up to 2 hours to attend. We also accompanied a medical team visit to a health clinic on the island of Atauro which was well attended by young mothers and infants.
Australian aid to TL

The majority of AusAID’s $93 million aid budget for TL in 2008/9 is for democracy, security, justice and economic management and development. Its only health-related spending is:

- $5 million a year to support the MoH strategic health planning and rural health teams, focusing on nutrition and post and ante-natal care (recently announced).
- $800,000 for a Health Care Seeking Behaviour Study being conducted by the Aola Foundation and the University of NSW
- $2 million a year for specialist medical training and visits in rural areas.

AusAID in Canberra, through its Australian NGO Cooperation Program, contributed matched funding of $145,000 to Marie Stopes International TL for contraceptive promotion and social marketing.¹ This is understood to be the only funding by Australia for such services in TL.

Senator Trish Crossin and Lyn Allison
August 2008

¹Using other donor funding, MSI-TL offers counseling, contraceptives, pregnancy testing, testing and treatment for STIs, ante and post-natal care, breast and testicular examination, circumcision, pap smears, tubal ligation and treatment for incomplete abortion and miscarriage.
SENATOR GARY HUMPHRIES

Canada
28 July – 9 August 2008
Senator the Hon. John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 61  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Ref: LD – STUDY 08

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the attached report on my study trip to Canada on 28 July – 7 August 2008.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Humphries  
Senator for the ACT

April 2009

Experience that counts for Canberra
Confirmation of Trip Purpose

The focus of this study trip was practices, procedures and research taking place in the area of mental health in Canada. This research was valuable to me as a participant in three significant Senate committee reports into mental health between 2005 and 2008.

The trip included visits to facilities and institutions in Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver. My wife and I (my wife took notes and assisted with preparation for these meetings) visited both researchers and academics dealing with these issues and went to community organisations with practical experience of dealing with mental health and wellbeing issues in the community in Canada.

Overall, the performance of the mental health system in Canada compares favourably with that in Australia. In other words, although there are areas where performance and outcomes are better than in Australia, overall the two countries have comparable outcomes across the sector. There is a measure of innovation at work in parts of Canada but, like Australia, this tends to be somewhat isolated and the system finds it difficult to translate successful experiments into system-wide reform.

A significant factor retarding the development of best practice in Canada is its federal system. Canada is a confederation, with the “centrifugal” forces in the constitutional system driving the performance of the provinces, if anything, further away from national best practice rather than closer to it. Cooperation and knowledge sharing in Australia appears therefore to be in a somewhat better place than is true in Canada.

What follows is an account of the most important information arising from a series of meetings in these Canadian cities. We took the opportunity of visiting some other facilities while there, to improve my knowledge of relevant institutions with lessons for the Australian experience, for example, my visit to the Senate Ethics Commissioner in Ottawa.
PROGRAM

**Wednesday 30th July - Ottawa**

**am**  
Tour of Canadian Parliament – Wellington Street

**pm**  
Meeting with Mr Eric Costen, Director of the Mental Health and Addictions Program, Health Canada’s First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

[Mr Costen is responsible for both national and community-based programming for Mental health and addiction services. The Division is working to develop a more coordinated continuum of mental health and addictions services for First Nations and Inuit to improve overall community wellness.]

Meeting with Ms Danielle Shaw, Chief of Staff to the Minister for Health

**Thursday 31st July – Ottawa**

**am**  
Meeting with Jean Fournier – Senate Ethics Office

Meeting with Dr Taylor Alexander, CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)

Lunch meeting with CMHA Ottawa Office

**pm**  
Meeting with Mr Morris Rosenberg, Deputy Minister for Health and Director of Mental Health Commission, and Mr Rodney Ghali, A/Director, Policy Priorities and Analysis Division, Health Canada – organised by DFAT

Meeting with Dr Howard Chodos, Director of the National Mental Health Strategy, Mental Health Commission of Canada – organised by DFAT

[Mr Chodos served as Director of Research and principal writer for the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology during the production of its final report on mental health, mental illness and addictions Out of Shadows at Last which was released in May of this year.]
**Friday 1st August - Montreal**

**pm**  
Meeting with Renée Ouimet, Canadian Mental Health Association (Québec)

Meeting with Liberal Senator Lucic Pepin, Vice Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology

**Monday 4th August – Montreal**

**pm**  
Meeting with Jacques Hendlisz (Director), Dr Suzanne King and Joan Simand, Douglas Mental Health Institute

**Wednesday 6th August – Vancouver**

**am**  
Visit to Centre for Dialogue (Simon Fraser University)

**pm**  
Meeting with Garth Smith, Public Prosecution Service

**pm**  
Meeting with Andy Libbiter (Director, Mental Health & Addictions), Judith Macrae (Connolly/Cottonwood Lodges), Fraser Health
Key Findings/Outcomes

Jean Fournier (Senate Ethics Officer) - Ottawa

General Comments
- Approximately 30% of Senators have extensive business interests (note that senators cannot
  be ministers, are appointed for life and thus frequently have professional/business interests
  outside their role as senator). Spousal declarations not required, except if involved with
  government contracts. Hence the need for extensive disclosure and monitoring mechanisms
- Committee Secretariat employs two fulltime staff + lawyer + 1 personal assistant + the Ethics
  Officer (part-time)
- House of Commons – members have less business involvement, however, there are spousal
  and child declarations of interest
- High security access for documents (we noted the CCTV in the area) – there are 2 sets of
  disclosure documents, one accessible by the public and one more detailed set which is
  confidential

Role of the Commissioner(or “Officer”)
- The Clerk of the Senate performed the role of the Commissioner before the Ethics office was
  set up
- 15 Ethics Commissioners across Canada – different laws across Provinces and depending on
  whether they apply to ministers
- Annual face-to-face meetings with each Senator at least once per year at a minimum.
  Meetings held more frequently for others with higher level “business” activities
- These meetings are mandatory in most laws/codes across Canada
- EO gave 50 Advices last year
- The Commissioner can provide an opinion (in-confidence) on conflicts, and can make the
  opinion public. The opinion is binding as long as facts are all known
- If there is disagreement about the opinion, it goes to the Senate committee overseeing the
  Commissioner’s role
- Independence of Commissioner is key to this successful system
- There can be tension between the Committee and the Commissioner’s office; the
  Commissioner must be able to have the trust of the Senators (a key issue), whilst managing
  the responsibility of the role of the Commissioner.

Selection of the Commissioner
- The Selection process is robust and is crucial to the standing of a Commissioner. The position
  is publicly advertised and the Senate Committee interviews candidates

The Code of Ethics/Conduct
- The Code is about 30 pages and is in both English and French – compared to the US Code
  which is 1½ inches thick and growing [copy available]
- Code of conduct for Senators permits outside business activities – since Canadian senators are
  effectively part time this frequently occurs
- Ministerial Code of Conduct is more restrictive
- Commissioner thought it is important to keep the document short, but not lacking in
  substance
- The Code is a Senate document
Dr Taylor Alexander (Canadian Mental Health Association) - Ottawa

- The Association started in 1918 after WWI and is involved in all aspects of mental health advocacy and service provision
- Every province treats health care differently and therefore systems differ markedly between provinces
- The Federal Government operates as a ‘bank’ for funding
- The link between hospitals and the community is a key feature of mental health service provision – it is crucial that the right services are provided in the right place at the right time
- Ontario is behind the other provinces when it comes to mental health care
- Funding for private and public need is considered important e.g. supported housing within regular housing infrastructure. Canada seems well ahead of Australia on this score
- CMHA has a national office + 12 Provincial & Territorial offices +135 branches. The branches are autonomous bodies geared to local conditions and provide a full gamut of services across Canada:
  - Quebec provides community education and prevention services
  - Ottawa is more service-oriented
  - the National Office provides policy guidance and plays an advocacy role
  - Mental Health Association provides counselling, community education, access to self help community ‘clubs’, group housing
  - Hospitals – outpatient clinics, health clinics and community mental health + narrower focused groups
- The war in Afghanistan has produced operational stress injuries among veterans, but participants are more open about their problems
- The Federal Government is responsible for veterans with the provision of community-based services. The military also has family mental health support on its bases
- Dr Alexander admitted the attitude toward / treatment of Aboriginal mental health is abysmal in Canada!
- Post-natal depression is also a big issue, particularly with the issue being raised by Margaret Trudeau and others in the public eye

Mental Health Commission

- Mental Health Commission is at arm’s length and will spend 10 years setting itself up as a charitable organisation. It receives core funding from the Federal Government. It also seeks corporate funding and hasn’t yet approached the provinces for funds. It takes a collaborative approach to its work
- The Association has a close relationship with the Commission
- The Commission concentrates its efforts on stigma, knowledge exchange and mental health promotion
- Michael Pietrus at the Mental Health Commission in Calgary is the Director of the Anti-stigmatism Campaign and Director, Knowledge Exchange (mipietrus@commissionsantementale.ca +1 403 620 6154)
- In relation to anti-stigmatism, the Commission is targeting children & health professionals (the unsympathetic attitude of public health professionals has been a big problem!). It is also getting involved with medical schools in Ottawa

Funding issues

- There is some funding for clinical psychologists in government clinics, but government funding for private practice varies
- Private health funding has been extended in recent years to cover psychologists and social workers
• The National Council sources funding from Government, but this differs in the provinces.
• Some psychiatrists have a sliding fee scale to assist patients. The Government safety net more comprehensive in Canada than in the USA however

Treatment issues
• Most people do not get ongoing treatment due to the lack of trained public health professionals
• Mental Healthworks – a program for senior managers provides a series of modules for staff and covers a whole range of issues.
• Jail is often seen as a “treatment of choice”
• Roots to Work is at 7 sites and is funded by the Federal Government. It runs through to employment and support afterwards
Gave us a backgrounder to the establishment of the Mental Health Commission. In response to the neglect of mental health services, the Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, Out of the Shadows at Last: Transforming Mental Health, Mental Illness and Addiction Services in Canada was produced in May 2006. Led by then Senator Mike Kirby (praised as a ‘policy entrepreneur’), its outcomes have been very successful – he has built a constituency and consensus for action with Provincial and Territory Health Ministers.

- Senator Kirby resigned to become the first Commissioner of the new Mental Health Commission
- This has led to the establishment of a not-for-profit company with a Board of Directors (Provincial Governments from the East, Central and West) + Morris Rosenberg + advisory committees – funded by ‘end of year’ surplus money.
- ‘Buy in’ by Provincial Governments and other interested parties
- The Globe and Mail ran an influential series of articles on mental health
- The Commission’s most important role is to identify gaps, prioritise issues and facilitate knowledge exchange i.e. to be a knowledge broker. NOT at this stage a service provider or an inspectorate of mental health services (a la New Zealand)
- It is intended that the Commission will wind up in 10 years– and most likely become a charitable foundation if it can continue to keep mental health on the public agenda + supplement its funding on mental health research.
- It is NOT considered a core federal government responsibility
- Correctional (jail) situation – is this considered a priority? If a prisoner qualifies under insanity pleading, he/she is entitled to top-line special treatment. Other prisoners fall into the ‘normal’ mental health system, which also directly suffers from cutbacks in mental health in the community in general. Morris has asked the Commissioner to look at corrections issues. It is hard for Government to find funding. He hopes that the Commissioner will be able to deal with these issues and raise community/government consciousness.
- Commission producing a Mental Health Strategy – Kirby is bringing Provincial Governments gradually on board (they do not want Commission involvement in services)
- The Strategy will need to benchmark service levels, and will be collaborative
- Quebec is off-side – it does not want to be told what to do and is not a member of the Commission. It has more of a bilateral relationship (similar to situation on lots of other issues). However, Quebec is an innovative leader in social policy (a result of “going it alone” all the time?).
Dr Howard Chodos, Mental Health Commission of Canada - Ottawa

- The Commission works at arm’s length from Government – this independence means it can better work with the Provinces
- It also cannot monitor or report on any government services
- Some Provinces do not have much infrastructure
- 12 months on and the Commission is slowly building infrastructure, including 8 advisory committees, as well as building relationship around knowledge exchange, academia, research, etc
- Several research centres – issues to cover:
  - Homeless people
  - Substance abuse (Vancouver)
  - Urban aboriginals (Winnipeg)
  - Multicultural issues (Toronto, Montreal)
- Provinces have no reporting mechanism
- Anti-stigma campaign: concentrating on ‘social marketing’ utilising all possibilities ($C50m) + other campaign initiatives in train including collaborative efforts with the Canadian Psychiatric Association, which has started work with its members
- Knowledge sharing e.g. web-based portal approach
- Supportive of the following work:
  - In the workplace (done by the Canadian Mental Health Association) on mental health issues
  - Mental health research at the Douglas Institute (McGill University) and several others in association with research universities
- It is trying to stimulate discussion on long-term goals and associated strategy – including concrete planning in specific sections, leading to some public discussion – within next 6 months or so
- Consideration of the link between mental illness and homelessness – need to have Provinces on board to fund – progress is encouraging to date (using demonstration projects to lever funds)
- High priority for Commission funding for long-term needs and associated services – need to learn specifics – will differ between each place depending on the population – this is a very complex issue and designing projects will be difficult
**Renée Quilmet, Canadian Mental Health Association (Québec) - Montreal**

- 10 branches in Québec with an emphasis on wellness promotion and prevention as there are not many funds
- Each branch operates differently e.g. one helps particularly with prisoner rehabilitation
- The Provincial Government provides base funding and the branches work as cooperatively as possible
- Biggest project and best achievement is Mental Health Week – promoted in the workplace and at schools, with enthusiastic teacher involvement (NOTE the wonderful posters – available to inspect)
- The Montreal Branch concentrates on self-esteem and stress reduction, also in association with schools e.g. 150,000 placemats circulated this year. The Montreal Branch is also involved with people with low literacy rates and people with cancer.
- Renée plays a coordination role, but branches still maintain their independence
- Quebec City is carrying out research on mental health at work
- Self-esteem is the next big issue for the Provincial Branch Link (including its link with obesity and subsequent effect on mental health)

**Issues of Concern**

- Autism – the Government pays nothing
- Other types of mental health – more research and more funds needed
- Accessibility to services and less discrimination
- Must advertise to decrease stigma – many people ignorant of mental health issues – need to start with young people
- Need more specialists
- Need more on-the-job training
- People not sensitised to portrayal of mental health in the media
Jacques Hendlitz (Director), Dr Suzanne King and Joan Simand, Douglas Mental Health Institute - Montreal

Douglas Mental Health Institute (formerly the Verdun Protestant Hospital)
- It was a hospital from 1881, until a major event in 1953 when a scientist (Hans Lehman), tested the effect of the antipsychotic drug, chlorpromazine, on himself and other trial patients leading to the successful management of many mental health disorders:
  - 1960s – 1800 patients de-institutionalised
  - 1970s – the State started to pay for health via Medicare
  - 1980s – formalised research – the Quebec Government financed a large number of research projects & some infrastructure (note that researchers cannot be paid from grants and must be paid separately)
  - 1990 – 900 inpatients remain
  - 1994 – 600 inpatients remain
  - 2008 – 230 beds with 9000 outpatients
- Mental illness affects many areas and is very expensive to treat:
  - sexuality
  - housing
  - work
  - family/friends
- FRSQ (Le Fonds de la Recherche en Santé du Québec, a research funding mechanism) funding – over 10 years (6 years to prove theory), 75% research, 25% teaching
- There is also an affiliation with neurology and neuroscience
- The bulk of research is done at the hospital, not at the McGill University – to allow a better knowledge transfer and best practice
- It employs very dedicated people (on much lower pay than being a physician!)

General Comments
- The Federal Government cannot give funds to direct projects or to health projects – funding is up to Provinces
- Mental Health Commission still will not be able to direct funding
- The Douglas Institute is inputting into the anti-stigma work particularly in relation to health professionals (this is a medium term issue to be resolved)
- Mental Health Commission also working in the area of housing
- Dr King is carrying out research on the stress effects of the January 1998 ice storm – >100 mothers and children (in utero at the time). There are 10-15% pts difference between high and medium stress levels for 5 ½ - 8 ½ year olds (significant effects on internalising problems), compared to the normal population. Hydro (electricity company) has not contributed to the research. She will also be researching the effects of this year’s Iowa floods.
- Other researchers are doing work in Holland on the Nazi invasion, particularly in relation to schizophrenia (where women were in their 2nd trimester) and in Finland, effects arising from the death of a parent (from retrospective and prospective viewpoints)
- It also must be noted that men and women react differently to the same circumstances

The system today
- De-institutionalisation was a disaster (as in Australia, the criteria for this were based on dollars, not need). However, it freed more funds to set-up out patient / rehabilitation clinics and put “ACT Teams” (modelled on the US system) into the community.
• ACT teams have been very beneficial and are interdisciplinary teams composed on nurses, doctors, social workers. They visit a patient at least once a day and, although labour-intensive, are cheaper to run than having a patient in hospital. They work with a specialist employment team.

• There is a way around the government pension system (Emplois Québec) to allow patients to work and still get enough money to pay for their medications

• Because psychiatry is part of the hospital system, government cuts have affected services. Only 3-4% of health spending is on mental health (compared to 10% in the UK). Only 100 outpatients at Douglas have an ACT team

• Douglas now only admits very ill patients, still preferring to treat people out of hospital as you cannot substitute a hospital for a community environment to aid rehabilitation. The Douglas remains the centre of knowledge for very ill people

• Treatment often will start at the 1st episode. Most schizophrenic and bipolar treatment will not involve hospital admittance, but very structured treatment

• Health services in Quebec are structured on population health lines and a hierarchy based on the fact that 80% of needs are very common across the community. Health and Social Services Centres (CSSs) – 95 across Quebec with 12 in Montreal – involve general and specialised hospitals, long term nursing homes, local community health centres. There are also specialised institutions and specialist medical institutions based at universities

• 1.7m people (20%) access mental health facilities in Canada. 1st line treatment is via a GP or psychiatrist. 2nd line treatment may involve a team. 3rd line treatment is required for a resistant mental illness

• Treatment is based on a ‘catchment area’. McGill (Douglas) also works with the Inuit and Cree in NW Quebec, as well as mainly English speaking patients. It cannot refuse a patient, but cannot see patients outside of Quebec

• The Research Institute also has a memorandum of understanding with the Foley Institute at Washington State University

• Douglas expects to be involved in due course with the Mental Health Commission, particularly with knowledge transfer

• How they handle the media is important and the Communications Department (Stephanie) is involved with de-stigmatisation work:
  - it shows films and holds discussions with researchers and the public
  - ‘mini-psych’ lectures (6 in a series, 1-1½ hours each) for the public via podcasts and on YouTube – these have been particularly popular
  - update talks with affected families on latest research
  - open house at the Institute, including cricket matches, rugby, frisbee competitions, sculpture exhibitions, etc
  - renting billboards to advise on issues such as depression or eating disorders
  - use of social systems to get messages across
  - every time there is an event, the research centre is involved – associate ‘Douglas’ as a trusted ‘brand’
  - input into columns in free Metro newspaper (very popular)
  - scientific cafés and bars – panel & moderator on mental health issues, as well as allowing questions from the floor

• Is a funded campaign necessary? Would it work? Billboards were not totally successful as this needs to be a long-term strategy to work, e.g. Scotland ran one for 8-9 years and NZ also doing something – a “local hero” is a must for this to work. Ann Crocker (Research Institute) will be trying to set up a research project to look at such a system as this is still a very new approach

• People are always looking for information and it there is a responsibility to organise information so that it is accessible for anyone
Mental Health Tribunal (started in June)

- Some opposition from community groups, but potentially productive
- Toronto – option for 'frequent flyers'. Quebec is more trying to avoid sufferers going to jail and instead opting for treatment
- Also needs to acknowledge people in jail system, many of whom have never had mental health treatment or who imitate criminal activity to be accepted and who are then mixed up in prison with drug psychosis
- There is a constant tension between justice and health
- Also note that in the UK, psychologists can now prescribe drugs, but not in central London
Centre for Dialogue (Simon Fraser University) - Vancouver

- Opened in Autumn 2000, on the understanding that it would be a profit centre for the University
- Its mandate is to provide a neutral space where different conversations can be held to solve different issues. Importance of the notion of ‘dialogue’ – respect each other’s perspectives, so respect environment
- The building, an old bank, was donated and cost $C23m to renovate
- The Federal Government donated funds (it was a legacy project from the APEC conference) and therefore has free access to the building in perpetuity (use varies from year to year, and has so far been mainly used by Foreign Affairs) + there is also a lot of paid Government business. The Federal Government has a 35% discount for other area use.
- Main uses of the centre:
  - 1st nations issues
  - international border conferences
  - Northern Pacific fishing discussions
  - internal meetings
  - Supreme Court
  - Provincial Government
- 135 days occupied in the last 12 months including weekends + the use of the other meeting/board rooms
- The centre:
  - provides very good surveillance/security – designed in collaboration with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
  - international protection standards with a safe-room
  - can enter without going outside
  - can close blinds for security reasons
- Facilities:
  - International Association of Conference Centres certified
  - video conference facilities at a very reasonable rate
  - simultaneous language translation
  - main room has 154 seats with microphones, seating area designed to allow free movement
  - press plug-in facilities
  - permanent, highly qualified staff (including IT, sales, marketing) on 24-hour call (this did cause difficulties with the union involved and needed to negotiate special hourly rates, particularly in relation to weekend work)
  - voting system available
  - flexible space in main room – “in the round”, or can move seating to allow for a stage
  - maximum flexibility for function rooms and packages
- Previous 10-year record of running specialised meetings on main campus
- Wanted to accommodate local community training, as well as non government needs
- It did not take long to make a profit, even though it does not have a reliable ‘brand’. Advertising has been mainly by word of mouth and the IACC accreditation (this is particularly attractive to USA users)
- Has an excellent manager, sales team and customer service manager who all understand the mission of the centre
- The Centre has piggy-backed onto Delta Suites (accommodation next door) advertising
- Staff travel to key event and target sales trips to clearly identified markets and trade shows
- A website is the 2nd most important marketing tool after personal contact
- Hiring costs for main conference room ($C110 pp for breakfast and lunch or $C2400 – just the room or $C3250 for room and conference facilities)
- Use of top line quality furniture and pure wool carpets has meant that everything is in beautiful condition even after 8 years of use
- Will increase fees soon
Garth Smith, Public Prosecution Service - Vancouver

- Described the role of the Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver (DTCV) in justice system of British Columbia
- 5000 drug addicts within the immediate area of the court (Downtown) – heroin, cocaine, crystal meth
- DTCV operates post-plea (offenders are often in jail until hearing and have to plead guilty, satisfy specific criteria and be placed on bail) – must be 19 years or older
- Day treatment program runs for 1 year and refers to either residential recovery or other treatment facilities
- The goal is to get people as far away from Downtown area as possible (because of the underground drug culture in the area) – help them to get back to their home Province, but if no other family, there is a strong possibility that they will gravitate back to Vancouver
- ‘West Coast’ phenomenon (same as the USA) – as there is a better climate in the west, compared to the east coast, it is easier to live on the street
- The Federal Government prosecutes drug offences. The Provincial Government is responsible for the rest of prosecutions
- DTCV (Provincial level) – concentrates on severe addicts to hard drugs – some are in a family situation. Many other courts treat lower level addicts
- The DTCV is about 6 yrs old. Housing coordination is very important as addicts are often found in single occupancy rooms or on the street. Decent housing support helps prevent dealing
- There have been some efforts to close the Downtown area, but the population only moves elsewhere. It was once the dock area with a high concentration of migrant workers and crime – history repeating itself. It is a very insular society and, once involved, residents find it very hard to leave their networks
- >500 participants to date – 20% graduated (% of these have stayed clean) – the judiciary and police appear to be satisfied with these figures. The 80% who do not graduate are sentenced in the criminal courts
- Judges try not to use custodial sentences if offenders have really tried to comply
- This Court considered to be at the Provincial level, but actually staffed by the Federal Government
- Is any attempt made to identify mental illness? Yes, a psychiatric assessment is part of the assessment, by an addictions doctor and psychologist (no psychiatrist) from the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. Referral to appropriate services within area can occur
- In relation to the public health care system – most people pay a small amount or nothing to the Provincial health system. However, there are very few private clinics
- In relation to mental health treatment, it was his opinion that British Columbia’s services are very good (limited experience, but very impressed)
- The BC Government recognises there is a need to have more mental illness treatment centres – more new beds need to be opened with units designed specifically for people with addiction/mental illness
- Are there other ways of getting off addiction? Yes, they try to encourage this
- He had never heard of anyone deliberately committing a crime to get into the DTCV (1 stop shop treatment)
- DTCV deals mostly with crimes involving possession, trafficking, thefts (minor), but not assaults and probably not burglary or hold-ups with no violence
- As DTCV provides a safe place, violent offenders are not allowed to stay
- There are 6 DTCV programs across BC – have tried to keep the program smaller to provide more assistance, resulting in a better chance of succeeding
• There are alternative programs for under 19 year olds (many are born with a drug addiction)
• There is a safe injection site near the Court + NAOMI(?) project (a heroin program in Vancouver)
• The Provincial Government and Court are setting up a community court (Judge Jan Godfrey) for offences (non-Federal indictable) in a special geographical area for quick disposition and sentencing (early Sept 2008). It is not for serious offences and will be monitored closely
Andy Libbiter (Director, Mental Health & Addictions), Judith Macrae (Connolly/Cottonwood Lodges), Fraser Health - Vancouver

Fraser Health
- Fraser Health is a regional health authority covering a large area around Vancouver. Has a mental health and addictions portfolio with 14-15 full-time facilities with 177 patient beds across 8 general hospitals
- Another 16 beds will be available very soon, but still not enough
- Acute care needs at least another 200 beds!
- 12 multi-disciplinary mental health teams (connected with hospitals with acute care beds), can also look after patients after discharge – short-term assessment / urgent response
  - 3 sub teams relating to geriatric (particularly dementia), ACT teams, Chronic (Adult Community Support services)
  - rehabilitation for employment opportunities
  - peer support
  - after hours services – to 11/12pm + Car 67 (mental health worker with police to also cover domestic violence) and which can apprehend someone needing assessment
- All acute case in ER have nurses with psychiatric training (PLN) – much appreciated. They are trying to increase hours to 24/7 – most now at 16/7. Not sure if anywhere else has PLNs in hospitals - probably not
- Trying to data-share in Fraser (not able everywhere)
- Potential patients are encouraged not to self-present at an ER – what happens? Response would vary – not all hospitals have an appropriate mental health facility
- 5-year strategy plan developed for BC, as well as a Service Plan – in the future, rehabilitation, shared care, Early Psychosis Intervention ahead, as well as integrated health care
- Province has GLE (general level of expectation) for all health areas

Connolly/Cottonwood Lodges
- 2 facilities for long-term care – doing very well
- When opened a couple of years ago most residents of the facilities were long-term and about 10 of them have since been discharged
- What makes the difference? The environment – they’ve raised the bar of expectations/culture for patients & staff – the older residents have been challenged to move forward and take responsibility. The newer residents had more trouble dealing with the environment (new building being finished)
- Noted that institutional centres such as this one were being devolved (Riverview Hospital has devolved 5000 patients into houses, including farm). Currently working on connections with Simon Fraser University – there are current collaborations in some areas – these have been encourage by the new CEO (Nigel Murray from NZ)
- Mentioned an idea from Mike Kirby – 10c per bottle of beer towards mental heath?
- Canadian health system does not seem to have Ministerial agreement on health issues, etc
- Harm reduction policy – regarded there as cutting edge

Other related work
- Richard Russen is doing research on crystal meth – aggressive outreach youth model for treatment (‘wrap around youth’) – encouraged to not give up and stick with patient no matter what happens – has led to a fall in numbers of addicts
- Other collaborative programs: shared mental health care (Nick Cates program) – an outreach program involving a psychiatrist and mental health worker, trying to do early detection of psychosis and depression (with assistance of local GPs) + follow up by phone to assist management + family practice group officers – integration into renal, diabetes, respiratory pilot programs
- 15 family practices involved in mental health projects
- MUST have dedicated funding for mental health
- Best-practice – early psychosis detection (mentioned McGorrie in Melbourne – inspirational work)
- Acute home treatment (in-patient care – not in hospital) with a team of nurses in conjunction with mental health nurses (being done possibly in Australia, Vancouver Island and UK). This is cheaper than in-patient care (65-70% of inpatient care costs) and needs more exploration – worth consideration and is popular with those families. It tries to replicate approximate duration of inpatient care

Shortage of qualified staff
- Extreme shortage of psychiatrists (most are in the public health area) and many are close to retirement. There are issues with how to recruit replacements and it is important to get involved with teaching medical students to de-stigmatisate psychiatry and make it more ‘sexy’
- The use of registered psychiatric nurses is not consistent across all Canada, however, used in BC and some other Provinces. Fraser Health employs student nurses for 300 hours in the psychiatric area (in their last semester)
- School students can also do work experience
- As a matter of expediency, currently using non-professional health care workers to fill any gaps
- Trying to standardise the PLN model – triage work (seeing/assessing) followed by referral to psychiatrist or redirecting to other services + telephone counselling and consultation
- Most psychiatric facilities are integrated in hospitals. Segregation does not necessarily work either. Crisis stabilisation and seclusion rooms would be the best way to go

Treatment
- They offer community residential short stay treatment – 3 units (sub-acute). 2-3 weeks of treatment avoiding full admission
- Housing program to try to meet needs
- Key weakness in the area of child/youth/young adult mental health (there is an artificial division between child and youth – child protection services includes mental health). Fraser Area provides a range of services for youth/young adult, but is struggling to make a seamless transition from child (Social Services responsibility) to youth
- Use of seclusion rooms (therapeutic tool only) – can only be used if Provincial Mental Health Act and Standards and Protocol are met. Is not reported. Not all seclusion rooms meet standards, however, safeguards are fairly tight
- Electric shock treatment is used, with strict guidelines and maintenance checks – not controversial these days in Canada, however USA has had problems. There is very thorough preparation and it is usually done next to an operating theatre or at a private clinic (a pilot project). Generally very successful as treatment for appropriate illness
SENATOR THE HON DAVID JOHNSTON

United States of America, United Kingdom and Singapore
30 July – 18 August 2008
26 February 2009

Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 61
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose(s):
Examine developments in solar thermal base load power and carbon capture and storage geosequestration.

