PARLIAMENTARIANS’ OVERSEAS STUDY TRAVEL REPORTS
1 July to 31 December 2011

Background

On 15 May 2004, the then Government announced that overseas study travel reports would be tabled in the Parliament.

The individual reports provided by Senators and Members are consolidated into one document and tabled as a separate volume to the other two tabled documents, which cover the costs of current and former Parliamentarians’ expenditure on entitlements for the period 1 July to 31 December 2011.

Supporting Information

To reduce the size of the tabled report, some pages may have been excluded from individual reports (indicated on relevant title pages). A copy of the full report (and any supporting documentation, including a wide range of reference material such as copies of legislation, itineraries and reports prepared by other entities) is available on written request to the Office of the Special Minister of State.

Reports appear in travel date order. This report is also available on the Department of Finance and Deregulation’s website at www.finance.gov.au.
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<td>Senator Louise Pratt</td>
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MR STEVEN CIOBO MP

Hong Kong
25 March – 1 April 2011
The Hon Gary Gray AO MP
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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

I further highlight the format of this report is as per the Department of Finance and Deregulation’s pro-forma requirements on length and legibility.

Yours sincerely

Steven Ciobo MP
Federal Member for Moncrieff
SC/SC

Electorate Office
67 Thomas Drive
Chevron Island 4217
PO Box 1402
Gold Coast QC 4214
T (07) 5504 8000 F (07) 5504 8944
stevenciobo.com
Overseas Study Tour Report

Purpose of Journey

Australia has traditionally been known for ‘riding on the sheep’s back’. Perhaps an updated view of this adage would be that Australia rides on the back of the mining and resources sectors. Recognising the need for Australia to further diversify it’s economic base, this study tour examined the policy framework and regulatory approach Hong Kong utilises for two industries I consider to be very important for Australia’s economic future.

Venture Capital

To understand Hong Kong’s policy framework on ‘venture capital’ and meet with key stakeholders to discuss Hong Kong’s venture capital markets. These meetings were taken with a view to assessing whether there are elements of Hong Kong’s approach that can be applied in Australia to help further foster Australia’s venture capital industry.

Financial Services and Taxation

To assess Hong Kong’s financial services industry and policy framework with a view to contrasting it to Australia’s policy approach and determining Australia’s opportunities and threats vis a vis Hong Kong’s financial services industry.


### Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Venture Committee, Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association</td>
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<td>Gerald Greiner, Chief Operating Officer, Hong Kong Exchange</td>
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<td>29 March 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Allen Lee, General Manager &amp; Helen Lee, Research Manager of Asian Venture Capital Journal</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>James Shipton, Managing Director, Goldman Sachs Hong Kong</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Peter Lee, Deputy-President Greater China Division, CPA Australia</td>
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<td>Mr CHU Yam-Yuen JP, Commissioner, Inland Revenue Department</td>
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### Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

**Venture Capital Meetings**

Meetings with various stakeholders involved in Hong Kong’s venture capital industry provided insights into the breadth and depth of venture capital in Hong Kong, as well as those funds routed through Hong Kong for investment in mainland China, as well as outflows to other international investment destinations.

In many respects there was a clear recognition that Hong Kong benefited extensively from being a regime through which funds could be applied to various venture capital investments.
Venture Committee, Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association
Venture capital and private equity investments are a matured and dynamic part of the Hong Kong economy. Hong Kong provides an attractive investment framework predominately because of its significant competitive tax advantage over other Asian countries.

There is a strong belief that global capital looks to Hong Kong as a platform for investment into capital hungry ‘start-ups’ in mainland China. Predominately, these ‘start-ups’ utilise existing intellectual property and manufacturing processes and provide a competitive advantage over others due to lower overheads and access to a greater potential market.

Similarly, there is an appetite from within mainland China to invest capital into other global markets to diversify risk.

Allen Lee, General Manager, and Helen Lee, Research Manager, Asian Venture Capital Journal
The Asian Venture Capital Journal is one of the leading industry journals in Asia. It has a strong relationship with the Australian Venture Capital Association (AVCAL) and together they co-ordinate and support conferences in Hong Kong and Australia to educate on venture capital opportunities, regulatory frameworks, as well as facilitating direct and auxiliary industry contacts.

The Asian Venture Capital Journal organises an annual conference in November in Hong Kong, which attracts a number of the largest venture capital investment funds who have a presence in both Hong Kong and Australia.

James Shipton, Managing Director, Goldman Sachs, Hong Kong
The Goldman Sachs ‘corporate view’ of Hong Kong’s regulatory and tax framework vis a vis venture capital and private equity investments is that it is one of the most competitive, if not the most attractive, in Asia.

Hong Kong is uniquely placed to provide opportunity to invest both into China with an eye to the substantial domestic market of well over one billion people, as well as a platform to launch from for newly emerging private capital from China seeking diversification.

The scale of ‘deals’ being done in Hong Kong, as well as the substantial size of global investment funds with Hong Kong based managers provides significant taxation revenue for the Inland Revenue Department. Other destinations seeking to compete, such as Australia, are generally not really competitive given the substantially higher tax rates.

Peter Lee, Deputy-President Greater China Division, CPA Australia
There is a broad Australian expatriate population resident in Hong Kong that is generally well regarded by Hong Kong locals and other international managers residing in Hong Kong. Typically, expatriate Australians are in services-based professions such as law, accounting, and finance and are recognised as providing good quality advice that balances commercial objectives with regulatory compliance.

Financial Services Meetings

Gerald Greiner, Chief Operating Officer, Hong Kong Exchange
The past decade has been a tumultuous time in Hong Kong with the continued maturation of the Hong Kong exchange. There is a growing recognition the Hong Kong Exchange provides access to greater global capital and therefore is an attractive listing option.
Recently, the Hong Kong exchange had its first Renminbi initial public offering, which was regarded as very successful. HK Exchange management believes there will be a growing desire for more renminbi IPOs, as well as a greater relaxation by mainland Chinese authorities to such listings.

There is evidence that some Australian companies have looked to the Hong Kong Exchange as their preferred listing exchange because of the perceived benefit of offering access to more global capital. The listing of Australian-based Resource House was raised as an example.