(b) Itinerary:

Wednesday 30 July, 2008:
Depart Sydney for San Francisco, USA.

Thursday 31 July, 2008:
ETA San Francisco 03:30pm.

Friday 01 August, 2008:
09:00am - Stanford University Visit hosted by Professor Sally Benson, Director of Global Climate and Energy Project, California followed by lunch at Stanford University.
07:00pm - Dinner with Mr Ashok Belani, Chief Technology Officer, Schlumberger Ltd.
Saturday 02 August, 2008:
Depart San Francisco for Los Angeles - ETA Los Angeles 11:30am.

Monday 04 August, 2008:
Depart Los Angeles for Las Vegas - ETA Las Vegas 10:40am.
09:00am - WorleyParsons Solar Visit to Acciona Site, Boulder City, Nevada, USA.
Depart Las Vegas for Los Angeles - ETA Los Angeles 19:05pm.

Tuesday 05 August, 2008:

Thursday 07 August, 2008:
Depart New York for Boston USA – ETA Boston 01:50pm.

Friday 08 August, 2008:
03:00pm - Schlumberger-Doll Research Centre Visit in Cambridge, Boston, hosted by Dr Ram Shenoy.
07:00pm - Dinner hosted by Dr Shenoy.

Saturday 09 August, 2008:
Depart Boston for London, UK – ETA London 07:40pm.

Monday 11 August, 2008:
07:00pm - Dinner hosted by Dr Tony Booer, Business Development Manager, Schlumberger Carbon Services.

Tuesday 12 August, 2008:
09:00am - Schlumberger Cambridge Research Centre Visit on Site in Cambridge UK, hosted by Dr Tony Booer.

Wednesday 13 August, 2008:
02:00pm - Rance Tidal Power Plant Visit to Site in Rance-Vezins.

Thursday 14 August, 2008:
Depart Rennes for Paris, France – ETA Paris 07:40am.

Friday 15 August, 2008:
Depart Paris at 07:15pm for Perth, WA (via London and Singapore).

Monday 16 August, 2008:
ETA Perth 02:10pm.
(ii) **Key Meetings and Outcomes/Findings:**

*Stanford University Meetings:*

I spent the day at Stanford University in discussion with the following people; observing their work and facilities on campus whilst familiarising myself with the latest research being undertaken:

- **Sally M. Benson**  
  Research Professor, Energy Resources Engineering Department  
  U.S. programmes in carbon dioxide sequestration; WestCarb regional sequestration partnership; research in saline aquifer sequestration.

- **David Victor**  
  Professor, Law School & Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and The Woods Institute for the Environment  
  California climate change initiatives; regulatory issues for CCS; business models for CCS development.

- **Varun Rai**  
  Research Fellow, Program on Energy and Sustainable Development

- **Tony Kovscek**  
  GCEP Principal Investigator and Associate Professor, Energy Resources Engineering Department  
  Research in carbon dioxide sequestration.

*Outcome/Findings:*

I was afforded a tour and presentation of Stanford’s Global Climate and Energy Project (GCEP) being a long-term collaborative effort of the scientific and engineering community in universities, research institutions, and private industry with the purpose of conducting fundamental, pre-commercial research to foster the development of global energy technologies with significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

*Schlumberger Meetings:*

Schlumberger are the world’s leading oilfield services technology company and a [planned] large investor in Stanford’s GCEP. I visited research sites and held discussions with the following Schlumberger representatives, in the US and UK:

- **Mr Ashok Belani**  
  Chief Technology Officer, Schlumberger Ltd.

- **Dr Ram Shenoy**  
  Schlumberger-Doll Research Centre, Cambridge, MA, USA
- Dr Tony Booer  
  *Business Development Manager, Schlumberger Carbon Services*  
  *Schlumberger Cambridge Research Centre, Cambridge, UK*

**WorleyParsons Meetings:**

On a visit to the WorleyParsons ACCIONA Solar Power site in the US, I met Steven Clark, Location Manager, WorleyParsons Sacramento and Bob Cable, Operations Manager, Nevada Solar One site. The plant, which went online in June 2007, is the first concentrating solar power plant built in the last 17 years, and the third largest plant of its kind in the world.

**Rance Meetings:**

I met Ms Nathalie Claus of EDF’s Rance Tidal Power Plant during a visit to their site on the Rance Estuary in Brittany, France.

**Outcome/Findings:**

Commissioned in 1966, the plant’s total capacity is 240MW (equivalent to the consumption of 223,000 people) and produces 45% of the electricity for the Brittany region. This energy source is clean, renewable, and perpetual. The only plant in the world producing electricity from tidal energy on an industrial scale, it has no impact on climate because it emits no greenhouse gas (CO₂).

There are potential examples in Australia, particularly evident in the northern regions, where the possible use of tide-dominated deltas for tidal power generation, with due economic and environmental analysis and consideration, might prove a feasible opportunity.

(iii) **Conclusion:**

The study journey proved extremely valuable in furthering my research and understanding of the issues and potential solutions available in light of Australia’s current and future alternative energy source requirements, goals and initiatives in response to climate change.

The site visits and meetings I attended have further heightened my concerns about the future of our coal and gas industries, our failure to transition across to solar power and renewable energy sources, plus the importance of geosequestration and hydrostatic power to Australia’s development. Consequently, I am currently working on a larger, more comprehensive report which I intend to submit in due course.
I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Senator the Hon David Johnston
Shadow Minister for Defence
Senator for Western Australia
THE HON CHRISTOPHER ELLISON

United Kingdom and Switzerland
31 July – 9 August 2008
Senators the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas visit made from my study allowance entitlement.

Please note that I used Qantas frequent flyer points on the Perth – London and London – Perth flights to offset approximately $8,727 in costs to the Commonwealth.

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose of Trip

To study and meet with overseas officials and non-government organisations in relation to:

a) emerging issues in immigration and related transnational crime, and
b) climate change.

(b) Itinerary

**Thursday 31 July**

5:00pm    Depart Perth flight QF71.

10:15pm   Arrive Singapore.

11:05pm   Depart Singapore QF9.

**Friday 1 August**

6:30am    Arrive London.

9:30am    Teleconference with Sir John Houghton, Founder of Hadley Centre for Climate Change and former co-chair of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (1988-2002)
10:30am Meeting with World Energy Council.
    Accompanied by Australian High Commission officials.

1:00pm Meeting with Carbon Trust re: UK and EU Emissions
    Trading Scheme.
    Accompanied by Joe Mitton – Third Secretary,
    Political, Australian High Commission.

Saturday 2 August
9:30am Visit Australian War Memorial, Hyde Park

Monday 4 August
9:45am Australian High Commission briefing with
    Immigration, Australian Federal Police,
    Australian Customs Service liaison.

10:30am Meeting with Ms Frances Adamson, Acting High
    Commissioner.

11:30am Meeting with Damien Green, Shadow Minister for
    Immigration at Portcullis House
    Accompanied by Steve Davis, Minister, Immigration
    and Regional Director, UK and EU Liaison, Australian
    High Commission

1:00pm Lunch meeting with Dr Peter Neumann, International
    Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political
    Violence, Kings College.
    Accompanied by Steve Davis, Minister,
    Immigration and Regional Director, UK and EU
    Liaison and Julie Dowdle, First Secretary,
    Political.

3:00pm Meeting with Mark Kleinman, Director for Migration
    and Chief Social Research, Department for
    Communities and Local Government at DCLG office.
    Accompanied by Steve Davis, Minister, Immigration
    and Regional Director, UK and EU Liaison, Australian
    High Commission

Tuesday 5 August
8:45am UK Border Agency Briefings at the High
    Commission.
9:00am Meeting at Australian High Commission with Christophe Prince (Director of International Policy) and Tom Dodd (Director of Border Policy), UK Border Agency.

10:30am Meeting at Australian High Commission with Aleck Thomson (Director – Special Cases), UK Border Agency.

12:30pm Meeting with Bill Hughes, Director-General, Serious Organised Crime Agency (at SOCA Headquarters). Accompanied by FA Chris Lines, Counsellor, Head of AFP Liaison Australian High Commission.

2:00pm Meeting with Tony Mercer, Director – identity Management.

3:15pm Meeting with Nigel Farmer, Team Leader – Migration Policy.

Wednesday 6 August

9:20am Briefing at the Australian High Commission

10:00am Meeting with Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency, Human Trafficking Centre and UK Home Office (CEOP Headquarters). Accompanied by Steve Davis, Minister, Immigration and Regional Director, Tim Fitzgerald, Counsellor ACS and FA Chris Lines, Counsellor, Head of AFP Liaison.

12:30pm Lunch meeting with Noel Ashcroft, WA Agent-General and Bill Muirhead, SA Agent-General. Accompanied by Steve Davis, Minister, Immigration and Regional Director,

3:15pm Depart Australian High Commission

5:40pm Depart London BA736

8:20pm Arrive Geneva.

Thursday 7 August

9:30am Briefing by Australian Post

10:00am Meeting with Gilles Sommeria, Deputy Director, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
Change. Accompanied by Ms Miranda Brown, Deputy Permanent Representative at Australian Mission.

11:00am Meeting with Brunson McKinley, Director General, International Organisation for Migration. Accompanied by Ms Caroline Millar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament

11:30am Meeting with Robert Paiva, Director – External Relations and Richard Danzinger, Head – Counter Trafficking, International Organisation for Migration. Accompanied by Ms Caroline Millar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament

12:30pm Lunch meeting with Ms Caroline Millar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament and officials from the Australian Post.

1:30pm Meeting with Antonio Guterres, UNHCR High Commissioner. Accompanied by Ms Caroline Millar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament

2:00pm Meeting with Ms Erika Feller, Assistant High Commissioner (Protection) and Ms Janet Lim, Director – Asia Pacific Bureau, UNHCR.

4:30pm Depart hotel.

6:40pm Depart Geneva on BA735.

7:25pm Arrive London.

10:05pm Depart London on QF10.

Friday 8 August

5:55pm Arrive Singapore.

7:25pm Depart Singapore on QF78.
(ii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings - London

Sir John Houghton
Sir John is a leading proponent of tidal power as a major source of renewable energy. As he was unable to meet in London, the teleconference was a useful opportunity to discuss tidal power and in particular, put to him the proposal of tidal power in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Agreed on the importance of highlighting internationally the importance of tidal power as a source of renewable energy.

World Energy Council
Discussion with officials from the World Energy Council (WEC) on emerging energy sources. I put to the WEC the concept of tidal power in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. This area has been recognised by the WEC as an area of significance for tidal power. I gave a presentation to the WEC on a tidal power proposal which was received with great interest.

Carbon Trust
Meeting with officials from the Carbon Trust which dealt with how it was managing and assisting business in the transition to an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Operating since 2002, it has extensive experience in ETS and after six years is still implementing ETS policy in the United Kingdom.

Damien Green, Shadow Minister for Immigration
Discussed current immigration and border issues in the United Kingdom and Australia.

Dr Peter Neumann, International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence, Kings College
Dr Peter Neumann is a world authority on radicalisation and advises the UK Government on both deradicalisation and counter-radicalisation. This issue is one which is being addressed in the UK by law enforcement, immigration and community sectors. This has direct relevance to social cohesion programmes in Australia.

Mark Kleinman, Director for Migration and Chief Social Researcher, Department for Communities and Local Government
The Migrant Advisory Committee provides independent advice on what is needed in relation to migration and cohesion. Local authorities are the lead agencies in relation to initiatives to community cohesion. Face to face interviews are conducted to establish the level of social cohesion. By this they purport to identify from one locality to another the level of cohesion. They also deal with counter radicalisation.

UK Border Agency
Discussions with officials from the newly formed UK Border Agency centred on the handling of border control, cross-matching of data and special cases.
They have divided the Agency into International, Immigration and Border Policies. Biometrics have been introduced for visas. Out of an estimated 1.6 million people there are 1% which have been detected. This has proved beneficial. By 2011 the UK should have 90% of people covered either by passport or travel details. This is essential for the Olympics. Electronic visas with the EU are not possible due to EU laws. To counter this they have put in place forward border controls in places like Belgium and France. They can also access EURODAC, the fingerprint data base in Europe. This has led to stronger border control. It is clear Australia’s border controls are well regarded. The Border Agency also deals with special cases. This came about after the London bombings. Special cases can involve suspected terrorists and war criminals. Decisions which can be made are deportation, refusal of asylum, extension of stay and exclusion. Citizenship can now be removed more easily and this has assisted in difficult cases. In the Migration Policy area the UK has now introduced a points system like Australia.

Bill Hughes, Director-General, Serious Organised Crime Agency
Discussed Australia/United Kingdom cooperation in fighting transnational crime and terrorism. Discussed emerging trends in human trafficking and people smuggling. Reiterated Australia’s appreciation for cooperation received from UK authorities and commitment to ongoing joint efforts.

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency (CEOP)
Extensive discussions and presentation on work done by CEOP in a range of areas dealing with online child sexual exploitation to trafficking of children.

WA and SA Agents-General
Luncheon meeting with the two Agents-General covering immigration issues relevant to their respective States as well as current labour shortage demands.

(iii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings - Geneva

Gilles Sommeria, Deputy Director, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Attended with an official from the Australian post at a meeting with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to discuss its 4th Assessment Report and the role of tidal power as an alternative source of renewable energy. Discussions on how advice was gathered and provided in the Report.

Brunson McKinley, Director General, International Organisation for Migration
Australia over many years has worked closely with the International Organisation for Migration and it was an opportunity to reinforce that cooperation between the two. Attended the meeting with Ambassador Millar and matters of national interest were discussed as well as global issues touching on immigration.
Robert Paiva, Director External Relations and Richard Danzinger, Head – Counter Trafficking, International Organisation for Migration
Discussed human trafficking, people smuggling and measures to deal with this. The Bali Process, initiated by Australia and Indonesia, has been an important initiative in the region and further efforts to continue this were discussed.

Antonio Guterres, UNHCR High Commissioner
Attended on the High Commissioner of the UNHCR with Ambassador Millar. The UNHCR holds Australia in high esteem as having one of the most generous refugee programmes in the world. Emerging issues relating to refugees and displaced people were discussed.

Ms Erika Feller, Assistant High Commissioner (Protection) and Ms Janet Lim, Director – Asia Pacific Bureau, UNHCR
Detailed discussions on the region and the application of International Instruments by the UNHCR were discussed. In particular, internally displaced persons were also an emerging issue. Refugee issues in Burma, Afghanistan and North Korea were also discussed. Ambassador Millar was also in attendance.

(iv) Conclusion

Climate Change and Renewable Energy
It is surprising that in looking at renewable energy, tidal power has not been identified as capable of providing a base load for industry in those areas of the world where there are large tides, such as the Kimberley. There is certainly work being done in this area overseas however it needs greater recognition. The Emission Trading Scheme in the United Kingdom and Europe has been implemented over the last six years and is continuing. In the United Kingdom, the coverage is not as great as that planned in Australia and by comparison the 2010 deadline in Australia is over ambitious.

Immigration
Immigration in the United Kingdom is a major issue and one which will feature at the next election. The United Kingdom has adopted a points system based on the Australian system as well as consolidated border protection. The problem with migration in the United Kingdom demonstrates that migration without proper control can become an issue in the community as it is now in the United Kingdom. Although the United Kingdom is taking positive steps to strengthen border protection, it is something which is widely felt to be too late. The United Kingdom has serious challenges in relation to radicalisation occurring in discrete communities. It has in place a number of strategies which with the United Kingdom experience could provide useful lessons for Australia.

Yours sincerely,

CHRIS ELLISON
Senator for Western Australia

- 5 SEP 2008
THE HON DICK ADAMS MP

Norfolk Island
2 – 9 August 2008
25 August, 2008

Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 61
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

(a) **Confirmation of Purpose(s):**

To visit Norfolk Island and follow up on some of the issues raised from the delegation to Canberra by Norfolk Island residents as part of the inquiry into Norfolk Island Governance. I am a member of the National Capital and External Territories House Committee and Norfolk Island governance has been under review.

(b) **Itinerary:** As attached.

(ii) **Key meetings and outcomes/findings:**

I met with the Legislative Assembly as part of the visit and gained some first hand knowledge of the activities of the leaders. I also received briefings on their tourism and historic areas that have relevance to my seat of Lyons in that Port Arthur and the KAVHA sites are linked quite closely.

(iii) **Conclusion:**

Norfolk Island is Tasmania in miniature. Many of the problems they face are similar to our community of some 150 years ago. There are some claims by one group (the ex-residents of Pitcairn) that need to be addressed and also I think that Norfolk Island needs to be brought under Australian governance. I will be going through my findings in detail with the House Committee as part of the conclusion of this report.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Adams
Federal Member for Lyons
NORFOLK ISLAND ITINERARY 2-9 AUGUST 2008

Saturday 2nd August

Arrived in Norfolk Island, welcomed by Administrator and shown Mt Pitt.

Sunday 3rd August

Exploration of the island.

6.30 pm  Informal dinner with Owen and Bianca at Government House.

Monday 4th August

9.30 am – 11.00 am.  Tour of the Island and its infrastructure etc with Owen.  Picked up by OW from and dropped back at Governors Lodge.

2.00 – 3.00 pm  Mr Adams - Hospital Tour with Hospital Director.  Picked up by OW from and dropped back at Governors Lodge

Tuesday, 5th August

9.30 am  Mr Adams - courtesy call / morning tea with Norfolk Island Government Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

11.00 am  Tour of the Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area (Mr Puss Anderson).

2.00 pm  Tour of the Norfolk Island Museums by Museum Director (Mr Brian Hubber).

7.00 pm  Official Dinner at Government House. 20 guests.

Representatives from local business and community groups.

Wednesday, 6th August

Free

Thursday, 7th August

10.00 am  Morning tea with the volunteers and members of the White Oaks Day Club – a DVA/ RSL sponsored Seniors Day Club for veterans and senior residents which was an opportunity to meet locals and discuss aged and community care, hospital and health issues.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>11.30 am</td>
<td>Visit to Norfolk Island District School</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00 pm</td>
<td>Interview with George Smith AM, Norfolk Island Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.00 pm</td>
<td>Informal dinner with Norfolk Island community groups</td>
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**Friday, 8th August**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12.30 am</td>
<td><em>Informal Lunch with Owen and Bianca</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Venue- Branka House Restaurant</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.00 pm</td>
<td>Interview with Norfolk Island newspaper plus photo</td>
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**Saturday, 9th August - Depart.**
Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear John,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey to Malaysia.

(i)(a) The purpose of the study leave trip was to look at defence issues in my capacity as Shadow Minister for Defence.

(b) Actual itinerary followed is attached.

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings is attached.

(iii) Conclusion:

My visit to Malaysia proved to be highly relevant to my responsibilities as Shadow Minister for Defence.

Australia's Defence relationship with Malaysia is one of our Nation's most important.

My visit was an excellent opportunity for me to gain a good appreciation of the depth of the relationship and the challenges ahead.
I was able to have a number of high level meetings with Malaysian officials, and most importantly was able to spend a full day at the Butterworth Air Base, which gave me a good understanding of the very important role that Base plays in Australia-Malaysia Defence arrangements.

My capacity to perform my Parliamentary responsibilities as Shadow Minister for Defence has been enhanced by the opportunity to increase my knowledge and understanding of the Australia-Malaysia Defence relationship.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

Nick Minchin
**HRG Australia**  
**Parliamentary Travel Office**  
NG111, Parliament House  
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**  
Tel: 1300 769 397  
Email: M&S.au@hrgwolrdwide.com  
Web Site: www.hrgworldwide.com  
ABN: 14 074 033 828  
Licence No: 32125  
Licencen Name: M&S

Galileo Booking File: KJRMH6  
Consultant: Stefanie Newman  
Gemini Ref: KJRMH6190608  
Printed On: 01 August 2008

**ELECTRONIC TICKET NUMBER**

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</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ISSUED: 31 JUL 08</td>
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<td>FOP: CASH</td>
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PSEUDO: 3J42  
PLATING CARRIER: MH  
ISO: AU  
IATA: 02358193

**USE CR FLT OLS DATE BRDOFF TIME ST F/B FARE CPN**

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**FARE AUD 727.00 TAX 38.00 AU TAX 3.40 QK TAX 563.21 XT**

**TOTAL AUD NOADC**  
**NON ENDOSENON RERTE PENALTIE**

**ADL MH KUL MH PEN 348.03QL35AUWG MH XKUL MH ADL 34**  
**8.03QL35AUWG NUC998.06END ROE1.044421**  
**EXCHANGED FOR: 2323130689403**  
**ORIGINAL ISSUE: 2323130689403SYD30JUN0802358193**  
**RLOC 1G KJRMH6 MH J275XU**

**Itinerary for:**  
**MINCHIN/NICHOLASHON**

**Itinerary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
<th><strong>Malaysian Airline System MH138</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booking Class: Economy Class (Q)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departs</td>
<td>Adelaide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrives</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Remarks:</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, August 03, 2008</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seats booked: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7hrs 30mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seat: 019K</td>
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<td>Aircraft: Boeing 777-200</td>
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**Hotel**  
**HOTEL MAYA KUALA LUMPUR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>138, Jalan Ampang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur 50450 MY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 60 3-27118866</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 60 3-27112277</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check Out</td>
<td>Wednesday, August 06, 2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, August 03, 2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Room</td>
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**Confirmation No**
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<tr>
<td>Departs: Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>10:35</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrives: Penang</td>
<td>Non-Stop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special:</td>
<td>11:25</td>
<td>Journey Time</td>
</tr>
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<td>Remarks:</td>
<td>0hrs 50mins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seat: 006F</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aircraft: Boeing 737</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: 60 4 2222000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 60 4 2616333</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check Out: Friday, August 08, 2008</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PLEASE SETTLE ACCOUNT AT TIME OF CHECKOUT RATE INC BREAKFAST DELUXE SUITE KING BED SEA VIEW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Departs: Penang</td>
<td>18:40</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrives: Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>Non-Stop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrives Terminal M</td>
<td>19:35</td>
<td>Journey Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special:</td>
<td>0hrs 55mins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remarks:</td>
<td>Seat: 006F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aircraft: Boeing 737</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Departs: Kuala Lumpur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrives: Adelaide</td>
<td>Non-Stop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrives Terminal 1</td>
<td>06:15</td>
<td>Journey Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on 09/08/08</td>
<td>6hrs 55mins</td>
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<td>Special:</td>
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<td>Remarks:</td>
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The following membership number/s have been advised to the relevant airline/s:

- Frequent Flyer Number: DJ2114144501
- Frequent Flyer Number: QF0030687

SAFETY/SECURITY CONCERNS Whilst on OVERSEAS TRAVEL
If you have concerns for your safety or security whilst on overseas travel, you can contact the local Australian Embassy in the country you are travelling in, or ring a 24hr call centre at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
**HRG Australia**
**Parliamentary Travel Office**
**NG111, Parliament House**
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**
**Tel:** 1300 789 397
**Email:** M&PS.au@hrgworldwide.com
**Web Site:** www.hrgworldwide.com
**ABN:** 14 074 033 828
**Licence No:** 32125
**Licencee Name:** M&PS

Galileo Booking File: KJS3JA
Consultant: Stefanie Newman

**ELECTRONIC TICKET DETAILS**

**TKT:** 232 3131 610439 **NAME:** MINCHIN/KERRYMRS

**PH:** 026 260 3502

**ISSUED:** 31 JUL 08

**PUESO:** 3J42 PLATING CARRIER: MH ISO: AU IATA: 02358193

**USE CR FLT OLS DATE BDOFF TIME ST F/B FARE CPN**

| Flight | Malaysian Airline System MH138 |
|--------|---------------------------------
| **Departs** | Adelaide |
| **Arrives** | Kuala Lumpur |
| **Special** | Vegetarian Confirmed MINCHIN/KERRYMRS |

**Seats booked:** 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sunday, August 03, 2008</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>21:00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7hrs 30mins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seat:</td>
<td>019J</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aircraft:</td>
<td>Boeing 777-200</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Penang</td>
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**Seats booked:** 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Wednesday, August 06, 2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:35</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:25</td>
<td>Journey Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0hrs 50mins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seat:</td>
<td>006E</td>
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**FARE AUD 727.00 TAX 38.00 AU TAX 3.40 QK TAX 563.21 XT**

**TOTAL AUD NOADC**

**NON ENDORSENON RERTE PENALTIE**

ADL MH KUL MH PEN 348.03QL35AUWG MH XKUL MH ADL 34
8.03QL35AUWG NUC696.06END ROE1.044421
EXCHANGED FOR: 2323130698405
ORIGINAL ISSUE: 2323130698405SYD30JUN0802358193
RLOC 1G KJS3JA MH J27ZYL

**Itinerary for:**

**MINCHIN/KERRYMRS**

**Itinerary**
**Flight**  
Malaysian Airline System MH1157  
Booking Class: Economy Class (Y)  
Departs: Penang  
Arrives: Kuala Lumpur  
Arrives Terminal M  
Special: Vegetarian No Action Taken MINCHIN/KERRYMRS  
Remarks:  
Aircraft: Boeing 737  
Friday, August 08, 2008  
Seats booked: 1  
18:40 Confirmed  
19:35 Non-Stop  
0hrs 55mins  
Seat: 006E  
Aircraft: Boeing 737

**Flight**  
Malaysian Airline System MH139  
Booking Class: Economy Class (Q)  
Departs: Kuala Lumpur  
Departs Terminal M  
Arrives: Adelaide  
Arrives Terminal 1  
Special: Vegetarian Confirmed MINCHIN/KERRYMRS  
Remarks:  
Aircraft: Boeing 777-200  
Friday, August 08, 2008  
Seats booked: 1  
21:50 Confirmed  
06:15 Non-Stop  
on 09/08/08 6hrs 55mins  
Seat: 020J  
Aircraft: Boeing 777-200

**Tour**  
PseudoTour Vendor  
Depart: Canberra  
Status: Confirmed  
Sunday, March 01, 2009

The following membership number/s have been advised to the relevant airline/s:

Frequent Flyer Number: QF0980198

SAFETY/SECURITY CONCERNS WHILST ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL  
If you have concerns for your safety or security whilst on overseas travel, you can contact the local Australian Embassy in the country you are travelling in, or ring a 24hr call centre at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Canberra on +61 2 6261 1402. There is also updated information on the following website www.dfat.gov.au.

Airline Reference Airline  
J27ZYL  
Malaysian Airline System

HRG strongly recommended travelers reconfirm flight arrangements direct with airlines to avoid cancellation of some airlines reservations.

Please check your itinerary carefully to ensure all arrangements are as per your requirements. If there are any discrepancies please contact your dedicated consultant immediately.
THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP

United States of America
18 – 28 August 2008
Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 61  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

**Purpose of the journey**

To meet officials from the US Government in the areas of justice, border protection, immigration and law enforcement and gain a greater understanding of the United States' approach to unauthorised arrivals, law enforcement (particularly in relation to the illicit drugs trade) and general issues in relation to justice (eg federal policing and customs); to meet relevant Congress and Senate figures on both the Democratic and Republican side of politics to further relations with Australia’s most important ally in both Washington DC and at the Democratic Party Convention in Denver; to meet relevant public policy makers and commentators in think tanks and organisations in Washington DC and at the Democratic Party Convention in Denver in the areas of border protection, trade and foreign relations.

**Itinerary**

I visited the following destinations on the dates as follows.

18-22 August 2008 Washington DC  
22-24 August 2008 Boston  
24-28 August 2008 Denver

Please find attached a detailed itinerary for each day of my visit.

**Key meeting and outcomes/findings**

There were a number of key meetings in both Washington DC and Denver.

As Shadow Minister for Justice and Border Protection and Assisting in Immigration and Citizenship, my meetings with the staff of the House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Homeland Security were particularly useful. Further, I held meetings with officers of the Department of
Homeland Security itself. They provided an insight into the oversight roles of these committees in an area that is something new for the United States. The Department of Homeland Security came about as a result of the terrorist bombing of the World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001. It incorporates arms of the federal government that we would recognise as Customs, Immigration, quarantine, emergency response to natural disasters and other.

There is a real debate in the USA as to whether this combination is working and so meeting with representatives of the Committees of the Congress, senior officers of the Department of Homeland Security and doing a site visit to Dulles International Airport to view the process undertaken by officers of the Department in clearing passenger movements and so on were all of great interest to me.

I also used these opportunities to compare Australia’s processes (which compare very favourably) and was impressed that our United States’ counterparts not only were well acquainted with our Customs and Immigration methods but regarded them as superior in many ways and worthy of being pursued by United States’ authorities for implementation there.

The Department of Homeland Security has responsibility for interdicting the importation of illicit drugs and people trafficking. These are areas of real interest to me both in my current role and in previous roles that I have held in government. I was keen to get an impression of the source and type of drugs that are attempted to be trafficked into the United States and also their methods of protecting their land borders and sea space. Those experts who met with me provided me with valuable insights in this regard.

Having recently been in Hong Kong, I held a mutually useful meeting with officers of the US State Department who both wanted to be debriefed on my impressions of the lead up to the Legislative Council elections in Hong Kong on September 6, 2008 and also to discuss US and Australian policy as it pertains to China.

I made visits to both The Heritage Foundation and The Cato Institute. The first being in the vanguard of conservative thinking in the US and the latter being a free market think tank devoted to expanding freedom in economics and what was of interest from my point of view, expanding free trade.

I held a roundtable meeting with a dozen policy analysts and others at The Heritage Foundation at which we traversed subjects from the rise of China, Taiwan, Pakistan, the importance of the Anglophone in world affairs, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, immigration, missile defence, the Russian action in Georgia and the US election in November and its ramifications.

Naturally, as the US is in the midst of an election campaign we discussed the ramifications of the outcome of that election between Senators Obama and McCain.

At the Cato Institute, I held useful discussions there with staff who specialise in free trade. This was particularly apposite given the breakdown of the DOHA Round of trade talks recently and the stated more protectionist views of Senator Obama in relation to trade issues. If he was to pursue some of the policies that he espoused in the primaries it would not be in the best interests of Australia. We discussed those issues.

In the second week of my visit to the United States, I attended the Democratic National Convention in Denver. I joined the International Leader’s Forum, a forum sponsored by the National Democratic Institute. The NDI is a well known organisation whose charter is to promote democracy and civil
society in emerging democracies. They often partner with AusAid and the Centre for Democratic Institutions in Australia. The forum brought together over 500 delegates from 120 countries throughout the world.

Quite apart from the invaluable contacts made with leading politicians, political party organisers and figures and former heads of state, prime ministers and politicians, the forum was a highlight due to the very high quality speakers and panels brought together on each day of the Convention.

The programme covered every facet of the election, foreign policy, security policy, polling and the future. I met with Susan Rice, Senator Obama’s senior foreign policy adviser along with other members of the Obama team.

I also attended fora that included former US President, Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, Tom Brokaw, Richard Holbrooke, Nancy Pelosi, Tom Daschle, Gary Hart, Abner Mikva, Joschka Fischer, Mary Robinson, Stan Greenberg, Richard Haass, Vin Weber, Hernando de Soto, James Wolfensohn, Tim Wirth and many others.

These for a covered the following subjects:

- The Role of Primaries, Nominating Conventions and Presidential Debates
- Analysis of the 2008 Presidential Campaign – a View from the Press
- Campaign 2008 in Ads and Anecdotes
- How they would govern – a program organised by the American Enterprise Institute and the Brookings Institution
- Ensuring Democracy Delivers Real Dividends: A Perspective from former Presidents and Prime Ministers – organised by the Club de Madrid
- Strategies for Winning In November: Reading the Polls and Political Tea Leaves
- Enhancing the US Role Around the World
- Combating Global Poverty – a program organised with the 2008 Rocky Mountain Roundtable, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Josef Korbel School of International Studies
- Building a Better, Safer World: What would an Obama Presidency Do?

Each night of the Convention, delegates to the International Leader’s Forum had access to the Convention itself and I attended and watched numerous speeches. Those of particular interest were from Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator Hillary Clinton, former President Bill Clinton and Vice Presidential nominee, Senator Joe Biden.

In note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtain from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

Hon Christopher Pyne MP
Member for Sturt
Shadow Minister for Justice and Border Protection
Assisting Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Carafano</td>
<td>Deputy Director for Defense and Homeland Security</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>18/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Baker Minkl</td>
<td>Deputy Director for Defense and Homeland Security</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>18/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Lohman</td>
<td>Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>18/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Thach</td>
<td>Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>18/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridget Wilmer</td>
<td>Deputy Director for Communication and Information</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ray Whitley</td>
<td>Deputy Director for Communication and Information</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally McFarren</td>
<td>Senator Policy Advisor, European Affairs</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Heritage Foundation, Beck Doherty</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Shively</td>
<td>Assistant Director, Office of Asian and Mongolian Affairs</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan Anderson</td>
<td>Assistant Director, Office of Asian and Mongolian Affairs</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZ &amp; Pacific Islands Affairs</td>
<td>Assistant Director, Office of Asian and Mongolian Affairs</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Ailsa Woodward</td>
<td>Deputy Director for Asia and Pacific Affairs</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Kelly Ryan</td>
<td>Deputy Director for Australia and Pacific Affairs</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Institute for International Affairs</td>
<td>Associate Director and Regional Director for Asia Programs at National</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Marshes</td>
<td>Special Assistant for National Security</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Kevin Landy</td>
<td>Majority Chief Counsel, Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Suje Ramathan</td>
<td>Director of Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security</td>
<td>Sub-Committee, Director, Border, Maritime, Counter-Terrorism</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
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Meeting Details:
- **Arrival**: 6:30am (18/8)
- **Departure**: 10:20am Sydney – Los Angeles
- **City**: Los Angeles
- **Date**: 18/8/08
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<td>Attend the 2008 National Democratic Convention</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Art Jam</td>
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<td>23/8/08</td>
<td>Visit to JFK Presidential Library and Museum</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Art 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22/8/08</td>
<td>Visit to National Historic Site</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Art 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/8/08</td>
<td>Visit Dulles International Airport for briefings on Primary Inspection and Enforcement</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Art 1pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Kevin Spain, Supervisory, Dept of Homeland Security**

International Relations, Training and Operation Enforcement. Also briefing on airport intelligence and surveillance teams. Unit/Counters Terrorism Response Team, emphasizing the NCT/PORT unit/counter terrorism response team. Briefing on the USVISIT/VISA waiver program and overview of passenger analytics.

**SSA Robert Cook**

Program Analyst, KI/PK

Office of Intelligence and Operations Coordination, Chief, Assessments and Forecasts

**Carlos Cotes**

Sally James, Trade Policy Analyst

Associate Director, Center for Trade Policy Studies

Dan Ikenson - Cato Institute
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democratic National Convention, Strive for Winning in November: Reaching the Poles and the Political Tea.</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>27/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Politics &amp; Policy Forum</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>26/8/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Affairs Forum</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>25/8/08</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*(The text in the cells appears to be a schedule of events or topics, possibly related to political or diplomatic matters. The dates and locations are mentioned, but the content of the events is not clearly visible in the image.*)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28/8/08 Thursday</td>
<td>Closing IFL lunch with Governor Mark Warner of Virginia, organised by the Center for Global Engagement and &quot;The Foreign Policy Team of the Next Administration&quot; program, International Affairs Forum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/8/08 Thursday</td>
<td>Democratic National Convention, Reception at Residence of Governor John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado, meeting with CHZMIIT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/8/08 Wednesday</td>
<td>ONE campaign vote 08, Lunch at the Council on Foreign Relations with the President &amp; Director of International Government Affairs, &quot;Combating Global Poverty - Program organized with the 2008 Symposium of the International Affairs Forum.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE HON PHILIP RUDDOCK MP

United States of America
5 - 15 September 2008
Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journal:

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose
As a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence and Security, the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and the Deputy Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee, the purpose of my travel was to receive up to date briefings on the national security environment in the United States and to canvass security and human rights issues. I had the opportunity to meet with a number of academics whose areas of expertise included terrorism and international law.

(b) Itinerary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/date</th>
<th>Arrive/Depart</th>
<th>Flight</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRI 5 Sept</td>
<td>Depart Sydney</td>
<td>QF107</td>
<td>1020</td>
<td>FIRST CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrive New York</td>
<td></td>
<td>1720</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Depart New York</td>
<td>AA4616</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>ECON</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrive Boston</td>
<td></td>
<td>2100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUES 9 Sept</td>
<td>Depart Boston</td>
<td>USAir2047</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>ECON</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrive Washington</td>
<td></td>
<td>2031</td>
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<tr>
<td>THUR 11 Sept</td>
<td>Depart Washington</td>
<td>USAir2180</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>ECON</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrive New York</td>
<td></td>
<td>1818</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 13 Sept</td>
<td>Depart New York</td>
<td>QF108</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td>BUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrive Sydney</td>
<td></td>
<td>0725</td>
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(Please note an upgrade to First Class was offered by Qantas on the morning of travel – the Deputy Clerk of the House has been advised in writing).
DAILY PROGRAM

Friday 5 September 2008

1020   Depart Sydney  QF107
1720   Arrive New York  Terminal 7
        JFK Int’l Airport
2000   Depart New York  AA 4616
        Terminal 8
        JFK Int’l Airport
2125   Arrive Boston  Terminal B

Accommodation:
Hyatt Harborside
101 Harborside Drive
BOSTON
Tel: (1) 617 5681234
Checking in Friday 5 Sept
Checking out Tues 9 Sept

Saturday 6 September & Sunday 7 September – private arrangements

Monday 8 September 2008

1200-1400   Lunch with Professor Jack Landman
             Goldsmith, Professor of Law, Harvard
             Venue: Griswold Hall, 3rd floor, room 304
             Contact: Ms Liane Speroni +1 617 495 3136

1800   Dinner with Kirk Sykes, Urban
        Strategy America Fund
        60 State Street, Downtown Boston
        Contact: Sara +1 617 878 7919

Tuesday 9 September 2008

1900   Depart Boston  USAir2046
2044   Arrive Washington  Terminal C

Accommodation:
University Club Washington
1135 16th St, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202 862 8800
Fax: 202 628 1236
Rate: $325/ night + 14.5% tax
Wednesday 10 September

1000-1100 Meeting with Peter Bergen, Schwartz Senior Fellow, New America Foundation

1130-1200 Meeting with Mr David Ernick, Associate International Tax Counsel
US Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Room 3108
Washington DC 20009

1230-0200 PMR/HR Lunch with senior US officials hosted by the Ambassador and Mrs Betty Richardson
Attendees:
- The Hon John B Bellinger III, Legal Adviser to the Secretary of State
- Mr Steven G Bradbury, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice
- Mr Bruce C Swartz, Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- The Hon Stewart A Baker, Assistant Secretary for Policy Department of Homeland Security.

1415-1515 Meeting with Dr Stephen Grand, Director
US Relations with the Islamic World
The Brookings Institution
1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington DC 20036

1530-1630 Meeting with Mr J Patrick Rowan, Acting Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division and Mr Bruce Swartz, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, US Department of Justice

1730-1830 Meeting with Deputy Secretary Paul Schneider
Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Avenue Complex
Washington DC

Thursday 11 September

0900-1000 Meeting with Ms Geneive Abdo, Fellow, The Century Foundation.
10th Floor, 1333 H Street NW
Washington DC

Washington-New York
1030-1130 Meeting with Dr Steven Kull
Director, WorldPublicOpinion.org and the Program on
International Policy Attitudes (PIPA)
University of Maryland
Suite S10
1779 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington DC 20036

1300-1400 Meeting with Ms Mona Yacoubian, Senior
Adviser, Center for Conflict Analysis & Prevention,
United States Institute of Peace.

1430-1500 Meeting with Mr Edward Kleinbard
Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Room 1015
Washington DC 20515

1515 Depart University Club of
Washington for Ronald Reagan National Airport

1700 Depart Washington
USAir2180
Terminal C
Ronald Reagan a/p

1818 Arrive New York
Terminal US
La Guardia

1930 Dinner with Ambassador and Mrs Hill with Ambassadors to the United Nations
From Armenia, Lebanon, Togo, Burundi, Botswana and San Marino.
The purpose was to enhance Australia’s engagement with a range of countries,
some of which I have had extensive contact.
Robert Hill’s Residence

**Accommodation:**
Robert Hill’s residence

**Friday 12 September**

0930-1030 Meeting with Paul Cruickshank, Fellow at
NYU Centre of Law and Security
Venue: 100 West 3rd Street, Room 224/5
New York, NY 10012
Contact: Paul Cruickshank +1 212 998 6027

**Saturday 13 September**

1910 Depart New York
QF108
Terminal 7
JFK Int’l airport

0725 (15th) Arrive Sydney
Terminal 1
Sydney Int’l Airport
(ii) **Key meetings and outcomes/findings**

**Professor Jack Landman Goldsmith, Professor of Law, Harvard University**
Professor Goldsmith and I discussed the importance of the rule of law and insights into the Attorney General’s duty in the United States, given Professor Goldsmith’s role as Head of the Office of the General Counsel. Professor Goldsmith was interested in the legal framework of Australia’s counter terrorism laws and the constitutional basis for them in the comparison to the United States.

**Kirk Sykes, Managing Director, Urban Strategy America Fund**
Discussion covered investment and development strategies for middle market opportunities for culturally diverse populations.

**Peter Bergen, Schwartz Senior Fellow, New America Foundation**
As a joint author of a special report ‘Is al Qa’ida in Pieces’, a report on the jihadist revolt against Bin Laden, Mr Bergen provided a starting point for a detailed examination of the evidence for the proposition. I was briefed on leading Islamic teachers whose views had changed as a result of deaths of Muslims from terrorist actions. Discussion covered Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Pakistan situations, canvassing reasons for different results. Discussion also covered counter radicalisation programs, particularly in Indonesia.

**David Ernick, Associate International Tax Counsel, US Department of Treasury**
We discussed the roll of OECD in exchanging information on harmful tax practices including the use of tax havens. Mr Ernick also identified where bilateral agreements with particular countries have been achieved with the USA as well as Australia’s engagement in concluding treaties. Further developments are unlikely until after the US elections.

**Lunch meeting with the Hon John B Bellinger III, Legal Adviser to the Secretary of State, Mr Steven G Bradbury, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, Mr Bruce C Swartz, Deputy Assistant Attorney General and the Hon Stewart A Baker, Assistant Secretary for Policy Department of Homeland Security.**
We covered primarily United States policies for handling detainees in the war against terror, particularly those in Guantanamo Bay. Discussions included a range of options for closing Guantanamo Bay and implications in relation to detainees not subjected to Military Commission processes which could be returned to their country of origin.

**Stephen Grand, Director, The Brookings Institute**
As the Director of the Brookings Project on US relations with the Islamic world, Steven Grand canvassed the World Forum which brings together world leaders in fields of police, business, media, academia and civil society from the Muslim world and the USA. A series of papers canvassing vital issues of concern were provided.

**Patrick Rowan, Acting Assistant Attorney General and officers of the US Department of Justice**
Discussions went to developments relating to the use of security information in terrorism trials, as Australia’s legislation on ‘Protecting National Security Information’ had been used as a model for US legislation. Recent trials had raised the difficult issue of protecting security related information provided by their third parties.
Deputy Secretary Paul Schneider, Department of Homeland Security
The meeting with Paul Schneider and senior members of his organisation was on developments with ‘advance passenger processing’ and government programs to deal with interreligious dialog. Already there exists joint activities and discussions with the United Kingdom Home Secretaries Office to develop best practice initiatives. The possible inclusion of Australia in such discussions was also raised.

Dr Steven Kull, Director, WorldPublicOpinion.org and the Program on International Policy Attitudes, University of Maryland
Extensive results of opinion polling in Moslem and Middle Eastern States were provided. Dr Kull outlined difficulties polling in places like Iran, Egypt, Jordan and China particularly on attitudes in the United States. No work had been done on Australia. He advised that the USA has been seen to have betrayed the Muslim world, ideals of democracy have been lost. In his view, Australia would be seen to be complicit.

Geneive Abdo, Century Foundation
As an expert on Iran, discussions canvassed public opinion polls on views of the Iranian people. Mrs Abdo questioned their reliability, in her view support for the Iranian Government and its nuclear power aspirations remained strong. She saw any externally induced revolution as unlikely to succeed. She also commented on the disappearance of pro American elites in Middle Eastern universities as having largely disappeared.

Mona Yacoubian, Senior Adviser, Center for Conflict Analysis & Prevention, United States Institute of Peace
Ms Yacoubian explained the institute’s grants program for research in understanding the spread of Islamic fundamentalism. Agreed research demonstrates the appeal of al Qa’ida ideology has diminished but it has also evolved ala Pakistan. We discussed the situation in Algeria and Jordan where excessive terrorist acts have alienated support for extremists. Iraq was an example of nationalist goals rather than religious.

Edward Kleinbard, Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation
Mr Kleinbard’s briefing covered the work of the committee on tax compliance particularly on offshore entities, bank accounts and trusts. Proposals for enhancement of account and trust reporting were canvassed. Work of the General Accounting Office of congress and an assessment of the qualified intermediary program was outlined.

Paul Cruikshank, Fellow at NYU Centre of Law and Security
As an Academic Researcher, Mr Cruikshank briefed me on his collaborative work with Peter Bergen and other work in the University Centre on the Rule of Law and Muslim Societies.

(iii) Conclusion

As noted in paragraph (i), the relevance of the program was to advance my knowledge of material relevant to membership of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence and Security of which I am the Deputy Chairman.
I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

Philip Ruddock

24 September 2008
20 October 2008

Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 61  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2 (b) of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

CONFIRMATION OF PURPOSE

I confirm the original purpose of my journey, as set out in my letter to you advising of it. The details of the journey are set out below.

ITINERARY

**September 2008**
Melbourne (depart 7 September) to London (arrive 8 September))
London to Canterbury (8/9)
London (9 and 10 September)

London to Paris (11 September)
Paris (12 September)

Paris to Malta (13 September)
Malta (14 & 15 September)

Malta to Rome (16 September)
Rome (17 September)

Rome to Fiuggi (18 – 20 September)

Fiuggi to Rome (20 September) – Overnight in Rome to catch return flight

Rome – Melbourne (September 21 & 22) – Return flight to Australia.
KEY MEETINGS AND OUTCOMES

Canterbury
I visited the Member of Canterbury in the House of Commons, Julian Brazier TD MP. This was an opportunity to visit an English constituency, to discuss how he represented his constituents, and to discuss public policy matters generally.

London

I had a series of meetings with leading members of the Conservative Party, and visited a Thinktank, the Centre for Social Justice. These meetings involved discussion about current public policy matters. Given the political nature of the discussions, I will simply list the individuals with whom I met:

Rt Hon George Osborne MP, Shadow Chancellor;  
Damian Green MP, Shadow Immigration Minister;  
David Willetts MP, Shadow Education Minister;  
Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, Chairman, Policy Review;  
Tim Montgomery, founder of Conservative Home;  
Edward Llewellyn, Chief of Staff to the Rt Hon David Cameron MP;  
Matthew Hancock, Chief of Staff to the Shadow Chancellor;  
Sam Coates, Policy Advisor to the Rt Hon David Cameron MP; and  

Paris
I had two meetings in Paris. The discussions at both were about welfare reform. They were at:  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD]; and  
Foundation pour L’Innovation Politique

Malta
My meetings in Malta were about family and social policy. I met with:  
Tony and Lilly Gauci, former European Chair Couple of the International Families Movement; and  
Dr Alfred Galizia, President of the Order of Malta.

A meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister (and Immigration Minister) did not occur because Mr Borg had other commitments.

Rome
I met with Cardinal Antonelli, the newly appointed President of the Pontifical Council for the Family to discuss marriage, family and social policy. The discussion also included Mons. George Kaszak, from the PCF.

Fiuggi
The major purpose of my trip was to attend and participate in the European Ideas Network conference at Fiuggi. This is a major annual conference for centre-right MPs, thinktank personnel and business leaders from Europe.
I was the key-note speaker at a session on economic regulation. The paper I delivered is on my website. I also prepared a much longer background paper for delegates.

The conference was attended by many European political leaders, including Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of Italy and Francis Fillon, Prime Minister of France.

Policy discussions included:
- Employment, skills and human capital;
- Competitiveness and innovation;
- The digital economy;
- Demographic change and immigration
- Foreign policy
- Sustainable farming and food security;
- European values or universal values?;
- Terrorism and security;
- Energy and environment; and
- Reform of public services.

In addition to presenting, I attended many of these sessions at which current developments and public policy options were discussed.

CONCLUSION

The various meetings I attended were of considerable significance to my ongoing Parliamentary duties, especially as a member of the Coalition Policy Review Committee.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely,

KEVIN ANDREWS
SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS SC

United Kingdom
26 September – 11 October 2008
14 April 2009

Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State, Cabinet Secretary
and Vice-President of the Executive Council
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

(i) (a) **Confirmation of Purpose(s):**

I travelled to the United Kingdom in my capacity as Shadow Attorney-General. The principal purpose of the visit was to receive briefings on terrorist activity and anti-terrorism law enforcement from key national security agencies. The ancillary purpose of the visit was to meet, and discuss policy development in the field of antiterrorism law, with senior officials and with Opposition Shadow Ministers. As my visit coincided with the Conservative Party Annual Conference in Birmingham, I attended the Conference as an International Delegate and took the opportunity of that attendance to discuss these, and other areas of policy, with senior Conservative Shadow Ministers and policy advisers. Meetings with Shadow Ministers took place in both Birmingham and London.

The purpose of the trip was fulfilled by acquainting myself with British intelligence and practices in the field of counter-terrorism, meeting and establishing relationships with leaders in the field, and becoming familiar with the approaches to this area of policy by the UK Opposition.

(b) **Itinerary:**

The itinerary is attachment “A”. The itinerary was prepared, and a number of the meetings arranged, with the assistance of the Australian High Commission in the United Kingdom, ASIO and the Australian Federal Police.
(ii) **Key meetings:**

*Briefings by Security Agencies*
Briefing by Mr Stephen Rimmer [Director, Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism]

Briefing by Joint Anti Terrorism Assessment Committee [officers' names withheld at their request]

Briefing by MI 6 [officers' names withheld at their request]

Briefing by Assistant Commissioner Bob Quick  [Director, Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command]

Briefing by Australian Federal Police Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer [officer's name withheld at her request]

*Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation*
Interview with Lord Carlisle of Berriew QC  [Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation]

*Meetings with the Opposition*
Meeting with Rt Hon Oliver Letwin, MP, Chairman of the Conservative Research Department

Meeting with Rt Hon Liam Fox MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence

Meeting with Rt Hon Dominic Grieve, QC, MP, Shadow Home Secretary

Meeting with Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones, Shadow Security Minister and National Security Adviser to the Leader of the Opposition

Meeting with Lord Astor of Hever, Shadow Minister of State for Defence

Meetings with Mr Mark Phillips, Policy Adviser to the Opposition on National Security and Counter-Terrorism
Attendance at Conservative Party Conference, including plenary sessions and numerous fringe events concerning counter-terrorism and international and domestic security policy.

Outcomes/Findings
The outcome of the trip was to acquaint me with the latest UK approaches to counter-terrorism policy and law enforcement, including Parliamentary and other methods of oversight of the operation of counter-terrorism law. The briefings by the national security agencies made me aware of current UK intelligence concerning the international and domestic operations of various terrorist groups and sponsor organizations, which they identify as presenting a credible threat to United Kingdom citizens. These briefings were, of course, confidential. The meetings with members of the Shadow Cabinet and other senior Opposition figures responsible for policy development, made me aware of the approaches which the Opposition proposes to take to the next UK election in the areas of counter-terrorism law enforcement. I was also able to build relationships with political and other opinion leaders who are responsible for this area of policy.

(iii) Conclusions:
Particularly after the London train bombings, counter-terrorism has a greater salience on the British political agenda than is the case in Australia. The perception of an imminent threat, specifically from Islamic terrorism, is significant. On the basis of the information confided to me in the secure briefings, I appreciate how great that threat is; there is no dissonance between the public discussion of the threat, and the reality. Counter-terrorism will continue to be one of the core challenges of law enforcement for the foreseeable future.

Unlike Australia, the British public have a long familiarity with domestic political terrorism, as a result of the IRA bombing campaigns of the 1970s and 1980s. There is no complacent, “it won’t happen to us” mentality in the United Kingdom, as one sometimes encounters in Australia.

Although the British national security and policing agencies are well-experienced with counter-terrorism as a result of the IRA experience, their conceptual models have had to undergo a radical shift to come to terms with Islamic terrorism. This reflects a fundamental difference between the demands of Irish terrorists – largely bound up with political independence for Northern Ireland – and the much more encompassing, and in some ways amorphous, demands of Islamic terrorism and the *jihadi* state of mind.
The intelligence and law enforcement community are, in Britain as in Australia, preoccupied with the debate about the success of education – in particular in Muslim schools and mosques – in preventing radicalization. One of the greatest challenges is presented by the radicalization of young males in the post-school period of their lives, when they are beyond the reach of school-based approaches. The agencies continue to develop community-based approaches – often around local sporting clubs – with mixed success. Certainly, young men in the 15-25 year age bracket are the terrorist recruiters’ chief targets, and therefore the central focus of educational and community-based strategies.

Irrespective of the success or otherwise of educational and community-based strategies, there is no doubt that identification of risks, and close surveillance of those identified threats, will continue to be the core task of counter-terrorism.

The British are, like Australians, struggling to reconcile the need for enhanced security measures, e.g. electronic surveillance, detention and interrogation of suspects, with traditional rights and liberties. They are also struggling to reconcile the empowerment of national security agencies, and public oversight of the agencies’ conduct.

The creation of the office of the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism is accepted by all sides of politics, and by the agencies themselves, as having been a beneficial development. The Reviewer has a very free hand not merely to recommend reforms to the law, but to investigate and critique the operation of the national security agencies themselves, in a manner somewhat similar to the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security in Australia.

The issue of the inter-operability of the various agencies – foreign intelligence, domestic intelligence, policing and military – is of acute concern and an area where refinements in the sharing and protection of information will continue to be on the agenda well into the future.

The Conservative Party, in Opposition, has taken a more liberal approach to civil liberties aspects of law enforcement than the Labour Party, in Government. The critique of aspects of counter-terrorism law enforcement, for example the extension of the maximum period of mandatory detention, is opposed by the Opposition on the grounds of liberty as well as utility.
This is in contrast to recent experience in Australia, when the Howard Government defended and the then Opposition criticized some incursions on traditional rights and freedoms. This reflects the different perspectives which Governments inevitably have from Oppositions, when addressing the issue of law enforcement and national security.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours faithfully,

(George Brandis)
**ITINERARY – STUDY TRIP TO UNITED KINGDOM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26 September 2008</td>
<td>Depart Brisbane for London QF51/QF9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 27 September</td>
<td>Arrive London. Private arrangements over weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 29 September</td>
<td>Travel to Birmingham. Attendance at Conservative Party Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 30 September</td>
<td>Birmingham. Conservative Party Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1 October</td>
<td>Birmingham. Conservative Party Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2 October</td>
<td>Depart for London; meetings*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3 October</td>
<td>London; meetings*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 4 October</td>
<td>Private arrangements</td>
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<td>Sunday 5 October</td>
<td>Private arrangements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6 October</td>
<td>London; meetings*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7 October</td>
<td>London; meetings*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8 October</td>
<td>London; meetings*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9 October</td>
<td>Depart Heathrow for Brisbane QF10/QF52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 11 October</td>
<td>Arrive Brisbane</td>
</tr>
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*See Section (b)(ii) for details of meetings.*
DR DENNIS JENSEN MP

South Africa
26 September – 12 October 2008
Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 61
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal
Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting my
recent overseas study journey.

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purposes

1. The Pebble Bed Modular Reactor: Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (Pty) Ltd of South Africa was
established in 1999 with the intention to develop and market small-scale, high-temperature
reactors both locally and internationally. The 700-member PBMR project team is based in
Centurion near Pretoria, South Africa.

The PBMR is a High Temperature Reactor (HTR), with a closed-cycle, gas turbine power
conversion system. Although it is not the only HTR currently being developed in the world,
the South African project is internationally regarded as the leader in the power generation
field.

2. The Koeberg reactor: By 2004 South Africa had only one commercial nuclear reactor
supplying power into the national grid. It works in Koeberg located 30km north of Cape
Town. Koeberg Nuclear Power station is a uranium Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR). The
Koeberg power station has the largest turbine generators in the southern hemisphere and
produces 1800 megawatts of power.

3. The Sasol Coal-Oil plant: This plant pioneered the successful process of producing oil from
coal, and now operates at the rate of about 160,000 barrels of oil a day.

4. Kruger National Park: my father was a journalist with the National Parks Board’s in-house
journal and I wish to compare operating and conservation procedures of today with those
which operated previously.
(b) Itinerary

Arrive Johannesburg 26 September

Kruger (Thornybush) 27/9 – 30/9

Meeting with Danie Kruger 29 September

Meeting with PBMR 1 October (overnight Pretoria)

Meeting with SASOL and Australian High Commissioner 2 October and overnight Johannesburg

3 October overnight Durban

4 October overnight East London

5 October overnight Storms River

6 October overnight Knysna

7 October – 11 October Cape Town (meeting at Koeberg nuclear power station 10 October)
Key meetings and outcomes/findings:

Conservation issues in the Kruger National Park
(Contact: Danie Pienaar of SANparks Research Unit at Kruger)

The Kruger National Park is the largest game reserve in South Africa. Land was set aside by then Transvaal Republic’s President Paul Kruger in 1898; it is for him that the park is named.