**Meeting with Ms Doris Pak, Director of Licensing, Securities and Futures Commission (SFC)**

Australia’s financial regulatory authorities such as the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), as well as the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), are viewed very favourably by the SFC. There have been formal knowledge and management skills exchanges and the SFC holds the view that there has been a marked increase in the SFC’s ability to provide financial oversight in Hong Kong.

The venture capital and private equity markets in Hong Kong, as well as the financial services sector more broadly, has witnessed rapid development of investment products and deal structures which have necessitated a pro-active approach by the SFC to safeguard consumers, taxation revenue, and general financial stability.

**Mr CHU Yam-Yuen JP, Commissioner, Inland Revenue Department**

The Inland Revenue Department (IRD), headed by YY Chu, oversees revenue protection and collection for Hong Kong. Consistent with Hong Kong’s long-term focus on cost control and strictly adhered to budget expenditure control, there is a very strong department culture that recognises that Hong Kong’s competitive advantages flow from its low tax regime.

The IRD, for example, has not had any growth in its workforce administering tax in Hong Kong for over a decade. Further, there is a strong push from senior IRD managers to ensure Hong Kong’s tax advantages are maintained for the competitive benefit of Hong Kong.

**Conclusion**

Money is generally considered a medium of exchange. It is, however, much more than that and money, or capital, is often an end in itself. The financial services industry, and its subsets of private equity and venture capital, exists as a mechanism to increase capital through the pursuit of yield. In this environment, Hong Kong is acutely aware that it is an attractive regime for capital managers predominately because of its relative low tax status, as well as it’s geographic proximity to mainland China. Although Australia has had an announced policy intention of being a key ‘financial services hub’ in Asia for nearly a decade, the prevailing view from those I met with in Hong Kong is that Australia offers strong regulatory oversight, however, it is too uncompetitive given it’s high tax rates to provide genuine competition for investment or funds management.
MR TONY WINDSOR MP

United Kingdom, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, France and Spain
11 July – 14 August 2011
Overseas Study Travel Report

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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Tony Windsor
09 September 2011
Purpose of Journey

With the Australian Government moving to legislate a price on carbon dioxide emissions, it’s timely to investigate the experiences of other countries who’ve taken similar action. Europe is widely regarded as ahead of the global curve, due in part to its emissions trading scheme. I became acquainted with some of Europe’s early efforts during a study tour in 2009. However, the development of new projects alongside continuing advances in research and technology has made a strong case for a return visit. Further, a more thorough understanding of the European experience provides a useful counterpoint to some of the more fanciful claims that have been aired during the Australian debate on climate change.

Themes

- carbon, its capture and storage technologies especially carbon sequestration/soil sciences;
- carbon marketing and pricing methods – what/how other countries are doing this;
- renewable energies i.e. bio-fuels, wind, solar, wave etc – advances in technologies and applications of renewable energy; and
- greenhouse gas emissions - advances in technologies and applications.

Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<td>21 July 2011</td>
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<td>CICERO (Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research Organisation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 July 2011</td>
<td>Visit</td>
<td>Swedish Centre for Renewable Electric Energy Conversion in Uppsala to discuss Wave Power</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Visit</td>
<td>Vattenfall Varma in Uppsala to view Waste Incineration and Long Distance Heating Plant</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 July 2011</td>
<td>Drive</td>
<td>Stockholm to Copenhagen</td>
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<td>1 August 2011</td>
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<td>2 August 2011</td>
<td>Visit</td>
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<td>Schwarze Pumpe Power Plant near Spremburg in Germany to view processes for district heating and sharing steam for manufacturing</td>
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<td>3 August 2011</td>
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Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Meetings

Various

I met with numerous government representatives and business advisors to understand the efforts being made in Europe to develop clean-technology infrastructure and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. I was impressed at the number of business leaders who’ve identified opportunities in the shift to a cleaner future and are actively pursuing them. However, it was also made clear that governments play a key role in developing these new industries by implementing incentives and policies that create a stable environment for investors.

Site Visit

The James Hutton Institute
July 18, 2011

This is one of the largest research organisations in the UK, dedicated to finding solutions to the key global challenges of food, energy and environmental security. I met with researchers using genetics and other technologies to develop a second ‘green revolution’ that will improve crop yields in the face of increasing demand and a changing climate. Others are studying the potential of land to meet the pressures of carbon sequestration while simultaneously increasing crop production to satisfy rising demand for food and ethanol. The research on wheat and barley straw cell structure with a view to second generation bio-fuels is world first.

Site Visit

Swedish Centre for Renewable Electric Energy Conversion at the Angstrom Laboratory - Uppsala University
July 28, 2011

Researchers have installed a wave energy plant at Lysekil on the Swedish west coast. They say waves have 22.5 times more energy than wind and 45 times more power than the sun. They’ve identified the South Australian coast as the most viable Australian location for wave power generation. However, start-up and maintenance costs are high and transmitting energy to the grid on land is difficult.

Site Visit

Vattenfall Varme Uppsala
July 28, 2011

This plant burns waste, producing steam that provides district heating and slag used to build roads. The use of new technology produces fewer emissions. A key driver behind the development of this plant has been a ban by the European Union on the disposal of combustible waste in landfill. Burning waste provides 60% of the district’s heating needs.
Site Visit

*Ketzin Test Site of the Centre for CO2 Storage at the German Research Centre for Geosciences*

*August 2, 2011*

Researchers have been injecting CO2 into a dome-shaped sandstone structure about 600 metres underground to investigate how the gas migrates and to build community support for the technology.

Site Visit

*Vattenfall Schwarze Pumpe Power Station*

*August 2, 2011*

Some of the heat generated during electricity production at this brown coal-fired plant is extracted to supply district heating to two nearby towns. Further, excess steam is piped for use in paper and briquette production at a nearby industrial park. The plant operates with a net efficiency of 40%, demonstrating that clean technology can also improve outcomes and help drive local economies when applied to existing high-carbon emissions facilities.

Site Visits

*BioAgra Ethanol Plant and Alco Bio Fuel*

*August 5 and 8, 2011*

These large ethanol plants generate dozens of jobs in their communities. They offer farmers another market for their produce while also producing a high-value livestock feed. These plants have multiple positive effects on their local economies, and that’s before even considering the benefits brought about from their primary purpose of producing ethanol to reduce emissions.