There are about 10 environmental scientists within Kruger itself, who act more as research coordinators to efforts of other scientists. About 30% of scientists working on issues relating to the park are international. There are very good synergies between the full-time environmental scientists and the international and other scientists working within the park. The National Parks Board wants to extend this program to other Parks; Kruger scientists are currently diversifying into other Parks.

It is found that research accommodation camps are very useful, whereby some research activity by outside scientists is actually undertaken within the Park itself. On any given day there is research being undertaken on about 200 projects. There is a review of research activity every two months.

Conservation issues of concern

Water, crocodile deaths

Water, as in many parts of the world, is the major issue of concern for the Kruger National Park. What is particularly troubling is that there has not been a drought since 1992 in the region, yet water is still scarce despite what should be adequate rainfall and what was described as “excellent legislation, but the implementation is problematic”. The legislation entrenches the rights of humans and the environment to water, with industry and farming interests subsidiary. The fresh water supplies are affected by farming practices. Water buy back is one of the solutions actively being implemented.

Historically, man-made water holes have been placed close to roads within the Park in order to attract the animals close to the roads to improve viewing opportunities. Some of these water holes, however, are in sensitive areas, creating some conflict between the demands of tourism versus conservation. The current practice is to build side loops (side roads) going to the locations of natural water holes, rather than having bores close to the main roads.

It is anticipated that there may well be a drought this year, further exacerbating the problem. Water quality is a major issue, particularly in the Letaba River, which has changed from a perennial river to a seasonal river due to the overallocation of water. (It is interesting to note that the conservation scientists in Kruger do not ascribe this to climate change, unlike those overzealous authorities so keen to ascribe the Murray Darling’s problems on climate change, not the similar issue to Kruger of water overallocation. With Murray-Darling, for those who do attribute the problem to climate change, I would point them to the Bureau of Meteorology’s rainfall series, and look at the rainfall pattern for the Murray-Darling basin).

In the Oliphants, there has been an issue of crocodiles dying, with full grown adults dying at a higher rate than the young (this specific problem has only been observed in crocodiles that are over 2m in
length). This problem began at the end of May 2008. Dead crocodiles were removed by helicopter, the carcasses were burned.

This problem stems from the issue of the seasonality of the river and with muddy silt backing up from Masingir Dam (in Mozambique) into the Kruger National Park. The seasonality of the river has resulted in hippos contaminating the water holes with their excrement etc, turning the pools black due to the lack of sand and other natural filtering mechanism; this obviously affects fish. The crocodiles death issue is due to pansteatitis, which results in fat hardening within the croc. This is associated with eating rotten and rancid fish. Vitamin A and E levels (anti-oxidants) are low within these creatures. As well as removing dead crocs, some hippos were shot to provide the crocs with some fresh food.

There are about 1000 crocodiles and 1000 hippos in the Letaba and Oliphants rivers. Hippo numbers have peaked, and droughts tend to significantly reduce hippo numbers.

There is a long term low level pollution issue. The standards are based on short term L0.50 and L0.90 standards. Long term and the interactions between chemicals has not been evaluated in detail. There is a program in place examining water with the Department of Water Affairs, but progress needs to be more rapid. The previous two environment ministers were apparently good, but the department is a low-level priority.

**Alien Invasive Species**

An additional major issue for the Park is invasion by alien invasive species. This is also a result of farming practices, with exotic plantations on the escarpment (to the west of the Park) inadequately isolated, leading to some of these species finding their way down from the escarpment into the Park.

**Rhino and Elephant issues**

Poaching is not as great an issue as it once was, but about 30 White Rhino have been lost, but there is large growth in the number of White Rhinos (there are at least 8000 White Rhino). There are about 500 Black Rhino in the Park; they are well protected in South Africa. Black Rhino numbers are low, however, with there being only about 3500, with the majority in South Africa and Namibia.

Elephant culling has been a controversial issue. There are about 16 000 elephant in Kruger, with another 1000 or so in the adjacent Limpopo Park in Mozambique.

Elephants are somewhat destructive feeders, routinely destroying trees in the quest for food. As such, their numbers need to be managed to keep the ecology in balance. Current scientific thinking is not to look at an overall number of elephants in the Park, but to look at specific areas and assess the number of elephants in that area. These regions are designated high and low impact, according to the “damage” the vegetation is able to take from elephant interaction (high impact areas are those that are more robust and can accept more elephants).

Monitoring of this will start in specific areas, considering thresholds of concern. Culling would only be undertaken after it could be demonstrated that all other methods had been considered. In terms of attempting to move elephants around, opinion differs on elephant behaviour, whether they move preferentially from region to region, or react to harassing behaviour. Obviously, relocating elephants by some method of getting them to move location of their own accord is preferable to culling or other method of forced removal.
Energy

Pebble Bed Modular Reactors (for more info www.pbmr.com)

(Contact Patrick Thema, Head Stakeholder Relations
At the meeting: Dr S.A. (Alex) Tselo, A.J. van der Merwe, T. Makubire, L. Thiart, J. Makubire)

Pebble Bed Modular Reactors are a new, step change advance in nuclear power reactor designs. Westinghouse has recognised the potential of these reactor designs, and have a 15% shareholding in the company; Dr. Reg Matzie, senior vice president and chief technology officer at Westinghouse said “the South African PBMR technology will become the world’s first successful commercial Generation IV reactor”. These reactors are inherently safe (meltdown is physically impossible due to the physics of the design, not due to failsafes). Additionally, unlike conventional reactors, fuelling is a continuous process (online refuelling) and, as such, there are no requirements to shut down the reactor to refuel.

Advantages of the technology are higher operating efficiencies (41% for electricity with PBMR versus 33% for conventional nukes, and PBMR has >65% for process heat applications) than conventional nuclear reactors: Heat from the PBMR can be used for a variety of industrial process applications. This includes process steam for cogeneration applications, in-situ oil sands recovery, ethanol applications, refinery and petrochemical applications. The high temperature heat can also be used to reform methane to produce syngas (this syngas can be used to produce hydrogen, ammonia and methanol); and to produce hydrogen and oxygen by decomposing water thermochemically. The waste heat of the PBMR can furthermore be applied to desalinate water. Additionally, Sasol (discussed in the next section) and PBMR are synergistically examining using PBMR to convert the CO₂ into carbon monoxide and oxygen, which can then be used to produce other products in the SASOL pipeline.

The PBMR system uses helium as a coolant (it is a closed loop gas system), and the process uses the Brayton Cycle. The basics of the system are that the pebbles are placed in the core, and due to their proximity, and the pyrolytic carbon layers within the pebbles acting as a neutron moderator, the pebbles heat up, with this heat then heating the helium. This heated Helium the drives a turbine, which is used to drive a generator to produce electricity. Below is a schematic of a PBMR (Figure 1), followed by another diagram showing layout in a more physical way – Figure 2 (both from PBMR website).
Power stations are made up of 165MW (electricity) modules that can be placed together (or modules added to later) to provide the optimum generating capacity required. In this way, the technology is readily useable for smaller scale operation, with easy upgrade capacity that can be added when required. Two modules would fit on the size of a soccer field, with about 43m height above ground level (see Figure 3).

Figure 3

The pebbles are about the size of tennis balls (apparently, the original driver of the program was a very keen tennis player). It consists of some 14 500 smaller spheres, about 0.5mm in diameter and consists of multiple layers of pyrolytic carbon and ceramic material, surrounding a kernel of 9.6% enriched Uranium (see Figure 4). The outside of the pebble itself is pure carbon. The structure of the pebble confers proliferation resistance in itself, as it is nigh impossible to reprocess these pebbles, as the burn up of fissile U235 is much higher than for conventional reactors, leaving little material of interest to potential weapons manufacturers. The core of the reactor would contain about 450 000 pebbles.
In terms of waste, the handling of pebbles is much simpler than conventional wasteforms, as the waste does not have to be stored in cooling ponds, but are instead held in dry storage. The waste is stored for 40 years on site, after which it is sent to a final, permanent repository. The pebbles themselves are the final wasteform for long term storage (according to PBMR, the pebbles will retain their integrity for about a million years in a long term underground repository).

It is interesting to note that about 1000 trainloads of coal are required for a conventional coal-fired power station, with about 400 trainloads of ash, for the same output as about 50 truckloads of fuel for PBMRs generating the same power output.
Sasol (more info at www.sasol.com)

(Contact Debbie Rabie, Corporate Marketing)

Sasol is a technology that allows the production of synthetic fuels from coal or gas. It uses the Fischer-Tropsch process originally described in the 1920's and used by Nazi Germany in World War 2 for synthetic fuel production.

South Africa discerned that there was a strategic requirement to be able to produce their own oil from coal. As such, Sasol was founded in 1950, and started production in 1955. Currently, about one third of South Africa's petrol and diesel comes from this process, the rest is imported. In addition to synfuels, there are about 240 other products that are manufactured during, or as a result of, this process.

The process consists of gasifying coal, producing carbon monoxide and hydrogen, and thereafter these gases are converted to liquid hydrocarbons of various forms. An advantage of the fuels is that they have minimal amounts of impurities (such as sulphur), in contrast to fuels made from crude oil.

The process for producing the synfuel is carbon dioxide intensive, however.................................(here I will include the amount of CO₂ emitted by the process)................................................................. and Sasol is actively examining carbon geosequestration as well as use of nuclear power (and particularly PBMR) to split CO₂ into CO (carbon monoxide) and O₂ (oxygen) for further processing into other products.

The process consists, at a very basic level, of gasifying the coal to form hydrogen and carbon monoxide, and then, through what is known as the Fischer Tropsch process (which is a catalysed reaction) forming liquid hydrocarbons of various forms.
An attractive option is removing the steps of gasifying the coal, and using gas as the feedstock, significantly reducing capital costs. This option is being taken up in many parts of the world, including the Middle East and USA. This certainly should be considered for Australia, given our large gas reserves. The volatility in the price of gas versus that of coal would be a factor to consider in determining which is the more economically attractive option.

In South Africa, given that the plant was completed in the early 1980’s, the break even cost is low; around $US15 a barrel. The cost for a plant constructed today would be..................(include cost here)................................ and for gas the cost would be..................(include cost here)........................................

For Australia’s energy self sufficiency, the Sasol CTL and GTL technologies should be thoroughly investigated, with the potential for a strategic investment in the required infrastructure by the Australian Government in a public private partnership considered.
Koebig Nuclear Reactor (more info at www.eskom.co.za)

(Contact Melvyn Miles, meeting conducted by Carin de Villiers)

Koebig nuclear power station is situated about 30km west of Cape Town. It consists of two reactors, Koebig 1 and Koebig 2, which were commissioned in 1984/5. Each generates 900MW, for a total of 1.8GW. At the time of commissioning, this was more than all of Cape Town’s power needs, but now represents 35-40% of Cape Town’s requirements.

These power stations were originally built to stabilise the South African electricity grid. Most of South Africa’s power is generated in the north (Gauteng, Mpumalanga) using coal, and the long transmission lines were causing some instability. Interestingly, nuclear power provides the cheapest power in South Africa ..................................(include costs here).............................................despite most of the power generated using coal.

A couple of years ago, Koebig suffered a catastrophic turbine failure (totally unrelated to nuclear power generation itself, these sorts of failure are often seen in coal and other power stations as well) due to a foreign object being left in a location where it entered the turbine. This resulted in one of the reactors being offline for a lengthy period of time. Eskom purchased open cycle gas turbines (a very expensive way to generate electricity) to cover the period, however these gas turbines have been used far more than anticipated due to the near shortfall in generating capacity the nation has. Eskom has improved processes at Koebig to significantly reduce the potential for a repeat of the foreign object damage sustained by the turbine. At the time, plant processes were more generally reviewed and improved, and this has resulted in improved reliability and personnel safety.

South Africa is embarking on a program of increasing electricity prices to bring it more into line with world prices (their electricity is the cheapest in the world, making private investment impossible at
present) and greatly increasing generating capacity. A large proportion of this will be nuclear power generation – Eskom is planning on adding another 20GW of nuclear power generation capacity, initially through conventional nuclear power generation, but in the medium term supplementing this with PBMR’s.

Given Australia’s strategic position as a uranium supplier, and given the economics evident with the technology in South Africa, and given the advancements in technologies evident in PBMR and other designs, the nuclear energy option should be actively considered by the generating industry. The archaic ban on the technology in Australia should be removed, allowing the generators to consider the best generating technology mix for the future. The industry is clearly best placed to determine the benefits and issues surrounding the various technologies.

(iii) Conclusion

The Republic of South Africa has some very interesting science and technology that Australia should consider becoming involved in (such as in a collaborative program with the Kruger Park, and the South African Parks Board more generally).

We also need to consider nuclear power, particularly technologies such as PBMR and other Generation IV designs, and consider Australia adopting Sasol-type technology for either CTL or GTL technologies. These measures would help considerably in insulating Australia from the vagaries of the international energy market.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Please note that I am awaiting final costings and CO2 emissions from SASOL, and costings for Koeberg to complete this document. As soon as I have received the same I will forward final, completed document to you.

Yours sincerely

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Federal Member for Tangney
2nd December 2008
MRS JULIA IRWIN MP

United Kingdom and the United States of America
27 September – 15 October 2008
Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 61
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Monday 10 November 2008

Dear Senator Faulkner,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey.

(i) **Confirmation of purpose:**

The purpose set out in my request to draw on the entitlement was stated as: “to gain an in depth appraisal of the operation of on-line petitioning in the Scottish and German Parliaments and to discuss the progress being made toward its adoption by the UK Parliament. Following detailed research in preparation for the journey, it was discovered that petitions to the Bundestag are almost exclusively on matters of personal grievance. As this type of petition is not common in Australia, it was decided not to include the German Parliament in the visit. Further research indicated that on-line petitioning and communication with elected representatives was highly developed in the United States. For this reason, the overseas study journey was extended to include the US Congress and an organisation associated with on-line communication with the Congress.

As the journey included the United States, it was decided to include inspections of interactive children’s museums in New York and San Francisco. This interest follows representations from a Western Sydney based organisation seeking the establishment of an interactive children’s museum in Western Sydney.

In addition, in my capacity as a member of the Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee which is currently conducting an inquiry on coastal development, I undertook inspections of the Canary Wharf development and the Thames barrage system while in London.
(b) Itinerary:

September 27:
Depart Sydney

September 28
Arrive Edinburgh

September 30
Kelvin Grove Museum - Glasgow

October 1
Scottish Parliament, Meet Public Petitions Committee, Meet representatives CPA
Observe Plenary Session Scottish Parlt Petitions Committee Report Presentation

October 2
Depart Edinburgh for London

October 4
Inspect Canary Wharf Area

October 5
Inspect Thames Barrage

October 6
House of Commons
Meet Mr Mark Hutton Clerk to Procedure Committee
Observe House of Commons Session, Questions, Address By Chancellor on economic situation.

October 7
Depart London for Washington

October 8
Meet rep from Australian Embassy
Meet with Mr John Sullivan, Parliamentarian of US Congress
Meet Mr Tim Hysom, Congressional Management Foundation

October 9
Depart Washington for New York

October 11
Inspect Children's Museum of Manhattan
Depart New York for San Francisco

October 12
Inspect Exploratorium

October 13
Depart San Francisco for Sydney
Key Meetings and Outcomes/Findings

On-Line petitions:
Meetings were held with the Public Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament, The Clerk of the Procedure Committee of the House of Commons, The Parliamentarian of the US Congress and Mr Tim Hyson, Director of Communications and Technology Services, Congressional Management Foundation, Washington.

The meeting with the Clerk, Mr Fergus Cochrane, the Convenor Mr Frank MacAveety and Mr Nigel Dun,a Government member of the Scottish Parliament’s Public Petitions Committee occurred at a time when the Committee is reviewing its role. It should be noted that the new Petitions Committee of the Australian Parliament came into being following the recommendation of the Procedures Committee which visited the Scottish and UK Parliaments in 2006. The insights given by the Scottish Committee’s Convenor should prove valuable for the guidance of the Australian Committee. By coincidence, on the day of my visit, for the only second time since its inception in 1999, a full debate was conducted on the floor of the Parliament on the Committee’s report which followed an inquiry in response to a petition on “The availability on the NHS of cancer treatment drugs. I was privileged to observe the debate which involved the Petitions Committee Convenor, the Health Minister, the newly appointed Labour Party Leader in her first speech in that role, The Chief Minister, and the Conservative Unionist Party Leader. The debate highlighted the role of petitions in bringing an issue to the attention of the parliament and offers a case study in the way in which a petitions committee can deal with an issue.

In the discussion held with the Convenor and the Clerk, it was learned that the Scottish Parliament receives around 250 petitions each year with two thirds being on-line petitions. The Public petitions Committee has a cross party membership of 9 MSPs with the present Convenor drawn from the Labour Party. The Committee meets fortnightly and accepts 8-9 petitions and reviews progress on 15-20 current petitions. For online petitions, the Committee leaves these open for 6-8 weeks depending on the flow of responses. The web site hosting on-line petitions is outsourced and interestingly it allows comments on the issue to be added as well as signatures. The petition also includes a link to the website of the principal petitioner with a disclaimer that the views expressed are those of the petitioners and not of the Parliament.

In reviewing the system of on-line petitioning, the Convenor suggested that they would prefer to host the site in house as he suggested the system at present is “quite rough”. The Convenor suggested that the UK Prime Minister’s petition site and the site used by the Bundestag were a generation ahead of the original Scottish system. As the first statutory body in the world to adopt on-line petitioning which has been in operation since 2004, the views expressed are sure to become part of the Scottish Parliament’s review of on-line petitioning which commenced in June 2008. I should also note the Scottish Parliament has made a submission to the Australian Parliament’s Petitions committee which I am sure will be valuable to us in deciding on the best system to adopt for on-line petitioning.

The Scottish system does not require citizenship or residence as a requirement for eligibility to sign an online petition. Indeed a current petition calling for Scottish Independence has taken thousands of signatures from people of Scottish descent around the world!
On-line petitions are checked by a facility of the service provider which can check for duplicate URLs however these do not necessarily represent duplicate signatures. Checking also picks up D Duck and M Mouse signatures as well as signatures purported to be those of serving members of the Scottish Parliament.

The Scottish Parliament’s Committee is however of the belief that the vast majority of on-line signatures are genuine and no more subject to abuse than paper petitions. In fact the use of electronic checking may assure the Committee that an even greater proportion of signatures are genuine.

While progress of on-line and paper petitions can be tracked on the Scottish Parliament’s website, the Convenor felt that a more interactive system would better serve petitioners. It was also felt that the system should provide the opportunity for the constituent member for each petitioner could be advised of the signing and may choose to respond by email to the individual petitioner should the petitioner consent to this option. Also the petitioner may be asked if they would like to be notified of any action being taken although this would require a major upgrade in the system’s capability which would come at a high cost. I pointed out that The Australian Committee’s website was attempting to keep petitioners informed of progress in a similar way to that operating in Scotland. The Convenor said that the Committee was dedicated to providing maximum response to petitioners even considering the very high number of 1 million hits per month to its website from a population of less than 6 million. This translates into 100,000 e-signatures and 3,000 e-discussion comments.

In a similar way to the Australian system which is to a degree modelled on the Scottish system, hearings may be held in which the petitioners present their case, as well, Ministers or their departmental representatives may be called before the Committee to ensure accountability for responses.

It was also noted that Committees of the Scottish Parliament operate as legislation committees which play a major role in framing legislation. The Public Petitions Committee therefore has a role in referring petitions to committees as input to legislation.

The Convenor, Frank MacAveety saw 2 challenges for petitions committees, firstly how to make the work of the committee relevant to the process of government and secondly, how to engage with those least engaged in the political process. While petitions can be seen as a place to go when you have a grievance, this is best achieved when the intent of the petition is aimed at a shift of policy.

This was well illustrated by the petition reported on the day of my visit to the Scottish Parliament. The petition dealt with a complex policy issue, a terminally ill cancer patient was not able to access a drug because it was not covered under the National Health Service. While the family was prepared to meet the high cost of the drug, the patient would not be able to access treatment under the NHS because she supplied her own drug.

As can be imagined, the case generated great public support and lead to a review of the policy on the supply of drugs for cancer patients. Mr MacAveety pointed to a current petition dealing with crimes involving knives and the public and media campaign which had arisen from the posting of the petition. According to Mr MacAveety, public hearings should deal with issues that the public feel strongly about. Mr MacAveety and Mr Cochrane welcomed the opportunity to take part in a tele-conference with the Australian Committee to discuss these issues.
In addition to the above meetings, I was pleased to join representatives of the Scottish Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association over lunch. This provided an opportunity to discuss a number of matters of common interest.

**House of Commons:**
By contrast with the Scottish Parliament, the House of Commons approach to e-Petitions is more conservative. At my meeting with Mr Mark Hutton, the Clerk to the Procedure Committee of the House of Commons, Mr Hutton offered the view that the Scottish model was not the best for either on-line petitions or a Petitions Committee. In a report on e-petitions tabled in March 2008, the Procedure Committee in its recommendations include a continued role for constituency MPs as a facilitator of e-petitions. This could be seen as MPs guarding their role as a gateway to the parliament however Mr Hutton pointed to the sheer volumes of petitions and signatories using the Prime Ministers e-petition facility. With over 29,000 petitions and 3 million signatories, concerns were expressed about handling such large numbers. Mr Hutton added the committee’s concern that the work load would be too great and that it would set up expectations that could not be met. Committee members wanted to preserve the involvement of MPs in petitioning and importantly, did not want to undermine the role of constituent members.

The preferred model requires an MP to facilitate each petition, with the MP being consulted and must agree to facilitate. Constituency MPs will be told of the numbers of constituents signing but may not be given addresses. The MP can email those signatories who agree to be contacted.

UK petitions now require a response from the relevant Minister within 2 months of lodging. The Procedure Committee sees no need for a special petitions committee but would itself maintain a supervisory role with the system. The committee could make minor changes without changing standing orders.

Mr Hutton raised the objections expressed to the committee including the question “is this the right way to communicate with the public”, “are we just doing it just because we can” and made the observation that some members never present petitions. Mr Hutton suggested that the German system was very much a complaint system dealing with issues otherwise dealt with by an ombudsman. Mr Hutton agreed that the Scottish system was meeting expectations although he was aware of petitions presented as school projects and not necessarily genuine petitions. Mr Hutton agreed to assist the Australian Parliament Petitions Committee by way of a teleconference at a future date.

My conclusions reached from my meeting with Mr Hutton was that the House of Commons was proceeding with caution with e-petitions. The Procedures Committee was aware of that electronic communication was growing at a rapid rate and that parliaments would be expected to deal effectively with this form of communication.

The two further meetings held in Washington bear out the concern that parliaments must develop the means to respond to growing volumes of personal electronic communication.
US Congress:
I met with Mr John Sullivan, Parliamentarian (Clerk) to the US Congress and Ms Elizabeth Woodworth, Assistant Parliamentarian. Mr Sullivan provided a briefing on his role and developments in on-line petitioning in the US Congress. Mr Sullivan advised that the US accepts hybrid, ie written and on-line petitions. The nature of the Congress where a lack of party disciple where most legislation is voted on a cross party basis means that the preference for petitioning is to directly petition legislators. The right of citizens to petition Congress is enshrined in the First Amendment and there is therefore no prescribed form for petitions - hence an e-petition must be acceptable. The House rules allow for a Congress member to lodge petitions. Of greatest importance in considering the impact of petitions is the number of signatures.

The congress is concerned with authenticating e-signatures and considers this important in accepting e-petitions. Acceptable authentication is not possible at present.

With as many as 500,000 constituents in each district, the task for individual members is enormous. E-petitions and other emailed correspondence have become a time consuming task for members of Congress and US Senators. With elections every two years this places strain on the resources available to representatives. E-petitions are seen as a key measure of public opinion and most representatives allocate a substantial amount of their staff resources to deal with petitions.

In seeing how this demand was addressed I met with Mr Tim Hysom, Director for Communication and Technology Services for the Congressional Management Foundation. The Foundation is a non-partisan, not for profit, non-government organisation. Since its establishment in 1977, the CMF has worked with Members and Senators to improve the management of office services through publications and research, consulting services to Senators and Members and staff training. The CMF has developed a special interest in e-communication and each year presents the "Gold Mouse Report" which judges the best web sites on Capitol Hill. In 2005 the CMF published its report, "Communicating With Congress, How Capitol Hill is Coping with the Surge in Citizen Advocacy", a follow up report is to be released in January 2009.

Mr Hysom was able to provided valuable insights into the demands on Member's staff arising from the flood of e-mail and E-petition communication. Mr Hysom pointed out that during the then current financial bail out legislation, the Capitol Hill computer servers went down. Members have become heavily reliant on standard responses being sent as e-mail replies. Due to the lower level of party discipline this means that every member must generate a unique response to almost every issue.

Given the nature of the US legislative system, Mr Hysom sees petitions as playing a key role in influencing the position of Members before a policy gets to become legislation.

Conclusions:

Having met with representatives from three different parliamentary systems, it is clear that recent years have seen rapid growth in personal electronic communication in all its forms. E-petitioning has been part of this expansion. The three systems studied have because of their nature developed different strategies to deal with the change. In selecting the best approach for the Australian Parliament it will be important to determine the views of Members as to which direction to take.
There are two main alternatives. The Scottish model which impressed the Australian Parliament Procedure Committee sees an active role for a Petitions Committee in presenting petitions as well as providing a forum for petitioners and a means of feedback to petitioners. While this involves the resources of a parliamentary committee and in a way bypasses individual members, it leaves open the opportunity for members to sponsor petitions and to respond to petitioners in their own electorate.

The system favoured by the House of Commons seeks to preserve the role of individual members and concentrates its approach on the mechanics of handling the increased numbers of petition signatures as a product of e-petitioning.

The independent role of legislators in the US leads to a similar approach. E-petitions in the US will continue to focus on individual representatives who will maintain responsibility for responses. In that case the workload will continue to fall on the individual member.

For a national parliament such as the Australian Parliament, where national issues are the main focus of policy, a means of addressing the parliament as a whole can be seen as desirable.

The Convenor of the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee described its role as providing a “Public Gateway to parliamentary and policy development areas.” This approach should be explored by the Australian Parliament to meet the challenge of increased use of on-line methods of communication and to enhance the working of our parliamentary democracy.

**Children’s Interactive Museums:**

As a secondary purpose of the study journey, I was able to include a number of inspections of facilities which are in whole or part dedicated to providing an experiential learning environment to children of various ages. These included, The Kelvin Grove Museum in Glasgow, The Manhattan Children’s Museum in New York and the Exploratorium in San Francisco.

The Kelvin Grove Museum is a well established facility covering art, social and natural history. Of particular interest were the museum’s exhibits of natural history. These were presented with commentary aimed at school children and clearly attempted to engage children in the wonders of the natural world. There were a number of interactive displays which required a hands on approach and allowed for individual discovery experiences. There is no admission charge.

The Manhattan Children’s Museum is a privately funded facility located in the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The Museum follows an innovative approach featuring interactive exhibits which are designed for children up to 12 years of age. The exhibits cover areas from Greek mythology and history to themes from children’s literature. Children are encouraged to experience the museum in a fun filled way and engage in learning through games and play. An admission charge applies.
The Exploratorium is located in the old Palace of Fine Arts Building in the Marina District of San Francisco. The exhibits which are almost totally interactive and cater to the older child (and adults!) range from the physical sciences through to the areas of the senses and behavioural sciences. In this last way the Exploratorium is quite unique. While facilities in Australia including Questacon and the Power House Museum in Sydney have exhibits in some of these areas, the Exploratorium contains a vast array of exhibits which open aspects of the sciences to exploration by children. There is an admission charge.

**Conclusions:**

Having experienced the Manhattan Children’s Museum and the Exploratorium it is easy to agree that children in Western Sydney would benefit from having access to such facilities. When the funding and other arrangements which can be unique to the philanthropic nature of the US, are considered, it is clear that to be reproduced here on the same scale it would require significant help from Governments. Given the obvious links to education provided by these museums there is significant national benefit from the further development of experiential children’s museum facilities in Australia.

**River Thames Developments:**

The inspections of the Canary Wharf area and the Thames Barrage systems provided a valuable insight into the use of river barrages as a means of tidal flood prevention. The scale of the barrage and its role in providing protection to the lower Thames has allowed the multi billion dollar Canary Wharf high rise commercial and residential development to proceed. As the inquiry into the effects of climate change on coastal development in Australia proceeds, the effectiveness of schemes such as the Thames barrage may offer solutions to local problem areas in Australia.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Julia Irwin MP
Member for Fowler
SENATOR KATE LUNDY

China
29 October – 5 November 2008
The Hon Senator John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2602

Dear Minister Faulkner

It is my pleasure to report to you regarding my visit to China as part of the Australia-China Parliamentary Friendship Group in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination No. 14 of 2003.

MS Jennie George MP led the delegation as Chairperson of the Australia-China Parliamentary Friendship Group and I attended in my capacity as Secretary of this group. The purpose of this visit was to provide an opportunity for members of the Australian Parliament to gain an insight into modern China from a political, economic, social and cultural perspective.

This visit occurred at a very interesting time because of the advent of the global financial crisis.

I have attached my detailed meetings itinerary (Attachment A), which was foreshadowed in my correspondence to you dated 8th September 2008. Also attached (Attachment B) is a copy of my travel itinerary. Please note that I return to Perth, not Canberra. This is because I was required to attend a Senate Select Committee hearing on the National Broadband Network Inquiry on the 6th November in Perth. I left the delegation one day early to meet this obligation. It was for this international travel expenses incurred that I sought access to my study leave entitlement.

I have claimed return travel after this hearing from Perth to Canberra under the normal entitlement associated with Senate Committee work.

Please note also that all travel and meal expenses incurred whilst in China were met by the China-Australia Friendship Group of the National People’s Congress of China, the hosts of our delegations visit.

Yours sincerely

Kate Lundy
Senator for the ACT

27 November 2008
Attachment A

Itinerary for the visit to China by Australia –China Group of Australian Parliament
29 October – 5 November 2008

29 October 2008 (Wednesday)

• Arrival of delegation in Beijing via flight QF105.

30 October 2008 (Thursday)

• Australian Embassy
  Briefing with Ambassador Geoff Raby and Depute Head of Mission Graeme Meehan
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  Meeting with Assistant Minister Liu Jieyi
• Great Hall of the People
  Working session and banquet hosted by Mr Zha Peixin
  Chairman of China-Australia Friendship Group
  and Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

31 October 2008 (Friday)

• Ministry of Commerce
  Meeting with Assistant Minister Wang Chao
• China-Australia Friendship Group and Foreign Affairs Committee
  Lunch hosted by Mr Guolei, Vice-Chairman
• People’s Bank of China
  Briefing with officials (cancelled at short notice due to Global financial crisis)
• Great Hall of the People
  Meeting with Mr Chen Changzhi, Vice-Chairman
  Standing Committee of National People’s Congress

1 November 2008 (Saturday)

• Visits to Mutianyu Section of the Great Wall
• Tour of the Olympic Site

2 November 2008 (Sunday)

• Guided tour of the Hanyang Mausoleum
• Standing Committee of Shaanxi Provincial People’s Congress
  Meeting and dinner hosted by principal officials of the Standing Committee

3 November 2008 (Monday)

• Visits to Great mosque, Chinese Buddhist temple and Tang Paradise Gardens
• Guided visit to Museum of Terracotta Army and Warriors
• Tang Dynasty Cultural Performance

4 November 2008 (Tuesday)

• Return Via Shanghai, Hong Kong to Perth on 5 November 2008 (Wednesday)
HRG Australia
Parliamentary Travel Office
NG111, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Tel. 1300 769 397
Email: M&P@hrgworlwide.com Web Site: www.hrgworldwide.com
ABN: 14 074 033 828 Licence No: 32125
Licencee Name: M&P

Galileo Booking File: Z71GDQ
Consultant: Britta Woodley
Fare Quote: 10,050.00 Inc Taxes

Company: Ministerial & Parliamentary Services
WARRANT NUMBER: NA
PSGR REF NUMBER: M96KH3
COMCAR: SENATOR

Itinerary for:
LUNDY/KATESEN

Flight Qantas Airways Limited QF564
Booking Class: Business Class (J)
Departs: Canberra
Arrives: Sydney
Arrives Terminal 3
Special: Remarks:
YOUR FLIGHT NUMBER IS QF564

Wednesday, October 29, 2008
Seats booked: 1
08:55 Confirmed
09:50 Non-Stop
0hrs 55mins
Seat: Boeing 737

Flight Qantas Airways Limited QF105
Booking Class: Business Class (J)
Departs: Sydney
Departs Terminal 1
Arrives: Beijing Capital Arpt Beijing
Arrives Terminal 3
Special: Remarks:
YOUR FLIGHT NUMBER IS QF105

Wednesday, October 29, 2008
Seats booked: 1
11:50 Confirmed
20:30 Non-Stop
11hrs 40mins
Seat: Airbus A330-300

Flight Hong Kong Dragon Airlines KA897
Booking Class: Business Class (J)
Departs: Pu Dong Arpt Shanghai
Departs Terminal 2
Arrives: Hong Kong
Arrives Terminal 1
Special: Remarks:

Tuesday, November 04, 2008
Seats booked: 1
19:20 Confirmed
22:05 Non-Stop
2hrs 45mins
Seat: Airbus A320

Note: Change flight to 4.20p
### Flight

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<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>23:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrives</td>
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<td>Confirmed</td>
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<td>Special:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Stop</td>
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<td>Aircraft:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>61 8 9481 0986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>61 9 9321 4789</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrives</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Non-Stop</td>
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<td>Departs</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>17:25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrives</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aircraft:</td>
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The following membership number/s have been advised to the relevant airline/s:

- Frequent Flyer Number: DJ2114143794
- Frequent Flyer Number: QF0491933

**SAFETY/SECURITY CONCERNS WHILST ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL**

If you have concerns for your safety or security whilst on overseas travel, you can contact the local Australian Embassy in the country you are travelling in, or ring a 24hr call centre at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Canberra on +61 2 6261 1402. There is also updated information on the following website www.dfat.gov.au.

### Airline Reference Airline

- KF7T3: Cathay Pacific Airways
- X9U6TG: Please refer to the Flight segment above

HRG strongly recommended travelers reconfirm flight arrangements direct with airlines to avoid cancellation of some airlines reservations.
MS JENNIE GEORGE MP

China
29 October – 6 November 2008
19 November 2008

Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 61  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose(s):

As Chair of the Australia/China Parliamentary Group I led a delegation from the Group in response to an invitation from the Chair of the China/Australia Friendship Group of the National People’s Congress (NPC).

The purpose of the trip was to strengthen bi-lateral relations between the Australian Parliament and the NPC and to further our understanding of areas of mutual interest – including trade, environmental matters, impacts of the global financial crisis, economic ties as well as historical and cultural matters.

(b) Itinerary:

Arrived in Beijing on the evening of 29 October. Left for Xian on November 2. Travelled to Shanghai on November 4 and home on the evening of Tuesday, November 4. A detailed itinerary is attached.

(ii) Key Meetings and Outcomes/Findings:

Key Meetings:

30/10 Meeting with Australian Ambassador and other Consular officials
30/10 Meeting with Assistance Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Liu Jieyi
30/10 Meeting with Mr Zha Deexin, Chairman of China/Australia Friendship Group and Vice Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee of NPC
30/10 Meeting with Assistant Minister for Commerce, Mr Wang Chao
31/10 Meeting with Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People’s Congress, Mr Chen Changzhi

02/11 Meeting with officials of the Standing Committee of Shaanxi Provincial People’s Congress

03/11 Meeting with officials of Shanghai Municipal People’s Congress, Mr Ghan Zhong Ze

Outcomes/Findings of Visit:

Our visit coincided with the turmoil caused by the global financial crisis. In discussions with Chinese officials it was reiterated that:

i  It was important for the international community to focus on two priorities – the restoration of consumer confidence and to mitigate the effect on the “real” economy of nations.

ii  The impact on China is manageable and they will stimulate domestic demand.

iii  Since then over $800 billion has been injected by way of a stimulus package.

iv  Interest rates have been cut on several occasions and GDP growth has been cut to an estimated 8-9%.

v  China has abundant foreign exchange reserves.

vi  China is ready to strengthen co-operation with the international community which will have an important role in shaping collective solutions.

vii  China believes we need to reform the world’s financial and currency systems, expand the input from developing nations, improve financial supervision and monitoring.

viii  There should be greater supervision of the flow of capital.

The issue of climate change and energy security also featured in many discussions.

i  China sees progress on climate change being made within the UN framework.

ii  Policies must encompass all nations and not close up development opportunities for developing nations.

iii  China strongly supports the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

iv  China is heavily reliant on coal and interested in joint endeavours with Australia in regard to “clean coal” technologies.
China plans to increase nuclear power usage with construction of 30-40 nuclear reactors planned for the near future, including purchase of the AP1000 model from the US.

In relation to trade it was stressed that:

i  China support DOHA and multilateral mechanisms and regrets the DOHA round was unsuccessful.

ii China would like to see an early agreement with Australia and the FTA having recently concluded one with NZ and is working on one with ASEAN.

iii China sees great scope in the growth of services from Australia targeted at the needs of a growing middle class.

iv Due to differences in the level of economic development and national conditions differences occur in negotiations, however, China hopes for “early consensus” and signing of a “balanced, comprehensive and mutually acceptable FTA”.

In relation to Tibet, the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs argued:

- “Many people do not understand the ‘true situation’ in Tibet.
- Tibet is an autonomous region of China.
- Freedom of religion is fully respected – Tibet has 1700 temples and lamaseries, and 54,000 nuns and monks.
- Tibet receives funding from the central government for maintenance and repair of religious sites, and cultural activities such as the translation of Buddhist script.
- The incident of ‘violent crime’ in March was not about religious freedom or human rights, but was a law enforcement issue – a small group of people were violently rioting.
- To portray this incident as anything other than a law enforcement issue is ‘unhelpful’.
- The Dalai Lama, although a religious figure, also wears a political hat.
- The Charter of the Tibetan government in exile is to establish an independent Tibetan state.
- The Dalai Lama has not abandoned his position or charter.
- The dialogue between the representatives of the Dalai Lama and the central government should not be regarding whether Tibet is a part of China, but to ensure that the Dalai Lama honours his promise not to engage in separatist activities.
- If the Dalai Lama is sincere, then there is hope for the dialogue.”

Other matters covered in official meetings included:

- Regional co-operation and relations with South Pacific nations.
- International relations (Africa, Middle East, Vietnam).
- Resources and investment policies.
- Cross Strait relations.
- Religious freedom in China (including visit to Buddhist pagoda and Muslim Mosque).
- China's space program.
- Commerce, investment and intellectual property rights.

(iii) Conclusion:

The visit strengthened my understanding of issues of mutual interest between China and Australia and our strong ties at the economic and trade level. It is clear that China will have a key role to play in international agreements relating to the global financial crisis and agreements post-Kyoto. The visit to sites of historical and contemporary importance, as well as to cultural and religious places filled out that knowledge and understanding.

This was the first bilateral visit between our Parliament and the NPC since the most recent elections in both countries. As such it was an important element in the continuing development of strong and positive bilateral relations.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

JENNIE GEORGE MP
For Throsby
Itinerary for the visit to China by Australia-China Group of Australia Parliament
(October 29-5 November, 2008)

October 29 (Wednesday)
20:30 Arrival of delegation in Beijing via flight QF105, head for the Grand Hotel

October 30 (Thursday)
08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
09:00 Leave hotel for the Silk Market
10:30 Leave Silk Market for Australia Embassy
13:30 Back to the hotel
14:30 Leave hotel for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
15:00 Meeting with Assistant Minister Liu Jieyi
16:00 Leave the Ministry for the Great Hall of the People
16:30 Working session and banquet hosted by Mr. Zha Peixin, Chairman of China-Australia Friendship Group and Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
19:30 Back to the hotel

October 31 (Friday)
07:30 Breakfast at the hotel
08:30 Leave hotel for the Forbidden City
09:00 Tour the Forbidden City
10:00 Leave for the Ministry of Commerce
10:30 Meeting with Assistant Minister Wang Chao
11:30 Leave for the Beijing Roast Duck Restaurant
12:00 Lunch hosted by Mr. Guo, Vice-Chairman of China-Australia Friendship Group and Foreign Affairs Committee
14:30 Meeting with officials from People’s Bank of China
15:30 Leave for the Great Hall of the People
16:00 Meeting with Mr. Chen Changzhi, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People’s Congress

November 1 (Saturday)
07:00 Breakfast at the hotel
08:00 Leave for the Mutianyu Section of the Great Wall
11:00 Back to the hotel
12:30 Lunch at the hotel
14:00 Leave for the Olympic Sites
14:30 Visit the Sites
15:30 Leave for the Beijing Zoo
16:00 Tour the Zoo
16:45 Leave the Zoo for the hotel

November 2 (Sunday)
08:20 Leave Beijing for Xi’an via Flight CA1231
10:15 Arrive in Xi’an
Afternoon Touring Xi’an
Evening Meeting and dinner hosted by principal officials of the Standing Committee of Shaanxi Provincial People’s Congress
November 4 (Monday)

Morning    Visit minority ethnic region
Afternoon   Visit the Museum of Terracotta Army and Warriors
Evening     Cultural show

November 4 (Tuesday)

10:10       Leave Xi’an for Shanghai via Flight CA1215
12:00       Arrive in Shanghai
Afternoon   Visit joint ventures, church and school
Evening     Meeting and dinner hosted by principal officials of the Standing
            Committee of Shanghai Municipal People’s Congress

November 5 (Wednesday)

Day         Touring the city
20:30       Leave Shanghai for Australia via Flight QF130
Itinerary in Shanghai
4th Nov.-5th Nov., 2008

4th Nov., Tuesday

12:00 Arrival at Pudong Airport by CA1215
13:30 Check in at Westin Hotel
15:00 Depart for Meglev Train
15:30 Take the maglev (round)
16:15 Depart for Oriental Pearl TV Tower
16:30 Visit Oriental Pearl TV Tower
17:15 Depart for the hotel
17:30 Arrive at the hotel
18:00 Official meeting and banquet hosted by Mr. Gan Zhong Ze, member of the SCSMPC.
20:00 Banquet is over.
08:00  Breakfast
09:00  Depart for St Ignatius Cathedral Xujiahui
09:30  Visit St Ignatius Cathedral Xujiahui
10:00  Depart for Huishi Primary School
10:10  Visit Huishi Primary School
11:10  Departure for Westin Hotel
12:00  Lunch (buffet at the 1st floor)
14:00  Depart for Saicheng Logistics International
14:20  Visit Sicheng Logistics International
15:00  Depart for the hotel
15:20  Arrive at the hotel
15:30  Luggage call, check out
17:15  Depart for the airport
18:15  Dinner at Jinjiang Inn East Shanghai Pudong Airport
19:30  Departure for airport VIP room
20:20  Departure by QF130
Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

1. (a) **Confirmation of Purpose:**
   I travelled to the United Kingdom, departing Australia Sunday 26 October 2008 – QF009, to attend a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference being held at Wilton Park in Sussex from 27 – 30 October 2008. Following the conference I remained in London until 02 November 2008 during which time I had a series of meetings with various parties to discuss the current global financial difficulties and its effects on business, as well as a number of other issues.

(b) **Itinerary:**
   - **26OCT08**  Adel – Melb [QF686]
   - **Melb – London/Heathrow [QF009]**
   - **27OCT08**  Arr Heathrow – travel to Wilton Park, Sussex [by car]
   - **27-30OCT08**  Invited participant to Wilton Park CPA/World Bank Institute Conference, ‘Enhancing the Effectiveness of Parliaments: Challenges and Opportunities’, Wiston House, Sussex
   - **30OCT08**  Return to London [via train]
   - **30OCT-03NOV**  Various Meetings and commitments organised in London
   - **03NOV08**  London/Heathrow – ADEL [QF10/QF82]

2. **Key meetings and outcomes/findings:**
   The following meetings were attended:
   - Mr David Broom, Director of Programming, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and other staff members
   - Mr Nigel Evans MP House of Commons, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Executive Member
   - Mr Ron Ainsbury, Consultant to Diageo
   - Mr Matthew Neuhaus, Director of the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat
   - HE Mr John Dauth, Australian High Commissioner
   - Ms Frances Adamson, Deputy High Commissioner
3. **Conclusion:**

While in London I met with the newly appointed Commonwealth Parliamentary Association [CPA] Director of Programming, David Broom, and as Australia’s Regional representative on the CPA Executive we discussed future programming and financial arrangements within the CPA. These discussions will be invaluable in the lead-up to the next CPA Executive Meeting in April 2009.

I also had a lengthy meeting with Nigel Evans MP, a fellow CPA Executive Member from the House of Commons, to discuss important issues of mutual interest which will arise when we next meet at the CPA Executive. Much of the discussion related to important proposals which will affect the future of the CPA.

I had the opportunity to meet with Ron Ainsbury who is a consultant to DIAGEO. He has a great understanding of the impact of the global financial crisis on one of the world’s multinational companies. This was very informative and gave me a different perspective on the current financial situation the world finds itself in today.

I also met with Matthew Neuhaus, Director of the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and discussed with him in length some of the future programmes of the Secretariat in relation to ‘election observing’, and a general overview of the political situation amongst the Commonwealth members.

My final briefings were with the Australian High Commissioner, John Dauth, and his deputy, Frances Adamson. I received an up-to-date briefing on the state of current events in the United Kingdom and their effects on our relationship, as well as other political events in the general state of Australia’s relationship with the United Kingdom and Europe.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six-monthly tabling of travel costs for Senators and Members.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

[Alan Ferguson]

12 November 08
SENATOR BOB BROWN

New Zealand
4 – 6 November 2008
17th November, 2008

Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 61
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

(i) (a) **Confirmation of Purpose(s):**

Observe Greens' preparations for New Zealand elections;
Emissions trading briefing with Jeanette Fitzsimmons (New Zealand Greens leader); and
Address public meeting on global crisis.

(b) **Itinerary:**

4th November, 2008 Depart Sydney QF113 to Auckland
6th November, 2008 Depart Auckland QF126 to Brisbane

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

Bob Brown
14 January 2009

Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 61  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2 (b) of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

CONFIRMATION OF PURPOSE

I confirm the original purpose of my journey, as set out in my letter to you advising of it. The details of the journey are set out below.

ITINERARY

November 2008

12 November: Melbourne – New York (Air)  
14 November: New York – Washington DC (Train)  
20 November: Washington DC – Melbourne (Air)

KEY MEETINGS AND OUTCOMES

New York  
I visited David Blankenhorn, the Director of the Institute for American Values and the author of numerous publications, including *Fatherless America*. We discussed a range of contemporary social, economic and cultural issues.

I also visited the United Nations. I met with the Australian Ambassador to the UN, HE the Hon Robert Hill, and the Parliamentary Representatives to the General Assembly, Ms Joanna Gash MP, and Senator Kerry O’Brien.

Finally, I visited Ground Zero, where almost 3,000 people, including Australians, died on 9/11.
Washington DC
The major purpose of my trip was to participate in an international roundtable meeting and seminar on social justice issues at the Heritage Foundation. I was the key-note speaker at both the roundtable and the seminar.

The Social Justice discussions included representatives from the US, Canada, the UK, NZ and Australia. Contemporary developments in the English-speaking world were discussed, as were social, legislative and other trends. Practical programs and measures to address poverty and social dysfunction were highlighted by the various speakers.

I also had a series of other meetings about policy issues in Washington. These included:
- Wade Horn, former Assistant Secretary for Families and Children in the Health Administration;
- Diane Sollee, Director of Smart marriages;
- Richard McCord, Executive Director, and other staff, at the Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth at the US Catholic Bishops Conference;
- William Saunders and Patrick Fagan at the FRC;
- Nicholas Eberstadt at the AEI;
- Bill Coffin at the US Department of Health and Human Services;
- Doug Scott at LDI;
- Robert Rector at the Heritage Foundation.

These discussions covered a range of contemporary policy issues, ranging from immigration to welfare reform, and marriage and family issues.

CONCLUSION

The various meetings I attended were of considerable significance to my ongoing Parliamentary duties, especially as chair of the Coalition Policy Review.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

KEVIN ANDREWS
SENATOR THE HON BRETT MASON

Singapore, United Kingdom and Thailand
11 – 30 December 2008
9 March 2009

Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 61 Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey.

1. Confirmation of Purpose

As the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Education, responsible for the Opposition’s education portfolio in the Senate, this study trip was primarily concerned with examining education initiatives in Singapore, Britain and Thailand. In Singapore and Britain the primary focus was tertiary education while in Thailand my focus also included secondary education.

In addition, I also met with political leaders, academics, think-tank specialists and human rights advocates.

While I was delighted with the assistance given to me by the Australian High Commission in London and the Australian Embassies in Singapore and Bangkok, the timing of my journey (just prior to Christmas) made it understandably more difficult to obtain interviews with other valuable contacts. Nonetheless, the persistence of our overseas representatives ensured that I was able to make valuable use of my time.

2. Itinerary, Key Meetings and Conclusions

Friday 12 December 2008

9:30am: Briefing by High Commissioner, Mr David Chester, Singapore

With the quiet self-confidence befitting Australia’s elite diplomats Mr Chester outlined both the current impact of the global financial crisis in Singapore as well as outlining opportunities he foresaw
for Australian Universities, both in Singapore and in Australia, to capitalise on Australia’s good name in tertiary education. Mr Chester said that the global financial crisis was likely to impact on Singapore rather more drastically than Australia particularly in the short term. Australia had a greater fiscal cushioning, he said. Whether it was Australia’s superior prudential regulations or superior budgetary position it was likely that Australia would not suffer as significantly as Singapore. More particularly, with the slowdown in world trade and the trade in financial services, Singapore would be particularly hard hit.

The High Commissioner did see opportunities emerging for Australian tertiary institutions (Australia is the leading destination for Singaporean higher education students, with 55% of the market, followed by the United States and United Kingdom with 19% and 18% respectively). While there was still some residual ill-effects resulting from the University of New South Wales’ overly ambitious proposals, and its consequent failure, optimism was again the order of the day. New Australian players in the Singapore market were more nimble. They were choosing areas of expertise and teaching in Singapore where there was considerable demand or where the Australian universities had superior expertise. With some reservations the High Commissioner is optimistic about the continued success of Australian universities operating in Singapore.

He did flag, however, that increasing international competition made it imperative that Australian universities, in attempting to attract Singaporean students to Australia, must maintain the best international standards. Singaporean students were very well informed about the quality of Australian universities and were quick to judge those whose standards were perceived to be falling. Nothing, said the High Commissioner, should be taken for granted.

10:30am: Visit to James Cook University, Singapore

I was met by Dr Dale Anderson the CEO of the James Cook University, Singapore. Dr Anderson has a long history as an educator and administrator. The campus, a former high school, was in the final stages of renovation. The amenities were excellent. In particular, provision was made for high quality computer labs and ICT equipment. JCU Singapore has a mix of locally engaged and Australian staff and is successfully establishing itself as a niche market. Its degree programs, in business in particular, are well patronised and early indications are that with the new campus enrolments are on the increase. Dr Anderson acknowledged that such ventures by Australian universities were risky, but that if universities were not overly ambitious they could secure a specialist part of the market with considerably less risk. Trying to emulate the National University of Singapore would be a mistake.

JCU Singapore was impressive. It was hardly flamboyant but it was practical and offered courses to Singaporean students (and other foreign students) that are clearly in demand. Dr Anderson and his colleagues, while retaining confidence in the future of JCU Singapore, acknowledged that they should not expand too quickly. Interestingly, Dr Anderson believes that the global financial crisis will not necessarily lead to less young Singaporeans taking up university studies. Indeed, he believes there will be a slight increase as people take up positions in universities who previously may have gone straight to work.
2:00pm: Visit to the Ngee Ann Adelaide Education Centre – A joint venture private education body between the University of Adelaide and Ngee Ann Kongsi, a local philanthropic organisation

I met with Mr Gary Yang, the marketing manager of the University of Adelaide, Singapore campus. He revealed that the University of Adelaide was planning to make the Singapore campus its second largest within two years. He projected a doubling of student numbers by 2010 with the help of education partner, Ngee Ann Kongsi. Student numbers are projected to jump from about 450 to 900 by the end of 2009 with further growth planned over the next decade. This increase will include the recruitment of students from other countries in the region, as well as from Singapore.

Post graduate programs offered by the University of Adelaide in Singapore will also be expanded over the next three years, with a Master of Accounting degree and a Graduate Diploma of Wealth Management among the new courses. Entrepreneurship and International Trade are also likely to be offered.

I was reminded by Mr Yang that Singapore is now the University of Adelaide’s third largest source of overseas students. The majority of them study in Singapore and these numbers are expected to increase substantially in the next decade. He was very optimistic about the future.

4:00pm: Visit to Curtin University Singapore

I was hosted around the new campus of the Curtin University Singapore by the Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor John Neilson. Curtin University’s new campus in Singapore was impressive and facilities excellent. While there was not an over abundance of room, the education facilities were very good and the use of ICT equipment very common. Lecture halls and seminar rooms were purpose built for ICT equipment and were flexible in their usage. Professor Neilson reminded me that Curtin University of Technology had been delivering programs in Singapore since 1986 and has a lot of experience in providing courses there. In addition, he pointed out that Curtin also had a campus in Sarawak which continues to be successful.

The most popular undergraduate program is a Bachelor of Commerce with majors in Commerce, Accounting or Finance and Marketing. Increasingly Curtin University of Technology is also offering post graduate courses. A Master of International Business, Master of Accounting, Master of Logistics and Supply Chain Management have all been achieving good enrolments. Professor Neilson said that one of the reasons why Curtin has been so successful in Singapore is that they have had a lot of experience and have moved very slowly into the market attempting to garner what will work, where the demand is, and how Singaporean students will take to Australian universities operating in Singapore.

Professor Neilson was optimistic about Curtin’s future in Singapore but believed with increasing competition from domestic universities in Singapore and with other international universities seeking campuses in Singapore that competition would increase. Nonetheless, given Australia’s great name in tertiary education in Singapore he is confident that Curtin will continue to prosper.
Saturday 13 December 2008

*Personal Program: Tour of Singapore*

Sunday 14 December 2008

8:25pm:   *Depart Hotel for Airport*

11:25pm:  *Depart Singapore for London*

Monday 15 December 2008

5:25am:   *Arrive London Heathrow Airport*

7:30am:  *Arrive Accommodation*

3:30pm:   *Briefing with High Commission hosted by Deputy High Commissioner Ms Francis Adamson at Australia House, Strand, London*

The first point made by Ms Adamson, was that Britain was already in recession and the market place had already succumbed to the global financial crisis. While London is a world centre for banking and finance, hundreds of bankers, lawyers and financiers were losing their jobs every week in the city of London. Both the economic outlook and the atmosphere in London was much worse than in Australia. While broadly encouraging my visit, Ms Adamson reminded me that as we approached Christmas it was more difficult to get hold of both university administrators, relevant senior public servants and also senior conservative politicians. However, the High Commission had secured some excellent appointments and she was confident that I would find the visit very useful. As always, our senior diplomats impress.

Tuesday 16 December 2008

7:30am:  *Breakfast meeting with Professor Malcolm Gillies, Vice Chancellor and President of the City University of London*

It was terrific to catch up with Professor Malcolm Gillies again. I met Professor Gillies when he was Pro-Vice Chancellor at the Australian National University in Canberra and then again when he was Pro-Vice Chancellor (Overseas Research) at Yale University, New Haven in the United States in late 2006. City University London focuses on educational areas relevant to business and the professions, particularly those associated with the major cities and financial centres of the world as exemplified by London. It provides a stimulating environment where students are brought together with academics and practitioners. What immediately struck me about the students at the City University of London and indeed the academics was their diversity. While universities in Australia are certainly diverse, nothing quite prepared me for City University’s extraordinary range of cultures and religions. While traditionally very strong in business, finance and accounting, City University Law School is being
revamped and is a particular focus for Professor Gillies. He was delighted that City Law School was now considered one of the better ones in the UK.

Like Australian universities, however, government funding as a proportion of overall funding has fallen. As a consequence Professor Gillies and his staff spend much more time raising funds from the private sector (which City University of London is in a good position to do) and also charge higher fees than they once did. Moreover, it is one of Professor Gillies ambitions to attract more overseas students, particularly in the areas of business and finance. Professor Gillies said that the goal of the University was to be the university of choice for students and alumni wishing to develop and enhance their skills in the professions and businesses associated with London and similar world cities. Clearly, he was making great strides toward that end.

10:30am: Meeting with Sir Graham Davies, Vice Chancellor, University of London

I enjoyed this meeting immensely. Sir Graham Davies is a New Zealander but has lived in Britain for over 40 years. He is a professional university administrator and has headed various universities throughout Britain. The University of London is a unique institution in Britain. The University of London is a federal institution consisting of 19 self governing colleges. Sir Graham, as Vice Chancellor, heads a governing body with overall responsibility for the maintenance of standards at the constituent colleges. It is a very difficult job, recently one of the most prestigious of these constituent colleges leaving the University of London – that being Imperial College. Each of the constituent colleges also have their own governing bodies, but Sir Graham chairs the overarching administrative body as Vice Chancellor of the entire University.

In some ways similar to Australia, tensions in Britain exist between what is known as the Russell Group of Universities (primarily the older research institutions) and the newer universities many of which were formerly polytechnics. With the relative fall in government funding as a proportion of overall university funding, the older research institutions are keen to secure as much money as possible, potentially at the expense of the newer universities. The Russell Group and its 20 major research intensive universities have argued that it is impossible for all universities to undertake major research functions. As a consequence, they argue that they should be provided with extra funding from government to pursue these activities which the other universities are incapable of pursuing.