Site Visit

*Gemasolar Power Plant*

*August 10 2011*

Gemasolar is the world’s first commercial solar power plant that can provide electricity to the grid 24 hours a day. It does so by storing the sun’s energy in molten salt, which can be released up to 15 hours later. This functioning plant overturns a key argument frequently mounted against solar; namely, that it can’t provide base-load power because it can only operate when the sun is shining.

The Spanish government provided the stable conditions needed for investment by guaranteeing a regulated tariff for electricity produced at the plant for the next 25 years. Other commercial solar power plants are already in the final stages of development in Spain and elsewhere. Costs are falling as efficiency improves and the industry is powering ahead of its Australian counterpart. Australia needs to stop talking and start building, or it risks being left further behind.
Conclusion

One of the more striking impressions was the extent to which Europe has moved from discussion of the science behind climate change to taking action to reduce emissions. This is in stark contrast to the Australian debate, where scientists have found themselves under attack and the views of those opposed to taking action on climate change have often been given a prominence that far outweighs their scientific and intellectual rigour. In Europe, energy is instead being directed towards finding solutions.

I was impressed by the number of business people who can see the opportunities inherent in the shift to a clean energy future. Many are actively positioning themselves at the forefront of the sector. However, it was made clear to me that government also plays a key role by legislating to create both an incentive and a stable investment environment for low-emissions technologies. That certainty is crucial in generating sufficient investor interest to foster new and sometimes experimental projects.

Advances in research are already being transformed into real-world projects in Europe. Researchers are receiving valuable practical experience that will help them increase efficiencies and lower costs. European firms are setting themselves up to dominate the emerging global green technology sector. Australia needs to step up its own research and development just to keep pace.

It’s also important to note the range of projects being undertaken in Europe. New technology isn’t solely concentrated on renewable electricity generation, but also on increasing the efficiency of existing processes. Providing heating to nearby towns by burning waste and by making use of excess heat from power stations are two good examples.

The speed of progress I witnessed in Europe has reinforced the need for Australia to put a price on carbon while simultaneously backing clean energy projects. Doing anything less would result in our nation dropping further behind, and missing out on the economic advantages of being at the forefront of developing the industries of the future.
THE HON BERNIE RIPOLL MP

France
12 – 24 July 2011
Overseas Study Travel Report

Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA  ACT  2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal
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as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by
the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

Bernie Ripoll MP
Federal Member for Oxley
25 August 2011
**Purpose of Journey**

The purpose of my journey to France between the 12 July to the 25 July 2011 is to research and better understand cycling infrastructure policy and development, active transport solutions, regional and city based solutions to public transport around walking, cycling and other modes of transport and finally the policy initiatives that have led to change in the way people move around our cities and towns to improve their health and well being as well as making a contribution to climate change and a cleaner environment.

I propose to arrive in Paris on the 13 July for meetings with officials of government, community based and non-government organisations to discuss matters relating to my stated purpose.

I will also be travelling to regional parts of the France through towns and cities to research cycling infrastructure and related policies in those towns.

In addition to my original statement of purpose I will also be having discussions on the matter of sustainability and liveability, as I believe these matters relate directly to active transport and form part of a broader knowledge base in policy formation.

**Detailed Itinerary Schedule**

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<td>Singapore to London</td>
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<td>13 July 2011</td>
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<td>London to Paris</td>
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<td>13 July 2011</td>
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<td>French Department of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>Director for Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and the Pacific Forum</td>
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<td>Meeting with members of the Inter-Parliamentary Sports Advocacy Group</td>
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14 July 2011  
Event  
Attendance at the French National Day
Formal Invitation from President Sarkozy
Event  
Inspection of Paris rail, public transport system and pedestrian cycle systems

15 July 2011  
Meeting  
GDF SUEZ
International Director Mr Arnaud Erbin
Meeting  
Australian Embassy
Australian Ambassador to France David Ritchie

15 July 2011  
Travel  
Paris to Toulouse
16 - 17 July 2011  
In transit  
Weekend
18 July 2011  
Event  
Inspection of Toulouse rail, bus, tram, cycle and pedestrian systems

19 July 2011  
Event  
Inspection of Montpellier rail, bus, tram, cycle and pedestrian systems
19 - 23  
Event  
Personal Time/ research transport systems
23 July 2011  
Travel  
Paris to London
Travel  
London to Bangkok
24 July 2011  
Travel  
Bangkok to Sydney

Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Meeting with France Australia Friendship Group

13 July 2011

Australia and France have a rich and deep history both in economic and social terms that is well developed in our shared pasts and campaigns on the battlefield. The opportunity to continue that relationship through regular dialogue and meetings with our fifth largest trading partner is something that should occur on a more regular basis and as the Chair of the Australia France Friendship Group I intend to continue developing this relationship further.

- Discussion on future dialogue and exchanges between the two groups
- Possibility of an Australian delegation in late 2011
- Trade issues and visits by senior government ministers
- Cooperation in the pacific islands and our relationship across the pacific
- Systems and policy regarding active transport and other transport systems
Meeting with Mr Frogier Member French National Assembly  
13 July 2011

Mr Pierre Frogier is the former President of New Caledonia and a senior member of The rally-UMP Party. Mr Frogier has a great interest in all matters Australian and also assisted in facilitating discussions and briefings on matters in relation to active transport and sustainability directions in France. Discussions also included:

- Possibility of a parliamentary delegation in late 2011
- Further developing the relationship between our two nations
- The relationship with New Caledonia and his role as former President
- Matters of French culture in terms of liveability of cities and regions
- How cities are organised to accommodate regional and national transport systems
- Cultural and national policies in regards to health, planning and activity

Meeting with Mde Francois Pontios  
13 July 2011

Meeting to discuss the importance of the French National Day and the activities, parades and officials that are in attendance as well the protocols on the day.

Meeting with Mr Arnaut Erbin  
13 July 2011

GDF SUEZ is a global organisation involved in the delivery of energy services, gas and LNG systems, infrastructure, and environmental services. GDF SUEZ has a variety of operations in Australia with head quartered in Melbourne.