From the academic year 2006/2007 a new system of tertiary fees was introduced in Britain. Universities are now entitled to charge fees of up to £3000 per year and student loans are available to cover these tuition fees which must be repaid upon graduation. While there is a maximum fee being charged by universities this does not inhibit universities from charging less than the maximum fee. Sir Graham Davies told me however that nearly every university charges the maximum fee that they can in all their particular courses. The loan system is a little different to Australia. In Britain a state provided loan is available which may only be used for tuition fee costs. Students, however, are also entitled to apply for state provided loans to pay for living costs but a portion of this is means tested. The introduction of tertiary fees into Britain was a contentious political issue but now both major parties in Britain support the move.

Sir Graham also mentioned the importance of Bologna process. The Bologna process is an intergovernmental initiative across the European Union that aims to create a European higher education area by 2010 and to promote the European system of higher education worldwide. This will mean that universities need to establish a common structure of higher education across Europe.
Undergraduate and graduate courses will need to be streamlined and largely common in their length and difficulty.

Sir Graham Davies, while a New Zealander, is happy to tell me that Britain was well aware of the maturing of the Australian tertiary sector and considered it a threat to its market share in many countries in Asia. I assured him that the competition would continue to rage.

2:45pm: Meeting with David Willetts MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Universities and Skills

David Willetts is a particularly English member of parliament. While the House of Commons accommodates people like Mr Willetts with ease and respect, the Australian Parliament would no doubt find it more difficult. For David Willetts is an intellectual. He has published several books and many articles and is a consistent player in public intellectual stouges in Britain. The Conservative party in Britain currently has David Willetts, William Hague, Oliver Letwin and Boris Johnson. What a pity we have so few people of their calibre in the Australian Parliament. Mr Willetts recounted to me the tensions between the Russell Group of universities and other universities in Britain. He also acknowledged the change in demography in Britain and was concerned that with an ageing population British universities may start to suffer a shortage of enrolments.

Most interestingly, however, Mr Willetts was interested in intergenerational equity. With the English Labour Government going into debt in an attempt to counteract the global financial crisis, Mr Willetts was very concerned to ensure that subsequent generations were not forced to pay debt racked up by the current generation. I promised to send him (and did send him) a copy of the then Treasurer, Peter Costello’s, intergenerational report. He was delighted by it and will no doubt make good use of it in the House of Commons. Despite the global recession, however, Mr Willetts was confident that university enrolments would not fall. He pointed to some interesting research that indicated that during times of economic hardship more people went to university because they could not find a job. Or, if they did have a job they wanted to retrain or diversify their skills. David Willetts is a very impressive individual. One can only marvel at the quality of individuals that are attracted to political life in Great Britain. And one can only wonder whether the likes of David Willetts would succeed in the Australian Parliament.

Wednesday 17 December 2008

10:00am: Meet Ms Sue Phamphlett, Inwards Visits Manager, House of Commons and Ms Jacqueline Baker at Porticullis House, Embankment, London

10:00am: Tour of Palace of Westminster by Ms Baker.

Despite the grumbles of politicians days like today are wonderful experiences and only obtained because one is a member of the Australian Parliament. The tour of the Palace of Westminster was fascinating and, I have to admit, I was awestruck. The British do history very well. And they do parliamentary history very, very well. There is a story for every Monarch, and plenty of stories for every Prime Minister. My host Ms Baker seemed to know them all. It is a joy being an Australian Member of Parliament at Westminster. The historical connections are clear and the British themselves
see the Australian Parliament as “one of the family”. The institutions I observed that morning in Britain helped to shape the modern world for the better.

11:30am: Observe Speakers Procession in Central Lobby

When the House of Commons is sitting the Speaker proceeds through the Central Lobby into the House of Commons. Tourists gather and marvel at the procession and the attire worn by the Speaker and his entourage. While those from Commonwealth countries perhaps take such things in their stride the American tourists were surprised and delighted but in some ways taken aback by the ceremony and apparent pomposity of the occasion.

11:45am: Observe Proceedings in the House of Commons

Again, these are great moments for Australian Members of Parliament. To be ushered in and sat at the best seating in the House of Commons in front of hundreds of other people in the so called distinguished visitor’s gallery was a great honour. An honour I never expected. Sadly, however, the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Gordon Brown, was absent overseas in the Middle East. Prime Ministers Question Time therefore became Question Time to the Leader of the House. The Leader of the House of Commons is the Right Honourable Harriet Harman QC MP. She did a sterling job answering all the questions from the Opposition in particular the aggressive questioning of the Right Honourable William Hague, a former leader of the Conservative Party and Leader of the Opposition. I judged Question Time in the House of Commons to be rather more polite than Question Time in the House of Representatives in Australia. But neither the House of Commons nor the House of Representatives are as polite as Question Time in the Australian Senate.

12:45pm: Lunch hosted by Mr Mark Hutton, Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of Commons

Not only did I have a wonderful morning touring the Palace of Westminster and I then enjoyed a remarkable half hour in Prime Ministers Question Time but then the House of Commons was good enough to treat me to lunch. Mr Mark Hutton, the Clerk of the Overseas Office had just commenced his new job. I was his first luncheon engagement. He was an excellent dining companion and told me much more about the history of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. He took me for a brief tour of the House of Lords. What a wonderful experience for an Australian Parliamentarian.

3:30pm: Appointment with Clerk of the Innovation, Universities, Science and Schools Committee

I enjoyed this meeting immensely. Engaging with the secretaries of committees whether in Australia or in Britain is always productive. For whatever the shortcomings of politicians and their application to detail no such criticism could be made of Parliamentary Committees and their staff. The Secretary informed me that the Innovation, Universities, Science and Schools Committee had decided to hold an enquiry into students and universities. This will include admissions, the balance between teaching and research, degree completion and classification and mechanisms of student support and engagement.
This inquiry would assess many controversial areas in higher education in Britain for example; it would assess the role of government in developing and promoting fair access and admissions policies for the United Kingdom higher education sector. It would also test the United Kingdom’s ability to meet government targets for participation in higher education among target groups. Secondly, the committee was going to examine the levels of funding for, and the balance between, teaching and research in United Kingdom universities and the adequacy of financial support for the development of innovative teaching methods and teaching/research integration. Thirdly, the committee is going to examine the actions that universities, government and others are taking, or should take, to maintain confidence in the value of degrees awarded by universities in the UK. Moreover the committee is also going to look at student plagiarism and the degree to which that was a problem in tertiary education in Britain.

Finally, the committee was going to examine student support and engagement; in particular the adequacy of UK higher education funding and student support packages and implications for current and future levels of student debt. All these issues are applicable to the Australian debate. I will certainly be monitoring the outcomes of this inquiry, which will hopefully shed some light on similar issues here in Australia.

6:00pm: Meeting with Michael Gove MP, Shadow Secretary of the State of Children, Schools and Families

Michael Gove MP is a very impressive individual. Indeed, former Conservative frontbencher Michael Portillo, once predicted that Gove would lead the Conservative party one day. Gove, who trained as a journalist, has written a couple of books, edited a couple more and has contributed more broadly to the political debate in Britain. His recent books Celsius 7/7 is a study of the roots of Islamic terrorism. What impresses me so much about Michael Gove and also David Willetts was their civility, erudition and learning. They are not in any sense defensive and have a demeanour of quiet confidence. This is in contrast to the braggadocio so evident in too many Australian politicians who make up for a lack of confidence with bravado.

In relation to school, Mr Gove is advocating the introduction of a voucher system. He believed that the State should pay the sum they would have cost in a state school and parents should be able to choose where their children should be educated. He argued that this would introduce competition in education and drive up standards and will greatly increase choice for parents and students. I mentioned that while a voucher system had not been introduced into the Australian school system it had just been recommended by Professor Denise Bradley AC in her recently released review of higher education in Australia. I passed on a copy for his consideration.

An election is due in Great Britain this year. While only six months ago it would seem that the Labour government would likely be defeated this is no longer the case. Both Mr Willetts and Mr Gove recognise that the election will be close and that Mr Brown, the Labour Prime Minister, has handled the crisis very well – particularly from a political point of view. Both Mr Willetts and Mr Gove are modernisers of the Conservative party. Along with Mr Cameron the Opposition leader, they have “detoxified the Tory brand”. It will be fascinating to see whether that detoxification is sufficient to ensure a general election win in 2009.
Thursday 18 December 2008

10:30am:  Meeting with Mr Robin Shreeve, Principle and Chief Executive, City of Westminster College, Paddington Basin Campus

Mr Shreeve is an Australian and he gave me an excellent insight into institutions of further and higher education in Britain. City of Westminster College is a long established provider of further and higher education courses. It offers a wide range of courses including accountancy, administration, photography, marketing, media, childcare, computing and ICT, digital design, e-media, travel and tourism and other courses. Similar to TAFE’s in Australia, City of Westminster College aims to educate people in a range from part-time and hobby courses all the way through to certificate and apprenticeship qualifications.

It is also a pathway to university. To this end the City of Westminster College works in partnership with universities such as Kings College, University College, University of Westminster and Middlesex University. What struck me as Mr Shreeve took me for a tour around the City of Westminster College was that three-quarters of the students come from ethnic minorities and nearly half speak English as a second language. This is diverse and multi-cultural London writ large.

Mr Shreeve said that he was having no difficulty at all in filling places at the college. Despite the global recession demand for places at the City of Westminster College were growing and the campus was about to expand. Mr Shreeve said that part of the difficulty for the City of Westminster College was that there was a large range of student educational capacity. Many students were studying for their A-levels (that is university entry) while most were doing diplomas or vocational training or apprenticeships in various industries. The breadth in student competence from achieving A-levels though to degree status courses was difficult but a common pathway for more disadvantages sectors of the London community. Surveying the physical attributes of the college I couldn’t help but wonder how lucky we are here in Australia. There was very little room in the City of Westminster College. Even though a beautiful new building is nearly completed to house the College space will remain at a premium.

Mr Shreeve has administered courses at TAFE’s here in Australia as well as Britain and believes that our TAFE system is one of the best in the English speaking world. Most importantly, he believes that institutions such as the City of Westminster College provide opportunities for students who otherwise would never have an opportunity to undertake higher education or to consider going on to university. In administering the City of Westminster College Mr Shreeve is a great enthusiast and a great ambassador for Australia.

2:30pm:  Meeting with Ms Sue Hubble, Library, House of Commons at Portcullus House, Embankment, London.

Ms Hubble was kind enough to illustrate the sort of publications produced by the House of Commons Library in areas of particular interests such as education. Clearly, they have a first class research capacity. Reports I brought back to Australia with me have been very useful and cover issues such as higher education and social class; tuition fee statistics; student loan statistics; value of student maintenance support; and review of higher education tuition fees. Of course, I didn’t hesitate to remind her that the Australian Parliament also had an excellent research capacity. It is a capacity that I
have used on very many occasions. I was gratified to learn that there was a good relationship between the Library of the House of Commons and the Library of the Australian Parliament.

Friday 19 December 2008

2:00pm: Mr Martin Williams, Director for Higher Education, Strategy and Implementation, Department of Innovation, University and Skills

In many ways speaking to a senior public servant is more likely to uncover the complexities of government priorities than speaking to politicians. Mr Williams provided me with an excellent summary of the challenges facing the United Kingdom higher education sector. Mr Williams said that issues facing the sector included:

- level of economic growth,
- commitment of public funding to higher education,
- government regulation (fees and quality),
- costs pressures on institutions,
- the provision of quality,
- changes in pre-eighteen education and training,
- student and employer demand,
- changing aspirations,
- internationalisation,
- impact of technology on learning,
- levels of flexibility,
- nature of the higher education workforce and human resources management, and
- the future of higher education institutions as we know them.

In other words, would UK higher education institutions become much more diverse like the United States or less diverse and more homogenous?

Mr Williams acknowledged that there was increasing tension between the Russell Group of research oriented universities and the rest of the higher education sector. Like Australia, however, he believed that government would be inclined to protect the sector as a whole and encourage excellence throughout the system rather than merely encouraging excellence among established research institutions.

Having spoken to Mr Williams it is clear that many of the challenges facing the tertiary sector in Australia are similar to those in the United Kingdom. While I had always assumed that the United Kingdom had an enormous advantage over Australia, principally because of Oxford and Cambridge and to a lesser degree the University of London, Mr Williams said that that advantage was decreasing. The Australian lifestyle was considered more attractive than the British lifestyle and fees in Britain were more expensive for Asian students than in Australia. In many cases too Australia was of closer proximity. But despite the competition between Australia and the United Kingdom to provide educational services to the increasingly prosperous Asian community, the problems we both face are similar. Perhaps therein lays room for cooperation.
Saturday 20 December 2008

Private arrangements in London.

Sunday 21 December 2008

6:30pm: Transfer from Hotel to Heathrow Airport
9:45pm: Depart London

Monday 22 December 2008

3:55pm: Arrive Bangkok

Tuesday 23 December 2008

9:30am: Briefing with Ms Anne Reynolds, Counsellor, Australian Education International

Ms Reynolds explained that Australian Education International is the international arm of the Australian Government’s Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. AEI’s principal aims are to support the growing number of students who study in Australia and, of course, to promote the quality of Australian education. In addition, AEI is also Australia’s voice on the international education stage and in negotiating memoranda of understanding and free trade agreements. Importantly, Ms Reynolds reminded me, in Australia AEI provides a national focus for debate and policy development and helps safeguard the quality and reputation of Australia’s courses, teachers and institutions overseas. It also advises on how Australian and overseas qualifications compare to help overseas qualified people starting work in Australia and undertakes the research and analysis to give industry intelligence advice on education markets around the world.

Ms Reynolds and her staff take seriously the task of promoting to Thailand the quality and diversity of Australian education. The Thai nationals working with Ms Reynolds had been educated in Australia and were themselves great ambassadors for the Australian education system. Among many impressive statistics and briefing materials provided to me by Ms Reynolds was a graph showing how we compare with our competitors - the United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand and Canada. Of all those countries Australia received more Thai nationals to study than any other country. Whereas the UK had briefly overtaken Australia in 2004 Australia now received about 15% more students than the United Kingdom from Thailand.

Ms Reynolds and her staff, however, were concerned to tell me that the Thai market was highly sophisticated and students considering studying overseas were savvy in their choice of overseas universities. Australia should not assume that they are guaranteed to secure the same level of Thai students without continued effort and continued marketing.
10:45am: Roundtable discussion with Ministry of Education officials.

Attendees:

- Ms Anne Reynolds
- Mrs Sivika Mekatavatchaiku, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Office of the Permanent Secretary
- Dr Piniti Ratananukul, Deputy Secretary General, Commission on Higher Education
- Dr Siripan Choomnoon, Deputy Secretary General, Office of the Vocational Education Commission on Higher Education
- Dr Benjalg Namfa, Director, Bureau Academic Affairs and Educational Standards, office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC)

The roundtable discussion with Ministry of Education officials was very useful. In Thailand a free basic education of twelve years is guaranteed by the Constitution and a minimum of nine years full attendance is mandatory. Interestingly Thailand, like Australia, is developing new national curricula. The purpose of the Thai national curricula is to standardise teaching approaches, school standards, a common curricula and an endeavour to model the system of education on child centred learning. In Thailand most children in primary and secondary school go to government schools. However, because the government is not able to cope with the entire number of students the private sector provides a significant contribution. Private international schools are allowed and follow British or American curricula. The level of education in the private sector is generally but not always higher than that of government schools. As in other developing countries, expensive, exclusive private and international schools provide for an exceptionally high level of achievement and a large number of their students continue their education at renowned international universities.

With respect to tertiary education, Thailand did not develop its first university, Chulalongkron, until 1917. Most Thai universities have a very strong faculty of education. However, most of the graduates do not necessarily intend to teach. Rather, many students enrol in the faculties of education to benefit from the superior quality of foreign language instruction. While there are three or four universities in Thailand that are recognised internationally many well off Thais send their children overseas to study at university. Again, this is because the instruction is in English and English is the language of international trade, commerce and diplomacy. However, Thai universities are improving and the Thai government over the next twenty years hopes to increase the percentage of Thai students remaining in Thailand to complete their universities studies.

Interestingly one of the participants at the roundtable, Dr Piniti Ratananukul, the Deputy Secretary General, Commission on Higher Education said that the Thai education system does not necessarily prepare Thai students very well for attendance at western universities. Thai students are not generally imbued with questioning intellects. They generally accept what the teacher says as gospel and even at university are reluctant to question their lecturers. I did mention to Dr Ratananukul that such issues were common in many countries in Asia including Japan, China and Malaysia. Respect and conformity were more important than challenging the ideas of the teacher or the lecturer. Dr Ratananukul said that the traditional values of Buddhism, respect for the King, the Monkhhood and the family, hinges on the rote method of learning and are a hurdle to implementation of modern educational methodology and the development of a critical western cultural approach to education.

I noticed that for many white collared jobs advertised in the “Bangkok Post” a Bachelor degree was a minimum requirement. Dr Benjalg Namfa mentioned to me that there is great debate in Thailand
over the setting of new requirements, subjects, exams and standards for university entrance. With the
too common changes to the national curricula, teachers constantly have to learn new material, set new
examinations and teach new curricula to students seeking tertiary entrance. As a consequence,
secondary teachers are under constant stress and thousands of textbooks are often obsolete within
twelve to eighteen months as curricula continue to change. Let us hope that with the development of
national curricula in Australia there is at least time for the curricula to settle down so that this constant change and turmoil will not occur in this country.

Dr Ratananukul outlined what he considered to be the most significant issues facing higher education
development in Thailand. First, he spoke about the articulation of the higher education system with
vocational education. This is an issue that the Bradley Review has touched on in this country and will
require further work. Articulation between TAFE colleges and universities has been a mainstay of
national education policy over the last fifteen years in Australia.

Secondly, good governance and management of Thai universities is also an issue. Until recently,
Australian universities were subject to government protocols. However, they no longer apply and
universities are now free to administer subject to the general oversight of Parliament. Networking
among universities was also becoming a far more important issue in Thailand and there are ever
increasing attempts to reach out to foreign universities in partnership arrangements.

International benchmarking for the quality of education in Thai universities was also under way. The
Thai’s while protective of their cultural institutions are aware that they have a long way to go before
they are internationally competitive at the tertiary level. Moreover, the development of university staff
is in its relative infancy in Thailand. Only the very best universities attract graduates of the great
foreign universities and the best host students still often go overseas.

Finally, there is concern that higher education should be made more accessible in Southern Thailand.
This is just another aspect of a national plan for development of Southern Thailand. This is an area of
great difficulty for the Thais with religious friction with the local Islamic population and frequent
calls for autonomy in provinces bordering Malaysia.

Despite all these challenges, however, there is no doubt that the Australian secondary and tertiary
education systems are very well respected in Thailand. While that is a testament to the work of Ms
Reynolds and her staff of Australian Education International it is also a reflection of a university
system the envy of any other middle power in the world. Most importantly, Australians do not just
believe this but countries such as Thailand do as well.

2:30pm: Briefing with Mr Phillippe Allen, Minister Counsellor, AusAid (Issue: HIV/AIDS)

Several years ago I had the privilege of meeting Senator Mechai Viravaidya who was a well known
Thai AIDS activist and politician. Senator Mechai is credited with publicising the issue of HIV and
ensuring that the Thai government took action to control its transmission. In the 1990s he was largely
responsible for increasing the budget to fight HIV/AIDS almost twenty fold and saved tens of
thousands of lives in the process. He is credited with raising the public consciousness in Thailand to
the enormous threat posed by HIV/AIDS in the early 1990s.

In recent years, however, the Thai government has not been so concerned with HIV/AIDS. The Asian
economic crisis meant, among other things, less money went toward AIDS prevention. Within twelve
to eighteen months of a falling concern with HIV/AIDS the incidents of HIV infection started to rise. In particular, it rose very quickly among young Thais. For young people the campaigns of the early and mid-1990s had by 2002/2003 been lost; they were too young to remember them.

Phillippe Allen reminded me that the majority of Thailand’s HIV infections (around 80%) occur through heterosexual sex. While HIV affects more men that women in Thailand the ratio is pretty close to 1:1. Most at risk groups however are intravenous drug users and those practicing unprotected sex between men. In the latter group, in particular, young men having sex with men under the age of 21 are highly vulnerable. This is where, said Mr Allen, continued education is necessary. He reminded me however that in Thai culture it is inappropriate to encourage teenage sex and it is sometimes difficult in a conservative country to raise such issues. Still, I reminded him, that it is nowhere near as difficult as it is in bordering Cambodia, Malaysia, Burma, or indeed Laos or Vietnam. Thailand for all the cultural sensitivities it faces is much more sensible and pragmatic than its Asian neighbours.

Thailand continues to provide drugs for people who suffer from HIV infection. It has negotiated arrangements with the major pharmaceutical companies for antiretroviral drugs and infected Thai’s are able to access the most effective drug treatments at a reasonable price.

While there were great concerns in my last trip to Thailand the Thai government was failing to take adequate action to address the problem of HIV/AIDS Mr Allen is convinced that the Thai government is aware of this growing problem. Failure to act would cause the additional death of tens of thousands of Thais and cost the economy millions of dollars. While complicated by a significant sex-industry and millions of tourists a year visiting Thailand the Thais are pragmatic and are aware that without intervention, AIDS would become a huge problem for the people of Thailand.

Wednesday 24 December 2008

11:00am: Coffee Meeting with Mr Suranand Vejjajiva, Political Commentator.

Mr Vejjajiva was a senior political advisor to the former Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra. Today he is a political commentator with a column in the Bangkok Post as well as a regular commentator on Thai politics on both radio and television. He is, as they say in the United States, the ultimate insider.

Mr Vejjajiva became a Member of Parliament with the Thai Rak Thai party when he was 40 years old. The party was headed by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and now has been disbanded following Mr Thaksin’s arrest and later flight from Thailand. Mr Vejjajiva is now 47 and is among 111 Thai Rak Thai officials that have been banned from politics for five years. The military coup in 2006 ousted the Thaksin government Mr Vejjajiva who was then a minister lost his portfolio and later was forced to leave Parliament.

Mr Vejjajiva is very close to the former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. He believes that Thaksin was a very good Prime Minister for the times and did a good job following his election in 2001 and in the recovery period post the 1997 economic crisis in Thailand. Mr Vejjajiva said that in that time Thailand benefited from a Prime Minister who was dynamic, possessed great business skills and was innovative. He told me that Mr Thaksin was a shot in the arm for Thai democracy and that history will treat Thaksin far more kindly than the media in contemporary Thailand.
Interestingly, Mr Vejjajiva does not see the thousands of individuals dressed in yellow who blocked Bangkok’s international airport as necessarily great supporters of democracy. He said that most of these people were part of the urban middle-class and were concerned that Mr Thaksin may again seek power through his very large rural base. The contest in Thai politics was not so much one of democrats versus non-democrats but rather the urban elite having had their power compromised by organised political machines such as the Thai Rak Thai party who could mobilise rural supporters and thereby win general elections in Thailand. In his view, the protestors dressed in yellow were not protesting for democracy but rather they were protesting at their own loss of political power. While the colour yellow signifies loyalty to the King of Thailand many of the protestors used their supposed fealty to the King as a reason for opposing democracy. Mr Vejjajiva believes there is no necessary clash between support for the King and promotion of a healthy democracy.

My meeting with Mr Vejjajiva was fascinating. He is clearly very well connected and is convinced that the current political tension in Thailand will take many years to play out. He believes that the urban elites will never again hold such power in Thailand, particularly with the spreading of democracy throughout the country. He believed that the average Thai, even in rural districts, is concerned have a say in Thai government. The somewhat patronising display by many of the urban elites will no longer go unchallenged in Thailand.

As a matter of interest he did tell me that the new Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva is his first cousin. So, not only is he connected to former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra but is the first cousin of the newly elected Thai Prime Minister. Suranand Vejjajiva really is the ultimate insider.

12:00pm: Lunch meeting with members of the Thailand Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group. Attendees:

- Senator Anusart Suwanmongkol
- Mr Anucha Burapachaisri

This meeting was in total contrast to my discussion with Mr Suranand Vejjajiva. Both Senator Suwanmongkol and Mr Anuchi were opposed to any possible rehabilitation of Thaksin Shinawatra as a leading political figure in Thailand. Senator Suwanmongkol and Mr Anuchi were in distinct contrast to Mr Vejjajiva. Senator Suwanmongkol is from southern Thailand and he is a Buddhist from a majority Muslim area. He is one of the Senators that has been appointed by His Majesty the King. Mr Anuchi is a relative newcomer to politics and is a Member of Parliament based in Bangkok. Both supported the protests that had recently closed the Bangkok international airport. While not in any way countenancing any violence both men believed that the Thaksin regime was corrupt and corrupted Thai parliamentary democracy.

At some length they catalogued many of the less than desirable aspects of the Thaksin Prime Ministership. While conceding that parliamentary democracy meant that every Thai’s vote was equal they also believe that many particularly in rural areas had been misled and indeed used by Mr Thaksin Shinawatra. They both believed that it would be sometime before parliamentary democracy in Thailand matured and in the meantime it was important that the institutions of state were protected from populists and corrupt political officials. They were very concerned that particularly under Mr Thaksin money could buy political power.
I was struck by the distrust both men had for Thaksin and for what they saw as his lack of regard for Thailand’s political culture and firm democratic footings. They were also concerned that as the reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej draws to an end, Thai politics is historically in a state of flux. They were very concerned that populist figures such as Mr Thaksin did not gain too strong a foothold among the Thai populus. They believed that such popularity might even imperil democracy in Thailand.

3:00pm: Meeting with Professor Borworn sak Uwanno, Secretary General, King Prajadhipok Institute

I have met Professor Borworn sak Uwanno now on several occasions. He was originally a Professor of Law at Chulalongkorn University and later held the post of Cabinet Secretary General under the Thaksin government. He is also a key drafter of the 1997 Constitution of Thailand which among other things introduced a Senate into the Thai parliamentary democratic system. Professor Borworn sak is a leading public intellectual and I have always found his insights into Thai politics and democratic reform at the forefront of Thai commentary. As well as being a gifted lawyer he is also a talented political scientist.

The King Prajadhipok Institute was established in 1994 to promote democracy in Thailand through research, education and training in the areas of politics and governance. It conducts research on the promotion of democracy and peace and also provides academic training to public and private sector leaders to deepen their understanding of democracy and peace. It is one of the most significant institutions in Thailand for disseminating information about politics, administration and democracy.

Professor Borworn sak explained that the clash between the protestors in yellow that closed the international airport and the supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin dressed characteristically in red was not just a battle about partisan politics. He said this was also a battle about social class. The power of the urban educated elite is being threatened by Thaksin’s near monopoly of support in rural Thailand. By engaging with a large rural sector and energising their introduction into Thai politics and democracy Thaksin had tapped into Thai people that had never really participated in politics before.

So while being characterised as a partisan battle between the former Thai Rak Thai party and the governing Democratic party the current tension in Thailand is more the playing out of a struggle for political power between the urban elites and the large agricultural and rural community in Thailand. Overlaying this tension was the drawing to a conclusion of the King of Thailand’s reign. Characteristically in Thai history towards the end of a long reign there is much political tension and much concern about what will happen after the King passes away and a new monarch ascends to the throne. The increasing democratisation of Thailand and engagement of many millions more people in the democratic processes concerns many of the educated elite of Thailand. While certainly not threatening the Thai monarchy in anyway it simply adds further uncertainty to the short to medium term in Thai politics. Professor Borworn sak was at pains to point out that there are several precedents for this in Thai political history.

Interestingly, Professor Borworn sak was confident that Thailand would continue to mature as a parliamentary democracy and that in the medium term an accord would be struck between the old elites and the emerging elites in Thailand. The old elites tended to be the military, the media and even much of academia. The newer elites were the new rich and the increasingly organised rural sector of Thailand. I was also delighted to learn from Professor Borworn sak that he felt that the Thai Senate,
that he was so instrumental in establishing, was a useful check on executive power and retained very useful functions in the Thai Constitution, with particular reference to its committee work. Professor Borwornsak has a reputation as one of Thailand's leading intellectuals and political commentators. He was the perfect finish to a fascinating two days of discussion on Thai education and politics.

END OF STUDY TRIP.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Brett Mason
18 March 2009

Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 61
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose

In my capacity as Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Assisting the Leader on Emissions Trading Design, I travelled to the USA from December 2008 to January 2009. The purpose of the visit was to study the design and operation of Emissions Trading Schemes, undertake a Pacific Fellowship at the University of California, San Diego and attend meetings organised by the Australian American Leadership Dialogue in Washington and Palo Alto. The visit included meetings with business organisations, government officials and academic personnel.

(b) Itinerary

Refer Attached

(ii) Key Meetings and Outcomes / findings

During the Study Tour I gained an insight into emission trading schemes operating and being considered across North America. I had the opportunity to deliver a series of lectures and tutorials with students and staff at the University of California in San Diego, and meet with members of the San Diego business community. I met with a range of experts at UCSD and Stanford Universities, and in Washington, regarding policy responses to the global financial crisis. I studied a range of water infrastructure issues in California, as well as other areas of public policy, particularly Asia/Pacific foreign affairs issues.
(iii) Conclusion

The study tour contributed to a greater understanding of responses to climate change, infrastructure challenges, particularly in regard to water, foreign policy issues in our region, issues surrounding the global financial crisis and the nature of federal/state relations within the United States.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

ANDREW ROBB
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Los Angeles to San Diego
Confirmation # 1093415
(drop off at San Diego Airport on Sunday 21 Dec)

16/12/08 to 30/01/2009  Accommodation:  
Regents La Jolla  
9229 Regents Road, La Jolla
Ph: 0011 1-858-784-0248
Fax: 0015 1 858 458 1408

21/12/2008  TO: San Diego to Chicago  AA1438
Lv: 09:35, Arr: 15:35
Car Transfer - Airport to Hotel  
To be arranged

21/12/2008  Accommodation:  
Sofitel Chicago Water Tower
20 East Chestnut Street, DownT Chicago
Ph: 0011 1 312 234 4000
Fax: 0015 1 312 324 4026
Rate: USD $225.00
Conf # C9101Y3

22/12/2008  Meeting: Chicago Climate Exchange  10:00am
Mr Mike Walsh, Executive Vice President
190 South LaSalle Street, 11th Flr, Suite 1100
Contact: 0011 1 312 229 5171

23/12/2008  TO: Chicago to New York - La Guardia  AA
Lv: 09:35
Economy

23/12/2008  Accommodation:  
The Empire Hotel
44W. 63 Street, New York NY
Phone: 1-212-265 7400
Fax: 0015 212-765-4201
Conf # 115212330

27/12/2008  TO: New York to Charlotte  US3117
Lv: 12:01
Connect:
Charlotte to Little Rock
US2303
Lv: 14:27
Arr: 15:30

Accommodation:
30/12/2006
Capital Hotel
Markham and Louisiana
Little Rock AR US
Ph: 0011 1 501 374 7474
Fax: 0015 1 877 637 0037
Rate: USD$199
Conf # 115138792

30/12/2008
TO: Little Rock to Dallas
AA3392
Lv: 11:15
Arr: 12:25

Connect:
Dallas to San Diego
AA1701
Lv: 13:15
Arr: 14:30

11/01/2009
TO: San Diego to Washington DC
UA970
Lv: 08:00
Arr: 15:41

Transfer - Hughes Limousines
Airport to Hotel - To be arranged

Accommodation:
The Four Seasons
2800 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
P: 0011 1 202 9442008
F: 0015 1 (202) 342.1673

13/01/2009
TO: Washington DC to San Diego
UA231
Lv: 12:39
Arr: 15:20

14/01/2009
TO: San Diego to Palo Alto (San Jose Airport)
US Airlines

Car Hire: Hertz
Collect San Jose Airport - Drop Off San Diego
Marriott Downtown on 19/1/09 by 17:00
Rate AUD$111.48

15/01/2009
AALD West Coast Leadership Dialogue
&
Stanford University

16/01/2009
Accommodation:
Sheraton Palo Alto
625 El Camino Real
ph: +1 650-328-2800
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Lv: 10:00am
Arr: 11:00am
22 December 2008

Senator the Hon J Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

Further to my letter dated 27th November 2008, I confirm that I visited East Timor on the 18th and 19th December 2008. I have attached a copy of my itinerary and advise that I was able to use Frequent Flyer points for the Perth to Darwin leg of the journey. This involved an approximate saving of $1318.94 with taxes, based on a fully flexible fare. As such the total cost of flights and accommodation for this trip not including incidentals is $2773.25.

(i) (a) Confirmation of purpose

The primary purpose of the visit was to meet with and convey to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) officers appreciation for their service in East Timor, this was timely especially just prior to Christmas. As a former Minister for Justice, I had extensive oversight of the AFP’s involvement in East Timor from 2001 to 2007.

During my visit however there were a number of other appointments which are outlined in the itinerary.

(b) Itinerary

Wednesday 17 December

1:25pm Depart Perth Flight QF1938

7:10pm Arrive Darwin (via Alice Springs)

Thursday 18 December

7:00am Depart Darwin Flight TL500
8:15am  Arrive Dili

9:30am  Meeting with Ambassador Peter Heyward at the Australian Embassy

12:30pm  Meeting with John Drury and Tony O'Connor, Australian Customs Service at ACS Building.

2:30pm  Meeting with Kevin Austin, Human & National Security Development Advisor Representative to Timor Leste and Abreu Ximenes Correia, Chief of Cabinet at the Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment, SEFOPE at ex CNRT

4:00pm  Meeting with UN Deputy SRSG Finn Reske-Neilsen at Obrigado Barracks Accompanied by Suzanne McCourt, Counsellor, Australian Embassy

5:00pm  Meeting with AFP executive in Dili: Superintendent Peter Kuhnke – Manager Mission Support, Timor Leste Police Development Program; Superintendent Shane McLennan – Project Manager Police Operations Development, Timor Leste Police Development Program; Superintendent Mark Setter – AFP Contingent Commander, United Nations Mission in Timor Leste at AFP Comoro Office, Dili

6:00pm  Evening function with AFP personnel

Friday 19 December

7:20am  Depart Dili Flight TL511

9:05am  Arrive Darwin

10:00am  Depart Darwin flight QF2671

12:25am  Arrive Broome

1:05pm  Depart Broome flight QF1073

3:35am  Arrive Perth
(ii) Key meetings and outcomes / findings

Customs Advisers to East Timor

I received a briefing from Australians employed by the Timorese Government to advise on the construction of a Timorese Customs Service. It is clearly in Australia’s interests that East Timor have in place effective border control. New Zealand will soon embark on an aid programme and this is something Australia should look at following.

East Timorese Youth Training Programme in Australia

Training is a key priority for the East Timorese Government. The Australian Government has announced that although Timorese workers will not be included in the Pacific Guest Workers Scheme, this may be recommended in the future. A proposal by the previous Western Australian State Government envisaged a pilot programme of around 150 Timorese youth receiving on the job training in the North-West of Australia.

I discussed this at length with Kevin Austin who is attached to the Department of Training and Vocational Education in East Timor. Local Shires in the Kimberley and a number of businesses are supportive, however this can only be progressed on the basis that local jobs, particularly indigenous ones are not affected. As well as this, it has to be viable for the capacity of businesses in the Kimberley to participate in such a programme. Cooperation would also be needed between the Commonwealth and Western Australian Government. It is a worthwhile proposal and it should be pursued.

UNMIT

I met again the Deputy Special Representative of the Un Secretary-General of the United National Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), Finn Reske-Neilsen. Discussions ranged around the effective return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) to their homes and continued capacity building in East Timor.

Australia’s role was acknowledged as crucial. It would seem that the expectation is that the UN mandate will be renewed when it terminates in February 2009. This needs to be done as withdrawal by the United Nations at this stage would be detrimental in a political climate that is still fragile.
AFP

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) now enjoys in Dili new premises for its command post. This is a great improvement. The AFP continues to do an outstanding job and this was relayed to me by a number of independent sources. The development of the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) is problematic however the Australian Government’s continuation in the last budget of the bilateral development program is worthwhile. In addition to this, there are AFP serving with the United Nations Police (UNPOL) and this has significance for law and order in the country. Capacity building for the PNTC is essential for the security of East Timor’s future.

(iii) Conclusions

Since the dramatic events of February this year, East Timor has made some progress. The IDP’s have returned home and the petitioners (former soldiers) have been paid out. Economic growth also continues but the political situation is fragile and much remains to be done. The role therefore of the AFP and UNMIT is essential to East Timor’s success.

Whilst this report of necessity is a brief summary, the issues canvassed are indeed more complex and challenging. Needless to say Australia’s involvement is very important and will need to be enduring.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Ellison
Senator for Western Australia
THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP

Italy, France and the United Kingdom
23 December 2008 – 6 January 2009
Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 61  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey:

**Purpose of the journey**

The purpose of my journey was to inform myself in order to better perform my role as Shadow Minister for Education, Apprenticeships and Training, as a member of the Opposition frontbench in general and as a local Member of Parliament.

I chose to do this in the following subject areas: climate change, online campaigning and presence, primary, secondary and tertiary education, the global financial crisis, methods to enhance participatory democracy, fair trade, unauthorised arrivals and migration, European Union and UK, French and Italian politics, the issues of importance to Italians living abroad, the market for Australian Universities in Europe, ethical development, Australia’s relationship with the Holy See, and overseas aid.

**Itinerary**

I visited the following destinations on the dates as follows.

23 December 2008 – 1 January 2009 Rome  
1 January – 3 January 2009 Paris  
3 January - 5 January 2009 - London

Please find attached a detailed itinerary for each segment of my visit.
Key meetings and outcomes/findings

There were a number of key meetings in Rome, Paris and London.

In Rome I met with our Ambassador there, the Hon Amanda Vanstone. We covered many topics but most particularly, our relationship with Italy and the European Union, trade, cultural exchanges between Italy and Australia and also the opportunities to expand our relationship with Italy and the EU. We discussed the policies of Italy and other European countries with respect to unauthorised arrivals and migration. As I have a large population of Australians from Italian background in my electorate we covered the issues of interest to former Italians now living abroad and former Australians now residing in Italy.

The most important of these are the moratorium (now ended) for former Italians to reclaim Italian citizenship under the dual citizenship rules in Australia and Italy, the treatment of income between Italy and Australia for tax purposes, rules governing the receipt of pensions in both Italy and Australia and the representation in the Italian Parliament of former Italians now living abroad.

I was grateful to have the opportunity to meet with the Ambassador to Italy for New Zealand, Mr Lawrie Marke. He had different but particularly useful insights into the issues of climate change, migration and the global financial crisis as they pertain to Australia’s and New Zealand’s relationship with Europe. This also gave me the opportunity to discuss Australia’s and New Zealand’s overseas aid programmes, the relationship of our countries with states of the South Pacific and also Papua New Guinea. It also gave me the opportunity to catch up on the outcomes of the recent national election in New Zealand and what that might mean to Australia-New Zealand relations as well as future policies in New Zealand.

My next meeting occurred with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) which is based in Rome. It contracts migration services, including processing, research, representation, assignment and so forth to member countries across the globe (including Australia). I met there with Ms Anna Giustiani. We discussed subjects ranging from Italy’s detention policies regarding unauthorised arrivals to processing, re-assignment, return of unauthorised arrivals, migration policies in Europe, other countries’ responses to the flight of unauthorised arrivals from Africa and the Middle East, cultural issues as they relate to settlement and the research work that the IOM has undertaken, particularly as it relates to settlement issues in Northern Italy.

I was fortunate to meet with Mr Paolo Conversi. Mr Conversi is the adviser to the Holy See on matters relating to climate change, food security and ethical development. He has pioneered the Holy See’s policy known as “integral development”. This policy is not so much about sustainable development but instead a marrying of economic, social, environmental and human sustaining development that is founded on ethical principles. It is a way of thinking that is designed to replace the Hobbesian philosophy which underpinned the industrial revolution. It is this philosophy that informs the Holy See’s attitude to climate change and hence food security for the people. We discussed this approach as well as the results of the Kyoto Protocol, the recent pre-Copenhagen planning
meeting on climate change at Poznan and the expectations before the upcoming Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change in December 2009.

Mr Conversi had interesting insights into Australia's role as a new 'actor' in the climate change debate following Australia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocols and was interested to understand the Australian Opposition's approach.

Mr Murray Cobbam is the Regional Director for Europe of the University of Sydney. He was the former Australian Ambassador to Italy. He is responsible for finding and developing opportunities for the University of Sydney in Europe especially in the area of research and studies. He is also responsible for increasing students from Europe who may choose to study at the University. We met to discuss the higher education system in Italy and Europe, its comparison with Australia, the presence of Australian Universities in Europe and how this market could be developed further.

We discussed issues in relation to migration, the World Trade Organisation and the internationalisation of Australian education as well as some of the research projects undertaken by the University for the OECD and German Universities.

Mr Cobbam had interesting matters to report on in relation to "European Centres" being established in Europe by Australian Universities other than the University of Sydney. For example Monash and Melbourne Universities have a number of chairs of faculties funded from Europe and the Europe/Australia Business Council activities in Australia are closely aligned with the work of Universities in Australia.

I met with Mr Luca Bader of the Department of International Relations in the Democratic Party of Italy. Mr Bader is an organisational party figure of standing. He has responsibility for the International Department (which is akin to a policy committee of a major Australian political party but is a paid party post). We discussed the general political situation in Italy, methods by which political parties include their membership in the political process ("participatory democracy"), the upcoming European elections for the EU Parliament, the method of choosing and electing candidates for parties and the Parliament in Italy, relations between Italy and Australia, the ramifications of the global financial crisis, the outcome of the US elections and the implications of an Obama Presidency for Europe, the US and Australia and climate change.

During my stay in Rome I appreciated a guided tour of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament. It is most interesting to gain a perspective on politics and democracy, as an Australian, in a country such as Italy that fought a civil war to unite and then achieved democracy through very different means to how our own democracy has come about.

I next met with the Hon Marco Fedi, a Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies for Oceania, Africa, Asia and Antarctica and Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Parliament. The Ambassador attended this meeting after an initial meeting with me alone. As I have a large Italian origin constituency, it was very useful to me to discuss issues with one of their representatives in the Italian Parliament. We were able to cover important matters to my electors including the treatment of pensions between Italy and Australia, dual
citizenship and the end of the moratorium from the Italian side, the return of Italian-Australians to Italy as well as general issues to do with Italian and EU politics, the current situation in Gaza and the likely passage of constitutional reforms in Italy which may impact on the Deputies from the Italian diaspora.

With the Ambassador we also devised a plan to further engage the Italian Foreign Minister with the Asia and South Pacific group of Ambassadors and the Italian Foreign Minister and the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Parliament. The Ambassador intends to progress this matter this calendar year.

I was fortunate to attend “Primi Vespri e Te Deum” (vespers) presided over by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI in the evening of New Year’s Eve. It was an interesting insight into the presence of the Catholic Church in Rome and Italy and the strength of the Church in its ability to attract followers from all over the world to Rome to witness these demonstrations of faith.

I next proceeded to Paris. The focus of my meetings in Paris was on higher education, schools and fair trade.

My first meeting was with Ms Claire Giry, Adviser to the Prime Minister of France, Francois Fillon on Higher Education and Research. The French system is quite different to our own. It is highly regulated (as is ours) and it is funded almost exclusively by taxpayers (unlike our own). The fees charged to students are miniscule and there is almost a voluntary aspect to their payment. France is also unfortunate not to have any University of its seventy eight, in any of the reputable lists of top one hundred universities. We compared notes on the French and Australian higher education systems, the reforms proposed by French President, Nicholas Sarkozy and the likelihood of their acceptance by the French public. We also discussed the general political situation in France and the EU.

Ms Giry is also responsible for advising the Prime Minister on matters pertaining to research. To that end we discussed issues surrounding research funding and philanthropy.

I next met with Mr Marc Rolland. Mr Rolland is the Deputy Director of the International Division of the National Education Ministry. He gave me an outline of the policies of the French Government towards primary and secondary schools explaining the strong central control, overwhelmingly public nature of the system, the sources of funding of schools (which again, are largely reliant on the taxpayers of France) and the status of France internationally in terms of literacy and numeracy. We compared our two systems in relation to the autonomy of schools, the independence of principals and the publication of outcomes as well as reporting of results to parents.

We also discussed the relative merits of other systems of school education including the much talked about Finnish system and where we felt both our systems could be improved. We covered cultural issues and the integration of the large African sourced population of France and the relative reliance of the independent and Catholic school systems on the French state.
I then met with the representatives in France of World Vision, in particular Ms Marie Yared, World Vision’s advocacy adviser in Paris. I wanted to meet with World Vision to discuss the ‘Don’t Trade Lives’ campaign that World Vision is running to end child slavery. I am organising my own campaign in Australia (in concert with World Vision, Oxfam, Caritas and other charitable organisations) to have the Commonwealth and State Governments require that only fair trade certified chocolate be stocked in vending machines in government offices around the country.

Ms Yared and I discussed the campaigns in relation to children that World Vision in France are responsible for organising and we traded notes on the work that we are doing in Australia. We compared methods of lobbying, the success or otherwise of the campaigns to promote fair trade using those methods and suggested new ways of trying to interest politicians and those responsible for public policy in our campaigns.

I then travelled to London where I had arranged to meet with Ms Rachel Wolf, one of the education advisers at Conservative Party head office and Mr Tim Montgomerie, the founder of ConservativeHome website and conservativedemocracy.com. He is the foremost expert in internet campaigning and one of the initiators of genuine participatory democracy in the Conservative Party in the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, neither was able to make their meeting at the last minute.

I did however successfully meet with Dr Alan Mendoza, the founder and executive director of The Henry Jackson Society. He represents the Society in the media and contributes to the Guardian’s ‘Comment is Free’ site in this capacity. He presents the weekly Worldview show and runs the Disraelian Union, a Conservative discussion group.

The Henry Jackson Society advocates the view that supporting and promoting liberal democracy should be an integral part of Western foreign policy.

Dr Mendoza and I discussed the impact in the UK and EU of the global financial crisis, terrorism, the response of the UK government to the threat of domestic terrorism, the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States and what that could mean to the relationship of the US to the rest of the world, particularly Europe, participatory democracy in the UK Conservative Party, internet campaigning, EU and UK politics in general, the role of think tanks in politics and in developing policy and the importance of nurturing and sustaining liberal democratic principles across the world but particularly in the US, Australia and the UK.

All of these meetings in Rome, London and Paris increased my knowledge in areas of importance to me either locally in my electorate, as a Parliamentarian and as a member of the Opposition Shadow Cabinet. I drew conclusions from them that will assist me to represent my constituents better and to be a more useful contributor as a Member and Shadow Minister. This is particularly the case in relation to areas of great interest to me – higher, secondary and primary education, fair trade, participatory democracy, the impact of the global financial crisis locally and in Australia in general, the interests of Australians of Italian background in my electorate, online presence, climate change, migration and
unauthorised arrivals, overseas aid, ethical development, universities and Australia's relationship with Europe.

I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Hon Christopher Pyne MP
Shadow Minister for Education, Apprenticeships and Training

20 January 2009
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<td>Luca Bader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Head of the International Relations Section of the Centre-Left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/12/2008</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Murray Cobban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Former Australian Ambassador to Italy and currently Regional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Paolo Converse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vatican Secretary of State and Climate Change Expert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/12/2008</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Anna Gustinian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/12/2008</td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Laurie Dawes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/12/2008</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Amanda Vastone</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australian Ambassador to Italy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/12/2008</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rome</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rome – Rome</td>
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<td>1.55pm</td>
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<td>London</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Singapore – London</td>
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<td>6.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adelaide – Singapore</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City, Date, Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERSEAS STUDY TRAVEL REPORT – 23 December 2008 – 7 January 2009

HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP – SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINING
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2009</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Mr Alan Menendez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Project for Democratic Geopolitics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Executive Director, The Henry Jackson Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/1/2009</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>9:40pm</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/1/2009</td>
<td>London</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1/2009</td>
<td>London</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/1/2009</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>1pm</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/1/2009</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/1/2009</td>
<td>Rome</td>
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<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1/2009</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OVERSEAS STUDY TRAVEL REPORT – 3 December 2008 – 7 January 2009**

** prosperous PINE.MP – SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION. APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINING**
THE HON PAT FARMER MP

Nepal, India, Jordan and Egypt
Friday, 20th February 2009

Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 61
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey.

(i) (a) **Confirmation of Purpose(s):**

The purposes of this overseas study tour were outlined in the original proposal as follows.

To visit numerous orphanages, schools, hospitals and underprivileged communities in order to research the assistance they require and assistance available to them. To meet with organisations already providing assistance to these communities and then to establish a Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Poor in Federal Parliament. Also to visit various national landmarks and national parks in other countries which arrange guided tours for visitors from across the globe. Australia’s National parks and natural attraction are often closed to the public. I would like to research how international governments use the natural attractions they have to bring tourism dollars to their economies; and in doing so create employment opportunities for those who are often unskilled.

(b) **Itinerary:**

As the itinerary states I visited the countries of India, Egypt and Peru. The itinerary altered slightly from the original submission. Nepal was added to the Indian leg of the tour and Spain was only visited in transit from Egypt to Peru (please see section (i)(b) of this submission which outlines the itinerary in greater detail).

The addition of Nepal to the tour greatly enhanced the scope and breadth of my study into underprivileged communities and also provided the basis for comparative studies into how two Asian countries (India and Nepal) and two countries of similar topography and geographical make-up (Nepal and Peru) delt with levels of assistance available and attracting international tourism.

The following is the travel itinerary of the actual itinerary followed, including arrival and departure dates in the cities and towns visited:

---

**Itinerary for:**
FARMER/PATRICKMR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
<th>Cathay Pacific Airways CX162</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booking Class: Business Class (D)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departs</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11:50 Seats booked: 1 Confirmed
Flights

**Cathay Pacific Airways CX753**
- Booking Class: Business Class (D)
- Departs: Hong Kong
- Arrives: Delhi
- Seat: 012D
- Aircraft: Airbus A330
- Journey Time: 9hrs 10mins
- Non-Stop
- Date: Sunday, December 28, 2008
- Seats booked: 1

**Jet Airways India Private 9W264**
- Booking Class: Business Class (J)
- Departs: Delhi
- Arrives: Kathmandu
- Seat: 012K
- Aircraft: Boeing 737-800
- Journey Time: 6hrs 20mins
- Non-Stop
- Date: Monday, December 29, 2008
- Seats booked: 1

Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. 4Days/3Nights

**Trek**
- Departs: Kathmandu
- Arrives: Chakuibhayag
- Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2008

**Trek**
- Departs: Kathmandu
- Arrives: Chakuibhayag
- Date: Wednesday, December 31, 2008

**Trek**
- Departs: Kathmandu
- Arrives: Kathmandu
- Date: Thursday, January 01, 2009

**Trek**
- Departs: Kathmandu
- Arrives: Kathmandu
- Date: Friday, January 02, 2009

**Flight**
- Booking Class: Business Class (J)
- Departs: Kathmandu
- Arrives: Delhi
- Seat: 012K
- Aircraft: Boeing 737-800
- Journey Time: 1hr 30mins
- Non-Stop
- Date: Saturday, January 03, 2009
- Seats booked: 1

**Train**
- Booking Class: Executive Chair Class
- Departs: Delhi
- Arrives: Agra
- Date: Sunday, January 04, 2009

**Flight**
- Booking Class: Business Class (D)
- Departs: Delhi
- Arrives: Kathmandu
- Seat: 012K
- Aircraft: Airbus A330
- Journey Time: 9hrs 10mins
- Non-Stop
- Date: Monday, January 05, 2009
- Seats booked: 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
<th>Royal Jordan RJ503</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Amman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Amman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Cairo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Cairo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seat:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aircraft:</strong></td>
<td>Airbus A310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, January 05, 2009</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seats booked:</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Confirmed</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Stop</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Journey Time</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1hr 30mins</strong></td>
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Cairo, Egypt. 6 Days/5 Nights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
<th>Egyptair MS195</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Amman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Cairo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Cairo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Cairo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seat:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aircraft:</strong></td>
<td>Embraer 195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, January 05 to Saturday, January 10, 2009</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(January 06 to 07 is Coptic Christmas Holiday)</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
<th>Egyptair MS406</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Luxor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Luxor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Cairo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Cairo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seat:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aircraft:</strong></td>
<td>Boeing 737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, January 11, 2009 – Day tour Full day West Bank tour - Valley of the Kings - Tempo</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
<th>Iberia Lineas IB3735</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Madrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Madrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Madrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seat:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aircraft:</strong></td>
<td>Airbus A319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, January 11, 2009</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
<th>LanChile Airlines LA5101 (Operated By IBERIA FOR LANPERU)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seat:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aircraft:</strong></td>
<td>Airbus A340-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, January 12, 2009</strong></td>
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Lima, Peru. 6 Days/5 Nights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrives</strong></td>
<td>Lima</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Departs</strong></td>
<td>Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seat:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aircraft:</strong></td>
<td>Airbus A340-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, January 12 to Saturday, January 17, 2009</strong></td>
<td></td>
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3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td><strong>Saturday, January 17, 2009</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booking Class: Economy Class (L)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departs Lima</td>
<td>09:40 Confirmed Non-Stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrives Cuzco</td>
<td>10:55 Journey Time 1hr 15mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special: Remarks:</td>
<td>Seat:</td>
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**A Inca Trail backpacker, Peru 5 Days/ 4 Nights**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Trek</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depart</strong></td>
<td>Cuzco Wayllamba/ via Ollantaytambo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrive</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trek</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depart</strong></td>
<td>Wayllamba Pacaymayo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrive</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trek</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depart</strong></td>
<td>Pacaymayo Intipata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrive</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trek</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depart</strong></td>
<td>Intipata Aguas Calientes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrive</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Trek</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depart</strong></td>
<td>Aguas Calientes Cuzco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrive</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Booking Class: Economy Class (L)</td>
<td>Seats booked: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Departs Cuzco</td>
<td>11:10 Confirmed Non-Stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrives Lima</td>
<td>12:30 Journey Time 1hr 20mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special: Remarks:</td>
<td>Seat:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aircraft: Airbus A319</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LanChile Airlines LA2639</strong> (Operated By LANPERU)</td>
<td><strong>Friday, January 23, 2009</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Booking Class: Economy Class (L)</td>
<td>Seats booked: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departs Lima</td>
<td>14:50 Confirmed Non-Stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrives Santiago Arrives Terminal International</td>
<td>20:25 Journey Time 3hrs 35mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special: Remarks:</td>
<td>Seat:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft: Airbus A319</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qantas Airways Limited QF322</strong> (Operated By LAN AIRLINES S.A.)</td>
<td><strong>Friday, January 23, 2009</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booking Class: Business Class (D)</td>
<td>Seats booked: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departs Santiago Departs Terminal International</td>
<td>23:05 Confirmed With stop(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrives Sydney Arrives Terminal 1</td>
<td>07:20 Journey Time on 25/01/09 18hrs 15mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special: Remarks:</td>
<td>Seat: 004D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft: Airbus A340-300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(ii) **Key Meetings:**

The first of the original purposes for undertaking the study tour was outlined as follows: “*To visit numerous orphanages and underprivileged communities in order to research the assistance they require and assistance available to them. To meet with organisations already providing assistance to these communities and then to establish a Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Poor in Federal Parliament.*”

The following is a report outlining the key meetings and their outcomes from the study overseas.

**Nepal**

**31.12.2008 11am.**

Chakuibhajyang – Women’s Health Clinic.

My first meeting with and Non-Government Organisation (NGO) was with workers of an NGO at the women’s health clinic in Chakuibhajyang - a small village at the foot of the Himalayas that is a tourist stop on the trekking route to Nagarkot. I met with representatives that work at a women’s health clinic where they were providing 3 monthly female contraceptive injections.

The Nepalese Government has been concerned with an increase in birth rates in the rural regions. Over the last decade, the government’s preferred family planning policy was to undertake sterilisations for both men and women. The women’s clinic has provided both an alternative to the sterilisation program and a choice of contraception. In addition, it has provided a thorough family planning education program.

The NGO workers explained that the 3-month injections has proven popular, with injectable contraception now the second most popular form of contraception in rural areas (sterilisation for women is still the most popular) within the space of 5 years (having previously been one of the least used alternatives). I met with some local women and children, who describe the health clinic as the ‘health post’.

This meeting outlined the role NGO’s play in circumventing politically motivated government programs and policies in order to provide education and choice to rural communities. Their results have indicated that once the choice is offered to women in rural third world nations, they readily utilise less draconian and options for family planning and are capable of responsibly adhering to a family planning regime.

**01.01.2009 6.30pm**

Nagarkot – UNICEF Representatives.

I met with UNICEF Youth Ambassadors from Taiwan, Japan, China, Kenya and Nepal. We discussed their involvement in the Youth
Ambassador program. The program offers Ambassadors the opportunity to visit developing nations and to then report back on their progress to raise awareness through their universities, schools and government representatives. Throughout the meeting there were constant blackouts due to the overuse of the generators in the township. This disrupted electricity, water and heating (my visit occurred in the middle of winter).

At the meeting we compared our observations of Nepal and we discussed comparisons with other nations. Nepal’s electricity supply is sporadic and the population too poor to afford electrical equipment for basic heating and cooking. I myself had seen this in the village of Nagarkot, with many villagers collecting fire-wood and kindling to provide heating and light. The Ambassadors affirmed my observation and said that it was a common experience for rural communities in most developing countries. The lack of adequate water and electricity infrastructure and the population’s reliance on fossil fuels such as timber, have resulted in higher rates of respiratory conditions and the spreading of disease due to untreated water.

The meeting confirmed my observations that there exists a lack of fundamental infrastructure in rural - and many urban - areas in developing nations. This meetings’ discussion and reference to infrastructure would be a constant reference point for my observations and discussions at further meetings.

03.01.2009
9.00am-12pm

Kathmandu – Australian High Commissioner Graham Larde and the Nepal Red Cross Society.

I met with the Australian High Commissioner to Nepal, Ambassador Graham Larde. Mr Larde accompanied me to my meeting with representatives from the Nepal Red Cross Society at their National Headquarters in Kalimati, Kathmandu. Present at the meeting were the following members of the Nepal Red Cross: Sanjeeve Thapa, Chairman; Dev Ratna Dhakwa, Secretary General, Pushpa Raj Paudel, Director of Community Development, Oitambar Aryal, Director of Disaster Management, Dr Manita Raj Karnikar, Director of Blood Transfusion Services, Dr Sushma Baushal, Coordinator for Health Services.