The relationship between Australia and France on trade matters is more significant than the simple ranking of 15th on trade balance and with the trade balance very much in the favour of France there is a lot more Australia should do to redress this situation. My meeting and discussion with Mr Erbin gave me a broader understanding of the way GDF operates, its global reach, its deep connections in Australia and their core philosophies on sustainability issues and climate-change.

The matter of sustainability and climate change plays a big part for most large global firms and consideration of these matter in all markets is important. Discussions were also had on the relationship between the provision of services and infrastructure and active transport and how GDF play a role.

The French National Day Celebrations  
14 July 2011

Bastille Day is the equivalent to Australia’s ANZAC Day and celebrates as well commemorates the History and battles of France as well as honouring their emergency services, policing and other
service personnel. Invitation received from the French President Sarkozy, with a full day program of events with officials from the French National Assembly and participation as a guest in the events of the day.

**Meeting with the Australian Ambassador Mr David Ritchie**
15 July 2011

At the Australian Embassy in Paris Ambassador David Ritchie
- Discussions on local transport systems
- The use of local authority planning
- Active transport and sustainability
- The Australia France relationship

**The Paris Active Transport System**
13 – 15 July 2011

Paris is a large city with millions of residents and even more tourists per year and has probably one of the most versatile and extensive multi-modal transport networks of any city in the world. And of note is the fact that regardless of its size and number of people the transport system works efficiently. This is due in large part to the many options, interconnectivity and frequency of different systems. The Paris city centre is serviced by multiple rail networks, trams, buses, ferries, a comprehensive cycling hire scheme with interconnected walking paths, and varied parking stations for cars and bikes.

The JC Deceaux hire bike scheme is widespread and used by locals as well as tourists and is the same organisation that operates in the Australian market. While JC Deceaux have been very successful in Europe it is yet to be seen if that success can be replicated in Australia. There a number of issues including infrastructure, culture and acceptability of the scheme as well as the issue of helmet laws which have caused some resistance to the uptake of their services. The purposely retro-fitted design of infrastructure to accommodate safe and connected pedestrian/cycle paths and road access has been a large part of the success of the active transport model.

It is also clear that community acceptance of this scheme has been encouraged by all levels of government with the supporting infrastructure needed to ensure active use of the system. It is also clear from discussions that the integration at many levels of multiple transport modes has created an environment that for many people eliminates the need for a motor vehicle or certainly its use around the city.

**The Toulouse Active Transport System**
From 16 July 2011

Toulouse is well regarded in terms of transport systems with an extensive bus network, a well connected regional and national rail system, an innovative Metro system called VAL which is a
driver-less fully automated rubber tired tram system in and around the city centre. There are several lines that bring people from outside the city in towards the centre well connected to car parking, walking and cycling paths. Parts of the city were redesigned to accommodate this new metro system with a focus on active and public transport and reducing the number of private motor vehicles with access to the city centre or parking.

There is also a significant city hire bike scheme called the VeloToulouse that is fully automated, easy to use for locals and visitors and in conjunction with the VAL and other transport options results in large numbers of people actively moving around the city over greater distances without the use of a motor vehicle. Having used and used all these modes of transport in Toulouse I gained a good understanding of the policy success this city has experienced.

The Montpellier Active transport System
From 16 July 2011

Montpellier like many other regional cities in France is well served by rail system including the TGV (very fast train) to other parts of the country and plays a big role in moving people en-mass but it is the active transport parts of the city which make it another example of good policy to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport on a daily basis.

The city is serviced by an extensive tram network managed by the TaM and is also responsible for the very successful Velomagg bike-sharing scheme. The bike-sharing scheme has more than fifty stations across the city connecting to the tram network via dedicated paths and roads as well car-parking facilities that interconnect the full transport network. I took the opportunity to visit the facilities and experience the network and its operation.

Conclusion

Active Transport policy has now been acknowledged internationally as more than just how we get from one place to the next. It is about lifestyle, it is about the sustainability of our cities and towns and it is about our collective health.

Some nations have managed this transition to reshaping regions better than others and realised the vast benefits that active transport initiatives can have in providing long-term benefits for people, for communities and for government.

My visit to great cities in France like Paris, Toulouse and Montpellier demonstrated just how effective a coordinated policy approach to transport infrastructure in relation to active transport can be achieved through planning and cooperation. It is also clear that a rethink of the planning and development and redevelopment processes in Australia need to be amended to include as a first priority the amenity of people.
It is also clear that regardless of a region’s demography, history or structural plan a new compact between pedestrians, cyclists and motorists can be accommodated to strike a balance on road use and liveability.

The way our cities function has changed over time with population growth, traffic congestion, pollution and associated costs. The fact that there are a growing number of people who choose to live in cities in Australia and other parts of the world highlights the need to reshape their use.

The most attractive and liveable cities in the world have distinctive features like affordable and reliable public transport, public and private spaces, personal safety features, and a healthy and vibrant mix of business and residential premises. It is a focus on people.

Active transport is at the heart of all these things. It forms the basis of the attraction and sustainability of the places where we live.

The capacity to see first hand the operation of city metro rail systems and regional fast train networks working in sync with buses, trams and other public transport networks coordinated with pedestrian and cycle infrastructure has given me a better understanding of how policies can be developed to promote change.

Also having the opportunity to speak with significant people and organisations in relation to sustainable progress in areas of power generation, waste management and water conservation demonstrated to me the complex nature of these systems and why Australia often needs to look internationally for expertise and delivery.

The opportunity for Australia is to form a new pact through the COAG process and with Local Government to reshape our cities, towns and regions for the future. A future where the pedestrian has priority, where cyclists are safe on shared roads and where we reverse the trend of sedentary populations re-engage with the community and their own mobility.

The public health benefits, sustainability outcomes and liveability factors are obvious and achievable. All that is now required is a willingness to change.

In my role as Chairman of the ALP Caucus Committee on Sustainable Australia and also in my more informal role as Chairman of the Labor Supporters of Sustainable Cities I have maintained an active interest in policy development in relation infrastructure, transport, walking and cycling and the methods adopted by various jurisdictions in Australia and globally.

As members of parliament we are continually developing and actively participating in processes that directly impact on the well being of citizens and as such the experience and knowledge I gained in my visit to France has been beneficially in my duties as a member of parliament and a member of the government and in my varied roles in the parliamentary process.
Due to the size of this individual study report a number of pages are not included in this Tabling document. A copy of the full report (and any supporting documentation) is available on written request to the Office of the Special Minister of State.
The Hon Gary Gray AO MP  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 64  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I present my report following my recent travel to London, Great Britain, having arrived there on Tuesday July 19 and departed on Sunday July 24. I travelled via Bangkok on my way there and Singapore on my return. I visited no other countries and stayed overnight in no other country beside Great Britain.

I accessed my study leave to effect this journey and travelled as a result of invitations to address the Australian Rhodes Scholars at Rhodes House, Oxford University, the members of the Israeli Diaspora Trust and the members and guests of the Henry Jackson Society. While I was in London I used the opportunity to further my knowledge of university and school education by arranging meetings with the relevant Minister and education experts like The Policy Exchange.

As the Shadow Minister for Education, Apprenticeships and Training I found the opportunity to talk policy with respect to education very useful. As a former member of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade I found the opportunity to speak to a foreign policy think tank of great interest intellectually.

As a former Chairman of the Australia-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group and current member of the same group I found the chance to explore the ramifications of the 'Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions' campaign elucidating. Finally, as Deputy Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on the Parliamentary Budget Office I put to good use my time in London by meeting with its counterpart in Great Britain, the Office of Budget Responsibility.

.../2
Wednesday July 20
I travelled to Oxford University, specifically Rhodes House and met with the Warden of Rhodes House, Dr Don Markwell. We discussed current events in Europe and Australia as well as the origins and ethos of the Rhodes Scholarship.

At lunchtime I met with around sixteen of the current Australian Rhodes Scholars from various disciplines. I spoke on the subjects of Australian current affairs and reform of universities in Australia and a lively discussion followed about university reform in Australia, fees, social justice and the Higher Education Contribution Scheme.

After lunch, I met with the Oxford University Registrar, Professor Ewan McKendrick. We discussed the funding methods for universities in the UK and Australia and future challenges for higher education.

Having returned from Oxford I addressed a dinner of the Israeli Diaspora Trust at the Athenaeum Club and spoke and answered questions about the anti-Israel “Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions” campaign favoured by the NSW Greens, Marrickville Council and many ALP affiliated trade unions.

We discussed the nature of modern anti-Semitism and the particular aspect of the BDS campaign that targets Jewish businesses. We also discussed the looming vote in the United Nations General Assembly with respect to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and Australia’s campaign for one of the temporary seats on the UN Security Council.

Thursday July 21
At breakfast I met with Stuart Polak, head of the Conservative UK-Israel friendship group and we discussed plans for an Australia-UK-Israel leadership dialogue meeting in January next year. An Australian, Mr Albert Dadon AM is the founder of the Australia-Israel Leadership Forum and we hope to extend its reach a bit further.

After breakfast I was fortunate to meet with the Minister for Schools in Great Britain, the Hon Nick Gibb MP. He has been charged with the task of implementing long overdue reform of UK schools. We talked about the challenges he faces in bringing about reform working with 150 local education authorities spread across the British Isles. I also canvassed with him the Coalition’s plans to navigate education reform through six state and two territory governments if we get the chance to govern at the next general election.

.../3
Mr Gibb provided me with some very useful texts which will be helpful in drafting and then implementing Coalition education policy. As we both share an interest in Middle East politics we also discussed the impending vote in the United Nations General Assembly with respect to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and the ramifications of either attending or not attending the so called anti-racial vilification conference known as ‘Durban III’

I also had the opportunity to meet with education specialists at The Policy Exchange (a London based policy think tank interested in many issues including education). They are very well connected into the UK Coalition Government and making a real impact promoting education regulation liberalisation which is the centrepiece of the both the UK Conservative Party and the Coalition’s policy for Australia.

After a useful policy exchange I appeared in the same rooms as the scene of Tuesday’s public hearing of the House of Commons Sport and Culture Committee – the Harold Wilson Room, Portcullis House, Westminster. On Tuesday, Mr Rupert Murdoch had been in the hot seat answering questions with respect to the phone hacking scandal engulfing News International.

However, on this day, I addressed the Henry Jackson Society (a foreign policy think tank) on the subject of “The Rise of China and the Future of US Asia-Pacific Policy – a View from Australia”. I attach a copy of my written speech. After my speech I met with the head of the Office of Budget Responsibility, Mr Robert Chote. Mr Chote manages a body designed to introduce a modicum of transparency and integrity into the budget estimating process in Great Britain. As Deputy Chairman of the parliamentary committee in the Australian Parliament charged with the task of recommending a structure for an Australian Parliamentary Budget Office I was keen to hear how its equivalent in Great Britain has been working.

While the purposes of each are different, the version that operates in Great Britain has been a success. The Australian Parliamentary Budget Office would have some different objectives, for example, the costing of Opposition policies before each election. But the entrance of an objective element in the political process has been a success in Great Britain.

Friday July 22
On Friday morning I paid a visit to Mr John Dauth, Australia’s High Commissioner to Great Britain. John Dauth is a highly regarded career diplomat with whom I have had cause to work in the past in government when I was responsible for implementing a trans-Tasman joint therapeutic goods authority.

…/4
I had the opportunity to exchange notes on what I have gleaned about British thinking about Australia during my meetings and discussions and I was keen to hear his impressions of the Eurozone economic situation and how we can build better links with the UK Coalition Government.

This visit to Great Britain increased my knowledge of the thinking about Australia in Great Britain and Europe more broadly. As a senior member of the Opposition it is important to gain and understand perspectives about public policy not only in my own portfolio but also from a whole of government point of view. I achieved that through my meetings and speaking engagements. Similarly, as the Shadow Minister for Education my visit increased my understanding of the capacity for improvement and reform in the Australia university and schools sectors.

As Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Budget Office committee it was useful to observe that the version that operates in Great Britain does so efficiently from a financial standpoint and effectively while standing apart from the daily exigencies of politics.