The purpose of this meeting was to research the programs, experiences and outcomes that have been achieved by a substantially sized and well equipped NGO, such as the Red Cross, in a developing country and their work in conjunction with Government authorities.

The Nepal Red Cross Society has become a pivotal auxiliary to the government in national disaster planning and response; blood transfusion accumulation and delivery; and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Oitambar Aryal, the Director of Disaster Management discussed the challenge Nepal’s topography presented to the movement of people and supplies. Compounding this challenge is the lack of infrastructure to connect isolated rural communities. The lack of
water, roads and electricity are impediments to adequate and timely disaster response relief and disease prevention. The Red Cross has built 27 Emergency Relief Warehouses (one of which I visited before midday) which is a cornerstone of the Risk Reduction Phase of their Natural Disaster Management Plan. These warehouses, whilst not providing immediate relief on a daily basis, are there for immediate emergency response. The storage of emergency provisions in various locations - as opposed to a single urban hub - has enabled emergency response teams to gain better access to deliver immediate assistance for the affected population. This strategy of preparedness enables Red Cross workers to move quickly to disaster zones without needing to bring cumbersome equipment. These were effective in the recent flooding of the Koshi River where over 100,000 families were displaced.

Dr Manita Raj Karnikar, Director of Blood Transfusion Services outlined the importance of the Blood Transfusion Service. In 2003, their first year of operation for blood transfusions, they had 157 donors; in 2008 that number had reached 150,000 donors per-year.

The meeting participants outlined the integral part the Red Cross plays in Nepalese society and the provision of basic services. The Red Cross provides 15% of the water for Nepal. The meeting affirmed the observations from my meeting several days earlier at the women’s health clinic that NGO’s are well equipped for delivering aid to communities – some more-so than Government.

The participants also outlined that communities are more reluctant to accept aid or participate in government programs as they are suspicious that political, rather than humanitarian concerns motivate the governments. Instead, NGO’s are seen as impartial and focused on the needs of the communities. This is an important consideration to take into account for Australia’s international aid funding in the future.

India

03.01.09

Delhi — Meeting with Peter Ophoff from the Indian Red Cross/Red Crescent.

7.30pm

Upon arrival to Delhi I met with Peter Ophoff, Head of the Indian Office of the South Asia Regional Delegation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent. Our meeting explored the issues of international flows to areas that are in conflict zones and the need for the construction of infrastructure as a preventative health measure.

In our meeting, Mr Ophoff outlined the lack of water and sanitation infrastructure was the biggest impediment to tackling the mounting health and poverty problems in India. The HIV/AIDS outbreak in India was being combated by the Red Cross/Red Crescent with women’s education programs about contraception and family planning. Proper sanitation infrastructure, such as the construction of sewage drains, was also highlighted as a means of reducing infant mortality.
The distribution of international aid assistance to remote or mountainous regions was similar to that of Nepal. Cross-border cooperation is occurring between the Nepalese and Indian Red Cross in areas of natural disaster relief, again stepping in where governments have been reluctant or unable to assist.

The conflict in Kashmir was also raised during the course of our meeting. The neutrality of the Red Cross/Red Crescent is occasionally called into question. The adoption of the Red Crescent, although not universally recognisable, is now being used in conflict situations to negate any perceived political, religious or racial bias.

The meeting affirmed the centrality of the importance of NGO's neutrality compared with government. The NGO's neutrality aids their credibility with often conflict ravaged - and therefore often suspicious - communities. Furthermore, as members of the Global Alliance, the Indian Red Cross Society is committed to scaling up their activities in India by 2010 to provide more humanitarian assistance.

**Egypt**

**06.01.09**

**Cairo – Meeting with the Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women (ADEW).**

9.00am

I met with Dr Iman Bebbars, Chairperson of the Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women (ADEW) to discuss and review the impact the AusAID Human Rights Small Grant Scheme (HRSGS) of AUD$70,000 has had in supporting their program in the field of women’s legal rights.

One of the major issues that Dr Bebbars of the ADEW outlined in our meeting was the Egyptian Government’s requirement for identification cards to be carried and presented in order to obtain legal status. Without an ID card, many people (particularly women) are unable to access government assistance.

The ADEW aims to issue 3,600 ID cards and 3,600 birth certificates to over 7,200 women. In addition to that, they have begun conducting awareness session for women and well as providing free legal consultation. These programs are not offered by any government agency, nor is there any equivalent program available through government funding.

One of the findings from this meeting was that as far as services, jobs and health are concerned, if you don’t have an ID card you do not officially exist. To get an ID card you need an accurate birth certificate. However in many impoverished families, the parents are illiterate, therefore the children can’t read or write. Many of these families in remote of rural areas simply miss out on ever obtaining an ID card due to illiteracy and by being left ill-informed. This affects hundreds of thousands of people in Egypt. Without NGO’s like ADEW, many of these women would never be recognised.
Old Cairo – Meeting with ADEW Beneficiaries.

This meeting was scheduled to take place in conjunction with the last and took me to the Old Cairo area to visit some of the women who were the beneficiaries of the ADEW program.

Women who were beneficiaries from the ADEW program and administrators informed me that having the correct documentation in the form of an ID card had opened up avenues into both the government and the judiciary for these women who had struggled to gain access to health and legal services in the past.

The Egyptian Government had been reluctant to take on board the issuing of these documents to women from lower socio-economic backgrounds. The allocation of the AusAID grant has allowed a system to be set up through ADEW that, whilst not providing ‘traditional’ aid, makes a immense difference to the lives of those in poverty. It provides a rung on the ladder up to getting out of poverty that will inevitably lead to access to greater resources.

Nasr City (Cairo) – Meeting with Egyptian Red Crescent.

I met with Dr Mamdough Gabra, Secretary General of the Egyptian Red Crescent.

Our discussion centred on the unfolding humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip (my visit coincided with the Israeli offensive that began in December 2008). The Red Crescent’s ability to intervene in and get aid into Gaza was being hampered by the blockade of the Gaza Strip.

The Red Crescent’s evolution from charity to a greater focus on social development has increased their scope for intervention in providing health services and health education programs. They achieve this by working in partnership with the government and non governmental agencies and private sector. Like Nepal, it focuses heavily on blood banks and ensuring that there is an adequate blood supply maintained.

Due to the unfolding situation, our meeting was cut short. However, it convened again that evening. It was this meeting that I was advised of the negotiation skills needed to bring humanitarian aid to the victims of this conflict. My admiration for the men and women of the Red Cross/Red Crescent was greatly enhanced when I was informed of how they cast aside their personal political views.

The complete neutrality of this organisation - that helps anyone and everyone injured and in need - is often the only avenue for civilians to get aid in times of war or crisis. The Red Crescent volunteers do not care what religion, colour, creed, nationality or gender a person may be; instead they are humanitarians for all.
Dr Gabra was kind enough to escort us to visit the Red Crescent Hospital in Cairo to the following day, so that we could see first hand the work being carried out during the crisis.

**Mohandesseen – Meeting with the Rotary Club of Giza Cosmopolitan (RCGC).**

This meeting convened at a field site with Ms Nevine Abdel Khalek, President of the Rotary Club of Giza Cosmopolitan.

The purpose of this visit was to engage in work of an NGO that provides teaching in literacy and the implementation of their extra aid funding from the Australian Direct Aid Program (DAP) through AusAID.

I was able to visit several teaching classes where both men and women from underprivileged backgrounds were being taught basic literacy skills in reading and comprehension.

The President of the Rotary club explained that the illiterate poor do not see the need for education for their children if they themselves are not exposed to it. According to the Egyptian Rotary Club, the fact that 70% of married women in Upper Egypt cannot read or write is a direct contributor to illiteracy levels in youth. It creates a cycle of illiteracy and poverty that this program – and others like it – aims to break.

This meeting made me aware of the need for the development - and funding for the development - of a comprehensive family literacy program. This would assist with training and up-skilling programs that are currently run by RCGC and would close the gap of intergenerational illiteracy.

**Cairo – Visit to Red Crescent Hospital**

Dr Mamdouh Gabr, Secretary General of the Egyptian Red Cross/Red Crescent, arranged a meeting with the staff and the opportunity for a hospital walkthrough. The hospital caters to women and children.

Egypt is not defined as a developing nation by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and therefore does not receive direct funding as part of the AusAID program. The only assistance available is to small organisations that are eligible for grants.

The tour and meetings with staff highlighted the need to address socio-economic and ethnic inequality in Egypt. Many of those seeking treatment had acute birth defects and deformities. The staff said that this was a result of either exposure to high levels of pollution during pregnancy or incest. Again, this highlights the need for community education programs and adequate access to clean water and sanitation.
08.01.09  Mokata Soua, Cairo – Mamma Maggie and the St Stephens Children: Day 1 of 2
10am-4pm

The St Stephens Children and their organiser, Maggie Gobran aka Mamma Maggie, work and live in the slums of Mokata Soua, just outside Cairo. The population is over 2 million in Mokata Soua, with a family size on-average of over 8 children, with the majority of the population members of Egypt’s Christian minority.

Mokata Soua borders a rubbish tip, where children are paid AUD$0.15 per-10kg of solidified plastic waste. I witnessed young boys paid AUD$0.50 per 10kg of medical needles they collect.

Although this was the first day of my visit with the St Stephens Children and Mamma Maggie, my preliminary observations and discussions with Maggie revealed a disparity between the majority Muslim and minority Christian (roughly 70% to 30% proportionally).

However, the biggest need area of need is in the provision of infrastructure: water, electricity, sanitation, housing, roads. All of the water must be boiled (which leads to injuries such as burns) and disease still spreads via the rubbish.

09.01.09  Mokata Soua, Cairo – Mamma Maggie and the St Stephens Children: Day 2 of 2
10am-12pm

On the second day of my visit with Maggie Gobran aka ‘Mamma Maggie’ and the St Stephens Children, Mamma Maggie, we assisted her with providing basic sanitation equipment to the orphan children in the slums.

The main purpose of my meeting with Maggie was to submerge myself in the lives of those living well below the poverty line. The outcome from this experience was both personally enlightening and professionally instructive.

The meeting also allowed Maggie to illustrate to me the lack of government legislation and practice in the areas of medical waste disposal; water and sanitation infrastructure are desperately needed. Meeting this need would alleviate the burden on NGO’s as there would be a reduction in the spread of disease.

Peru

Lima – Briefing with Australian Consul General, Mr Nicholas Baker and Peruvian Ambassador Claudio de la Puente
14.01.09

I met with the Australian Consul General, Mr Nicholas Baker and the Peruvian ambassador to Australia, Claudio de la Puente. The meeting
was to brief me on the current socio-political climate in Peru and the economic situation.

Both outlined the difficulties and opportunities there were for Australian business. Mining and tourism are industries which are growing, with implications for the development of rural communities. BHP Billiton and other mining companies have been encouraged to invest in community projects in the areas where they are mining. This has led to an increase in grant-projects to being electricity, water and sanitation projects being funded and constructed.

During our meeting in Australia, the Peruvian Ambassador suggested that I study the changes to communities located along the Inca Trail Trek. The Ambassador (who grew up in the foothills of Micha Picchu) said the development of the tourist industry along the trek had led to an increase in investment in water and electricity infrastructure, and has greatly increased the development of those communities. My subsequent visit to the trek would also illustrate the areas where there was a need for improvements in aid.

15.01.09

Lima – Visit to Sisters of Mercy Health Centre

10am

I met with Sisters Joan Doyle, sister Patricia McDermott and Sister Jacqueline Ford of the Sisters of Mercy whose congregation works in the impoverished District of San Martin de Porres in Lima. Their congregation serves mainly poor women and children who are either ill or in some way socially disadvantaged.

I visited one of their centres for women, a medical service and a childcare service the congregation runs. They rely wholly on overseas aid donors, one of which is Caritas Australia. Their work encompasses an integrated approach to aid whereby the childcare, women’s centre and health clinic are available from the one, trusted source.

Again, access to safe drinking water and sanitation were the biggest cause for concern to the District and the congregation. The Sister’s of Mercy estimate that it would cost in the vicinity of USD$150,000 to construct suitable water infrastructure for the district they worked in alone. The injection of infrastructure into the community they estimate would vastly reduce the instances of disease and infection rates.

The congregation have ongoing running and staffing costs that need to be met annually. Currently none of the congregation work is funded through AusAID.

3pm

Meeting with Jose Luis Ochoa, World Vision Peru

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the ongoing work of World Vision, particularly in the city of Cuzco. Many private individuals sponsor children through world vision.
The outskirts of the city do not have access to safe drinking water, which leads to the spread of disease. We discussed the common experience throughout the developing world about the lack of access to safe drinking water.

Jose Luis Ochoa also requested that we convey our appreciation to the Australian people and World Vision Australia for their work and support.

16.01.09
9am

Visit to ANIQUEM Project with Mr Nicholas Baker

Our delegation met with the Vice President of ANIQUEM in Santo Domingo. The Association for Helping Burned Children (ANIQUEM) runs a non-for-profit burns hospital for children living in poverty.

ANIQUEM does not receive financing from the state. Instead it derives funding from private companies, particularly mining companies.

The main causes of these severe burn conditions is the necessity for families to have to boil water they have collected in order to purify it. However, many of the pots are on the ground, and small children often fall or tread in the water.

This meeting emphasised the importance of clean drinking water being supplied to the populations of rural and inner-city poor, to mitigate the types of adverse hazards and dangers that the people are forced to live with.

12pm

Lima – Meeting Fr Michael and his Community Gardens Project

I met with Fr Michael, a Catholic Columbian Priest who has begun a community garden centre in Lima. The project involves teaching skills to low-income earners and training programs in agriculture and trades.

The workshop also has a focus on encouraging environmentally sound practices, such as composting food scraps and recycling rubbish. The project also encouraged community involvement and encouraged people to replicate the gardens and the focus on recycling and composting in their homes.

This project relies on private donors and does not currently access AusAID funding or grants.

3pm

Lima – Meeting with Peruvian Red Cross National Council

I met with Delia Salas who discussed the emergency relief the Red Cross has been delivering for the rock-slide and earthquake affect areas.

Compared with Nepal, Peruvian standards of access and preparedness are slightly better. However, the same protocols are
applied for emergency preparedness as in Nepal, as well as measures such as the placement of humanitarian equipment in remote villages to mitigate any possible shortage of aid when disaster strikes.

We were able to schedule a meeting with Red Cross posts on the Inca Trail.

17.01.2009 Cusco – Meeting with the Red Cross prior to Inca Trail.

The purpose of this meeting was a preliminary discussion and briefing of which villages on the popular Inca Tourist Trek.

18.01.2009 Ollantaytambo – Inca Trail Village

The purpose of this visit was to inspect the degree of poverty and the impact that the burgeoning tourism industry has had on development.

The village has water and electricity infrastructure and employment opportunities as a direct result of government promotion of tourism along the trail.

The standards of water quality are improvements on other, non-tourist rural areas. This contrasts with Nagarkot in Nepal which suffered rolling blackouts that was both disruptive and unappealing.

Government investment in infrastructure has improved the health standards of this rural community; however this has not been matched with a comparative commitment to improving education and literacy in adults.

21.01.2009 Aguas Calientes – Tour of Village

At the foot of the main national tourist attraction, Machu Picchu, this village is geared wholly around the promotion of the national treasure and national park.

Again, the rural community has been given water and basic sanitation, however again I noticed the lack of education health provision for locals.

The visit to Aguas Calientes highlights the extreme difference in Government approach in Peru to that taken by the Nepalese government. Although Peru is comparatively stable to Nepal, which has recent undergone political turmoil, its development of the tourist industry has helped with the development of infrastructure for communities.

The next level in aid assistance from my observation would be for either NGO’s or Australian international assistance aid being targeted to underpinning the economic development around tourism with education, literacy and skills programs. Such a provision would foster the building of alternative economies and markets. This would lessen these communities reliance on tourism, which is a relatively unstable industry from which to base a community’s economy.
(iii) Conclusion

The role of a parliamentarian in the Australian Federal Parliament is to represent a constituency in Parliament on issues relevant to the functioning of the Australian Government and the Australian national interest. Furthermore, one of our roles within the legislature is to ensure that the executive is being transparent with treasury spending; and importantly that the allocation of that spending is consistent with the principles of Australia’s democratic institutions and constitution.

It is within this context that my Overseas Study Tour was taken. It is within the responsibility of the Federal Government and the Federal Parliament to oversee the allocation of Australia’s official international development assistance. The delivery of this assistance has specific oversight conducted through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

In recent years, not only in the national media but from feedback from my constituency in Macarthur, there has been a legitimate interest in the direction of Australia’s official international development assistance. This interest is often sparked by misinformation as to both the motives and the outcomes that are achieved from our current international aid program.

United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals

Australia contributes around 0.3 of Gross National Income or $3.2 billion in official international development assistance. Much of Australia’s international development assistance in targeted to projects and countries in our near-abroad – the Pacific and South-East Asia.¹

In 2008 I participated in a bicycle ride around Parliament House with some of my colleagues, including the Hon Kevin Andrews MP to raise awareness for the World Vision and the United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals. I was inspired by the commitment of the individuals who rode from Brisbane to Canberra to deliver a petition for Australia to maintain it’s commitment to achieving our target by the year 2015.

It was at this initial meeting (and subsequent meetings I held predating my study tour) with World Vision in Canberra on the steps of Parliament House that I became acutely aware of the world’s progress in meeting the United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals. I was unaware of the slow progress towards meeting many of the goals, particularly in maternal health (9% of the goal reached) and children’s health (32% reached) and primary education for all (41% reached).² It was hearing these statistics that prompted my initial interest in commencing this study tour.

Our adherence to the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals means that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade estimates that by 2015-2016 Australia will increase its official international development assistance funding as a proportion of GNI to 0.5%.³

The increase in the percentage of the contribution of international development assistance as a proportion of GNI to meet our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals necessitates a re-evaluation of our international aid programs and AusAID’s future priorities.

This re-evaluation is by no means an admonishment of AusAID nor is it by no means meant to detract from the enormous amount of good work that our public servants and volunteers are achieving through the AusAID program. Rather, it is a legitimate part of ensuring Australia’s funding priorities evolve and change with the dynamic world in which we live and operate.

My study tour included nations that were within the targeted scope of AusAID’s purview, such as Nepal and India; whilst others were not with AusAID’s purview, but had Non Government Organisations (NGO’s) whose individual projects the Australian Government had funded through the AusAID Human Rights Small Grant Scheme (HRSGS) and the Australian Direct Aid Program (DAP) in Egypt; and also to a country that was not within the scope of AusAID, but had Australian aid workers present, that perhaps could come within an expanded AusAID agenda, such as Peru.

**Funding through Non Government Organisations (NGO’s)**

The future of Australian official international assistance should reinforce the importance of funding for NGO’s for three significant reasons. Firstly, NGO’s often attain greater credibility with local communities; secondly they are seen as impartial; and thirdly they recognise failures of governments, and often step in where government doesn’t or is reluctant, to play an auxiliary role by prioritising the most marginalised and impoverished communities.

At the end of the Parliamentary sitting period in 2008, I attended the National Prayer Breakfast that was held in Parliament House. I was a guest speaker along with a lady known as ‘Mamma Maggie’, or Maggie Gorban, who works with the St Stephen Children in the slums and tips of Cairo. Hearing about her work and their world, as well as the obstacles they faced from government and prejudice in Egypt, prompted my further investigation, into why there was little assistance flowing into Egypt and why government would be putting up barriers to impede progress. Hearing her speak was the watershed moment in my planning to undertake this study tour.

One of the conclusions I can draw from my study tour was the effectiveness of NGO’s in delivering aid. My meetings and visits with the Red Cross/Red Crescent, World Vision, International Rotary, Mamma Maggie, ADEW, the Sisters of Mercy and Fr Michael’s Community Garden project, helped me draw this conclusion. The study tour enabled me to be immersed in the environment of the developing communities where aid was flowing and where aid was desperately needed.

The work of the Red Cross/Red Crescent in disaster mitigation and humanitarian relief in conflict zones is both inspirational and indicative of the lack of resources invested by developing nations for disaster relief. The Red Cross’ work in Nepal after the Koshi River floods highlighted the need for an expansion of the Natural Disaster Management Plan and the risk Reduction Phase investment.

Aid for preparedness and mitigating the effects of natural disaster, such as community education on preparedness and the deployment of humanitarian aid equipment in remote communities in times of stability, has from accounts from my meetings with the Nepali Red Cross Society, already reduced the burden on the government and NGO’s when disaster strikes. Aid flowing for preparedness in turn leads to better
recovery times for communities affected and less costs involved in aid flowing post-disaster.

The second conclusion I reached regarding the flow of aid to NGO’s is the trust invested and impartiality that is associated with these organisations is a powerful tool for entering and improving communities. All of the organisations and their workers I met with, including the health clinic in Chakuibhayag, reiterated the distrust that communities have towards government funding for aid projects. The community is often deeply suspicious of the motives of government, particularly in developing nations where corruption in government is acknowledged to exist, or where persecution once existed.

The third conclusion regarding the role of NGO’s relates to the auxiliary role they play to governments. Australian aid has flowed to non-state actors, particularly in Egypt where smaller, one-off grants have been bestowed to projects that bridge the gap between not having government assistance and the ability to receive some. ADEW in Egypt, the organisation that received the AusAID Human Rights Small Grant Scheme (HRSGS) for their work in helping 7,200 impoverished women attain legal status, has done tremendous work in the field of opening legal avenues for women. That their work is necessary is indicative of the need to supply NGO’s with the funds to perform the ancillary work that governments neither have the time, resource, nor perhaps the inclination, to carry out or simplify the legal processes for their citizens.

Again, the future of Australian official international assistance should reinforce the importance of funding for NGO’s, as they often attain greater credibility with local communities; they are seen as impartial; they recognise failures of governments, and often step in where government doesn’t or is reluctant, to play an auxiliary role by prioritising the most marginalised and impoverished communities. Greater assistance for NGO’s in projects like those I visited, would greatly improve the standards of living and provide the important rungs on the ladder up out of poverty.

**Infrastructure Development and Tourism**

Throughout my study tour, I was able to compare and contrast the access of proper infrastructure and the roles that NGO’s and governments were having in attaining better outcomes. I have three main conclusions to draw from my study tour. Firstly, the again NGO’s are performing a pivotal role in providing infrastructure; secondly, the observations of my study tour in the communities and the constant theme of meetings I had throughout my tour – that water, sanitation and electricity provisions would be used as a preventive measure for the majority of health related disease they work with; and finally, the impact that tourism has had on the development of impoverished rural communities.

In my findings from Nepal, I discovered that the Nepal Red Cross provides up to 15% of all drinking water to the Nepalese population. This staggering statistic highlights not only the importance of NGO’s for the provision of what we would consider basic services, but also the importance of water and sanitation on the priority listing of ‘must-haves’ in order to bring people out of poverty and to reduce the instances of disease and injury.

This leads me to my second conclusion, that the building of lasting water infrastructure through international assistance funding would have a far-reaching and permanent impact on improving the lives of impoverished communities in developing countries. As I have outlined previously in the transcript of my Key Meetings on the
study tour, the Sisters of Mercy in the District of San Martin de Porres in Lima, maintain that the majority of the issues they face, such as poor health, infectious disease, malnutrition and low levels of maternal and childhood health are the direct result of a lack of adequate water infrastructure.

In light of these observations, I would like to recommend that international assistance funding be targeted to major infrastructure projects such as providing water and electricity. Although these projects impact is not as visible, as say, immunisation programs, they have a longer lasting affect on communities. Furthermore, the provision of adequate water, sanitation and electricity infrastructure would, in the long-term, reduce the instances of disease etc. that affects communities. Our aid programs must look at preventative programs that make a long-term positive impact – not short term programs that treat the symptoms of a lack of adequate infrastructure.

Thirdly, part of the reason for my undertaking this study tour was to see the impact that industries such as tourism had on the development of communities. My comparative study of Nepal and Peru was most instructive on how countries of similar topography and rural communities at similar levels of development have adapted and encouraged tourism in order to promote development.

In Nepal, the development of tourism as an industry has been hampered by the political instability the country has suffered over the past decade. Furthermore, the growth and fostering of tourism in China over the same period, granting greater access to the Himalayan Mountains (the main tourism drawcard for trekking and hiking) has drawn international tourism away from Nepal.

However, the government of Nepal has not utilised their natural heritage and the tourism that it has generated to greatly improve the quality of lives of the rural poor. As I outlined in my visit to Nagarkot – one of the main villages on the main trekking tourism train – did not have adequate water, sanitation and electricity infrastructure. The communities were not wholly reliant on tourism, which in many respects is positive for long term economic stability for these communities. Nor, however have they turned the tourism industry to their advantage to upgrade facilities and infrastructure.

In contrast, Peru has attained a level of economic and political stability. This has encouraged tourism and generated an income for rural communities by utilising their national parks and landmarks and means for development. The Inca trek I undertook to the national park of Machu Picchu took me through rural towns and villages that had been transformed.

The transformation of these communities came with government investment in infrastructure such as electricity, water and sanitation. Although these improvements were no-doubt completed for the benefit of the tourism industry, it has had a flow-on effect by bringing these resources to rural communities. The communities had noticeably better health standards, the roads and the accommodation available were of a better quality than those I witnessed in Nepal. Furthermore, the flow of tourism had brought jobs and training to communities to support the tourist industry.

These findings reinforce the need for greater international assistance funding for infrastructure projects. Again, I would recommend that AusAID, in line with the increases in funding for Australia to meet the U.N. Millennium Development goals, re-evaluate the priorities of international aid funding to large projects that will have considerably longer lasting effects, and that will deal with the causes of many of the
problems relating to health and disease that consumes the most of the NGO’s time and efforts in developing nations.

The observations of government investment in natural heritage parks, and the positive impact these had of rural communities, have lessons for Australia and our own national landmarks. In the Australian experience, the lack of investment in road infrastructure in the Northern Territory by the Territory and Federal Governments has led to a reduction in tourism and the economic benefits that came with it. This lack of investment was harming the tourism industry, which in turn led to decline in the tourism dollars. This directly affected regional community’s economic stability and viability. Government investment in our national parks has positive impacts on both increasing our tourism industry and ensuring a constant flow of income for otherwise isolated rural communities.

Future directions

The observations and conclusions that I have reached throughout the course of this study tour were both instructive and illuminating.

Before meeting with NGO’s such as World Vision in Australia and Mamma Maggie on her visit to Parliament House, I was aware of the desperate poverty and the good work people in the international aid agencies do. But it was not until I washed the feet of children working in the rubbish tips in the slums of Cairo; smelt the children’s burns being treated in an NGO hospital in Lima; sat down with women who had finally been granted a legal status so that they could access government and legal assistance; or listened to adult women read children’s story rhymes as they struggled to learn their own language with the Sisters of Mercy in Peru; it wasn’t until I was able to see, touch, smell and listen to these people, these communities, the countries, that I was able to truly understand the work that was being done – and how much we have yet to accomplish.

This study tour awakened an empathy and fundamental belief inside me. It awakened a belief that all humanity is of value and that we should all have access to inalienable human rights; the right to water; the right to freedom of association; the right to gender equality; and the right to happiness.

I would make the very strong and sincere recommendation that Members and Senators that choose to undertake an overseas study tour incorporate a visit to a developing nation. This recommendation is based on the personal impact that this tour had on my life, which has now translated into my professional life as a parliamentarian.

It is in this vein that I also suggest the setting up of a Parliamentary Friends Group for the Poor. This would enable Members and Senators to make contact with NGO’s and communities or congregations that are performing vital humanitarian roles in some of the most destitute places on Earth.

Parliamentary visits to developing nations would also encourage greater scrutiny and allow members to provide informed recommendations (after having been on the “coal-face” of humanitarian efforts) to the relevant Departments for the directions and allocations of AusAID funding and special DFAT grants.

As previously mentioned in this report, Australia’s official international assistance funding is set to increase. Although we naturally have a focus on our neighbours and near-abroad, it is certainly worth considering an expansion of Australia’s
international assistance funding to nations in the Americas. Not only are their worthy humanitarian efforts being conducted in that region, but it would also lay the foundations for a positive Australian presence in a growing and expanding part of the world where out contact is generally limited to trade or government contact.

Australia’s official international assistance funding program is vital to improving the lives of those in developing nations. This assistance generates a positive image for Australia that improves trade, cultural and political relationships and provides Australia and Australians with networks and bases in foreign nations which we can call upon to deepen our global relationships.

However, most importantly, through official international assistance funding, Australia continues to fulfil its role as a good global citizen. The flow of international assistance to impoverished communities for health and education creates a stable and healthy community in nations that are often prone to civil unrest.

Therefore Australia must continue to contribute to a safer, healthier and better educated world and target out aid to lay solid foundations for communities around the world to achieve economic stability and better living standards.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator of member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six-monthly tabling of travel costs for Senators and Members.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

The Hon Pat Farmer MP
Federal Member for Macarthur

Friday 20th February 2009