All this knowledge will better equip me to handle the requests and daily needs of my electorate of Sturt as its local Member of Parliament and to better serve the Parliament as Manager of Opposition Business and Shadow Minister for Education, Apprenticeships and Training.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Pyne MP

10 August 2011

Att:
Oversea Study Travel Report

The Hon Gary Gray, AO MP
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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Humphries
SENATOR FOR THE ACT
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary to the Shadow Attorney-General
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Materiel
31 August 2011
Purpose of Journey

I accessed my overseas study entitlement to travel to the United States to visit suppliers and potential suppliers to Australia of military hardware, particularly to the Royal Australian Air Force. My objective was to assess value for money, delivery timetables and fitness for purpose of a variety of items of materiel crucial to delivery of the goals of the Defence White Paper of 2009. These enquiries were necessary to educate my role as Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Materiel.

A secondary purpose of my trip was to visit the National Capital Planning Commission in Washington DC to understand how conflict is resolved in planning processes in communities where two planning authorities, one Federal, one local, have jurisdiction. I undertook this enquiry in my capacity as a member of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories, and as a senator for the ACT.

The Defence related part of my trip necessitated both discussions with existing suppliers of materiel to the Australian Defence Force and the suppliers of potential new products of military interest. I placed a particular emphasis on the development of Australian air power. The visit also entailed an inspection of production, development and research processes associated with these purchases or potential purchases by Australia in most of my destinations.
**Detailed Itinerary Schedule**

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<td>25/07/2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Sydney to San Francisco</td>
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<td>25/07/2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
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<td>26/07/2011</td>
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<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>Meeting with General Atomics</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>28/07/2011</td>
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<td>29/07/2011</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>Meeting with Joint Strike Fighter Project Office</td>
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<td>29/07/2011</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>2/08/2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>San Francisco to Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/08/2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Sydney to Canberra</td>
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**Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings**

**Meeting 1**

*Boeing Corporation, Seattle, Washington*

*26 July, 2011*

I visited Boeing headquarters and production facilities in Seattle. The first part of the visit was an opportunity for a detailed briefing from Boeing executives (of me and representatives from the Australian Embassy and the Defence Materiel Organisation). The briefing focused on the P-8 Poseidon program, the F/A-18 Super Hornet project and the C-17 Globemaster, all significant products in which Australia has an interest. I was also briefed on Boeing’s role in AIR 5077 - Project Wedgetail.

 Officials outlined key production challenges, management of orders to a range of international and domestic purchasers and security issues associated with foreign military sales. The capabilities of each platform were described in detail, and technological advantages over other platforms were described. Boeing officials were frank about the risks facing each project, and outlined strategies for ensuring that Australia would receive these aircraft in a timely and cost-effective way.

In the afternoon I was taken on a tour of military aircraft production facilities, focusing particularly on the production line for the P-8 Poseidon. Advanced production techniques were described and features of the aircraft were demonstrated.
Meeting 2
Northrop Grumman, Los Angeles, California
27 July, 2011
My visit commenced with a briefing at the El Segundo facility near LAX. After a corporate overview of the operations of Northrop Grumman, I was given a detailed briefing on the Broad Area Maritime Surveillance (BAMS) program. BAMS is an unmanned aerial vehicle which provides a platform for Maritime intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance data collection and dissemination capability. It has potential applicability in Australia's northern maritime approaches, in both a Defence and border security context and potential opportunities for expanding the quality and quantity of Australian surveillance capability.

This was followed by a briefing on the Joint Strike Fighter Program, including manufacture/production issues and the status of Australian contracts. Northrop Grumman is a manufacturer of component parts of the JSF which is assembled in Fort Worth, Texas. Of particular interest was information about the role of Australian companies in the global supply chain for JSF. Northrop Grumman expressed satisfaction with the role Australian companies are playing in the production of these planes, and described their competitiveness in a post-offset age.

I was given a tour of the JSF and F/A-18 production lines.

Meeting 3
General Atomics, San Diego, California
28 July, 2011
This part of my trip focused on this company's unmanned aerial vehicle products. I was provided with briefings on the company and capability development processes. Of particular interest was the Predator Persistent ISR and Strike Aircraft, a vehicle which operates at lower altitudes than BAMS but which can operate a variety of surveillance devices, radar and weaponry. But its potential role in maritime surveillance and other military applications in the Australian context was discussed.

I was given a tour of manufacturing facilities at the site, which included production of the ground control stations for these aircraft.

Meeting 4
Joint Strike Fighter Program Office, Washington DC
29 July, 2011
The Joint Strike Fighter Program Office is an important part of the way the partner governments in the JSF project are able to monitor progress and risks they face. I met senior members of the Program Office and was extensively briefed on technical and cost challenges that lay ahead. The description was provided of how risk and cost overruns were distributed between the client defence forces and the suppliers. Of particular value was information about the role of foreign military partners in the design and development of this project.
Meeting 5

National Capital Planning Commission, Washington DC
29 July, 2011
The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal agency charged with supervising the natural and built environment of Washington. Its work in recent years has focused on enhancing the heritage and ceremonial elements of the city while addressing heightened security needs. I met with Marcel C. Acosta, the Executive Director and other staff of the NCPC who described the functioning of the Commission and how it managed its interface with the City of Washington.

They explained that the Mayor of Washington is a member of the widely-representative board of the commission. It also includes three presidential appointees, of which one must be from Virginia and one from Maryland, the chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, two mayoral appointees, and the chairs of the House and Senate committees with review authority over the District of Columbia. It was suggested that conflict between the municipal and national capital roles of Washington was avoided by having this broad sweep of representatives around the one table. This model may have relevance to the planning of Canberra.

Meeting 6

Lockheed Martin Corporation, Fort Worth, Texas
1 August, 2011
I received a full day, comprehensive briefing on Lockheed Martin’s F-35 (JSF) Program. On arrival I was afforded an overview of the corporate structure of Lockheed Martin and the status of this project, including a briefing on the production timetable for supply of the planes to foreign military partners and the role of component and logistics suppliers in the global supply chain. Elements of tactical superiority of the aircraft were also discussed. Later, I undertook a tour of the F-35 manufacturing facility and the Autonomic Logistics Global Sustainment Operations Center, which assists clients to address operating issues. I was given an F-35 cockpit demonstration and then transported to the Flight Line to inspect one of the aircraft.

The F-35 is a sophisticated aircraft with and against stealth capability and which carries the potential for Australia to maintain air superiority in its region. I was given a frank assessment of the challenges facing this project – particularly cost overruns – but was also provided reassurance that overcoming these problems is a high priority for the company.

Conclusion

The mix, interoperability and sophistication of Defence platforms to which Australia will look in the next two decades is increasing in complexity, not to mention cost. Australia will need to be an extremely discerning purchaser of overseas-built products. Those I examined on this study trip represent, overall, leading-edge capability and high levels of interoperability with our allies. The cost effectiveness of some of these products remains to be determined, however. I believe it was valuable for suppliers to appreciate, by virtue of my trip, that Australia will demand high levels of reliability, functionality and value for money in its purchases.
Overseas Study Travel Report

The Hon Gary Gray AO MP
Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

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Yours sincerely,

Senator Brett Mason
21 November 2011
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of my travel was to discuss matters pertaining to my shadow portfolio responsibilities, namely universities and research. In particular;

- Singapore: discuss the export of higher education, Singapore’s plans to enlarge university places for domestic undergraduates, its plans to allocate those university places, and its method of allocating funds for research and development.
- United Kingdom: to discuss the impact of Lord Browne’s report “Securing a sustainable future for higher education: an independent review of higher education funding and student finance”; the imposition of large undergraduate fees; maintaining academic standards; maintaining equity targets; and implications for higher education of a significant cut in public funding to universities.
- Dublin: met with senior academics at University College Dublin – Ireland’s largest university and one of Europe’s leading research-intensive universities – to discuss the allocation of funds for research and innovation. I also asked officials at UCD whether Ireland had plans to enlarge their overseas student intake. In addition, I met with senior Irish public servants to discuss the likelihood of the re-imposition of student fees for university education and how this would impact on Ireland’s longstanding commitment to equity and a large undergraduate student population.
- Dubai: I visited the Dubai campuses of University of Wollongong and Murdoch University and discussed the challenges of setting up an overseas campus of an Australian university in a foreign country.
## Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<td>Flight</td>
<td>Brisbane to Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 August 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Singapore Management University: President, Professor Arnoud De Meyer;</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Australian High Commissioner to Singapore, HE Doug Chester;</td>
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<td>Ministry of Education: Minister of State, Mr Lawrence Wong;</td>
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<td>31 August 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
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<td>1 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, HE Mr John Dauth AO LVO;</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Deputy Director (International Knowledge and Innovation), Ms Maddalaine Ansell and Ms Caroline Fenwick, Science and Research Policy Directorate</td>
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<td>2 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>University College London: Law Faculty, Professor Pascoe Pleasence;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>London Metropolitan University: Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malcolm Gillies, and Mr Jonathan Woodhead (Executive Assistant);</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Higher Education Roundtable: Professor Malcolm Gillies (Vice-Chancellor, London Metropolitan University), Mr Jonathan Woodhead (Executive Assistant to Professor Gillies), Dr Nigel Keohane (Social Market Foundation), Mr Paul Clark (Policy Director, Universities UK) and Ms Gill Wyness (Centre Forum)</td>
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<td>4 September 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>London to Dublin</td>
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<td>5 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>University College Dublin (UCD): Director of International Affairs, Dr Erik Lithander; UCD: Vice President for Research, Professor Des Fitzgerald; UCD: Law School, Professor Ian O'Donnell</td>
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<td>6 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Higher Education Authority: Chief Executive, Mr Tom Boland; Department of Education and Skills: Ms Christy Mannion, Ms Laura Casey and Mr Aoife Conduit; Australia's Ambassador to Ireland, HE Mr Bruce Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Dublin to Dubai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Consulate General briefing: Consul General, Mr Kym Hewett and Business Development Manager (Education), Mr Feras Sallan; University of Wollongong Dubai: Vice President (Administration), Mr Raymi Van Der Spek and CEO (ITC – owner of UOWD), Mr Vince Lendrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Murdoch University: Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Grainger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 September 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Dubai to Brisbane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 September 2011</td>
<td>In transit</td>
<td>Arrive in Brisbane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Singapore

Meeting with Professor Arnoud De Meyer, President, Singapore Management University
I was keen to meet with Professor De Meyer because of his extensive experience working in universities in a number of different countries. Key findings from meeting include:

- Singapore is keen to increase the number of domestic undergrad places available to its citizens, seeing the enlargement of its undergraduate base as an important element in driving their nation’s productivity, competitiveness and innovation. This increase in public funding is seen as an important investment.
- No cultural intransigence towards higher education, excellence and research – less preoccupied about perceived elitism than Australia.
- Discussed various ways for universities to attract funding and government sponsorship of research.

Meeting with Mr Doug Chester, Australian High Commissioner to Singapore
Mr Chester gave me a briefing on Higher Education in Singapore. As always, this diplomatic brief was thorough, including many useful statistics and insights.

Meeting with Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister of State, Ministry of Education
I was accompanied by Mr Doug Chester, Australian High Commissioner to Singapore. The important part of the conversation with Mr Wong was around the different cultural expectations that Australia and Singapore had concerning the provision of higher education.

- Universities in Singapore are seen as more mainstream, central and vital to the nation’s future.
- Productivity, innovation and, strangely, social cohesion, are seen to derive from university education – a view increasingly held in Australia.
- Culture has consequences. In Singapore, and other East Asian nations, education is universally seen as a valuable and exclusive good. Ministers for Education rarely have to fight for every Government dollar.

Meeting with Professor Low Teck Seng, Managing Director, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)
I was eager to meet with Professor Low because Singapore’s public investment in research far outstrips Australia’s. The Singaporean Government is committed to investing 1% of GDP (about $16.1 billion) to support research, innovation and enterprise activities between 2011-2015. Medium term, Singapore aims to be among the most research intensive, innovative and entrepreneurial economies on earth.

As Singapore’s leading government agency for research, A*STAR’s role is to nurture public sector research and development in the science and engineering industries to spur on growth in Singapore’s key economic clusters by providing industry with support. This is done through partnership with academic institutes, research/clinical organisations and government/national agencies. A*STAR is also Singapore’s leading graduate scholarship provider. Only jarring note was A*STAR’s seeming predilection for picking winners. The West’s preoccupation with markets and competition often means that governments are reluctant to pick winners. Not so in Singapore. Fortunately for them, A*STAR seems to have a record of picking well.
United Kingdom

Meeting with Dr Donald Markwell, Warden of Rhodes House, University of Oxford
Dr Markwell is a senior Australian university administrator, widely published in the area of education. Discussions centred on:

- Though the hike in undergraduate fees in the UK was having an impact both on students and universities, the leading British research universities (The Russell Group) would see little change in their operations as demand for places in top research universities always far outstrips supply.
- If Australia is to continue to enjoy such a high standard of living, we cannot rely solely on minerals – when minerals depleted or demand slackens, we must successfully harness knowledge.
- Universities must be able to justify the receipt of public money through demonstrated outcomes.

Meeting with Mr John Dauth AO LVO, High Commissioner
Mr Dauth gave me a brief summary of British politics, Britain’s relationship with Australia and recent government reforms to Britain’s higher education system.

Meeting with Ms Maddalaine Ansell, Deputy Director (International Knowledge and Innovation), and Ms Caroline Fenwick, Science and Research Policy Directorate, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
This was a key meeting as both women were central to the preparation of the Government’s White Paper on Higher Education released in late June 2011. They had a difficult brief due to the Government’s decision to dramatically cut funding to Higher Education and the recommendations stemming from the Browne Review (decrease in Government funding). Discussions included:

- Following the recommendations from the Browne Review, England’s University student funding system now more closely resembles Australia’s.
- Incentives for increased participation by socially disadvantaged groups, less emphasis on exclusivity and elitism.
- From 2012, universities are allowed to recruit as many students as they like above a certain grade level but overall cap on number of students receiving government funded loans will be retained. Interestingly, Australia will not have this cap from 2012 (this has serious ramifications for the sector as well as a significant imposition on the public purse).
- The new austerity measures have fundamentally changed student expectations. Previously, students could expect that the cost of higher education would primarily be borne by the state; in the future, the cost of university education will be borne primarily by the student.
- British universities are becoming increasingly aggressive in their recruitment of foreign students – will affect numbers coming to Australia.
- Increase in specialisation of universities where they charge higher fees for their focus area (for example, specialised research). True market not yet developed as universities setting fees as high as they possibly can. Students seem prepared to pay higher costs and using government loans to do so.
- It will be interesting to see how this more deregulated market evolves over coming years.
- Assessment of academic research value – discussed ways to measure impact.

Meeting with Professor Pascoe Pleasance, Faculty of Law, University College London
The reduction in funding to humanities (including Law) is already having a marked effect on university budgets and admissions. Professor Pleasance is a senior member of one of the top Law faculties in the United Kingdom, where competition between prospective students is intense. Not only are the increasing costs of student fees a feature, but the costs of adequately staffing and
teaching undergraduate degrees are not always the priority the might be (similar to Australia where domestic undergraduate places and, particularly, research is effectively subsidised by international students).

*Discussions with Professor Malcolm Gillies, Vice-Chancellor, and Mr Jonathan Woodhead, Executive Assistant, London Metropolitan University*
Professor Gillies is an Australian who has held senior university posts, both here and in the UK, over the past ten years. LMU is in the top ten universities in the United Kingdom for international students. It was one of the only universities which did not charge the maximum fees allowable under the austerity measures. We discussed the rationale for this decision.

*Higher Education Roundtable*
Issues pertaining to Australia were directly discussed:

- Lessons learnt in Australia now being acted upon under the new British system.
- Alignment of Government and student fiscal aspirations – both want low fees.
- UK’s Centre Forum argued that those who believe in student empowerment and those that want to limit the cost of universities to the tax payer actually want the same thing – a system in which universities are given incentives to be efficient and encourages maximisation of resources.
- In Britain, the key challenge is to devise a system in which universities and courses that are popular are able to expand, without allowing indiscriminate sector-wide expansion. It was suggested that Government could auction the right to offer places.
- Possibility of a trimester system and increase in degrees offered externally – exploration of ways to get more out of resources and give more people the opportunity to take advantage of them.

*Ireland*
*Meeting with Dr Erik Lithander, Director (International Affairs), University College Dublin*
Dr Lithander gave me a briefing about UCD’s international programs as well as a campus tour. He reminded me that in Ireland, formally, students do not pay university fees. However, an ‘administration fee’ has been introduced and is increasing each year – it is becoming a de facto university fee, though it is still well under the price ceiling set recently in Great Britain. Some interesting points of discussion include:

- The tertiary sector is 85% publicly funded – the challenge will be whether this is sustainable.
- In 2008, 45% of 25-34 year olds in Ireland have a higher education qualification (much higher than OECD average of 33%).
- Expect demand for higher education enrolment places to increase.

*Meeting with Professor Des Fitzgerald, Vice President for Research, University College Dublin*
Professor Fitzgerald outlined the program for research in third level institutions, which has the aim of raising Ireland’s profile as a strong research country and increase their share of the market.

*Meeting with Professor Ian O’Donnell, Law School, University College Dublin*
Professor O’Donnell was typical of many senior academics I spoke with in Ireland – believing that the economic downturn will mean it is unlikely university students will be able to escape the rise in fees. He said the key was finding a way to raise fees without corrupting equity and excellence. Workplace relations issues are also prominent in Irish universities, where tenure is still sacrosanct for both academics and administrative staff.
After meeting various staff at UCD, it struck me that despite a natural reticence towards higher fees, the system is unlikely to remain as it is for much longer.

**Meeting with Tom Boland, Chief Executive, Higher Education Authority**
The Higher Education Authority (HEA) is the statutory planning and policy development body for higher education and research in Ireland. Mr Boland outlined what he saw as the challenges for higher education in Ireland, including the pressure to re-introduce fees in short term. Mr Boland also believes that demand for higher education will continue to rise (as it has done through economic downturn), particularly graduate courses.

**Meeting with Christy Mannion, Laura Casey and Aoife Conduit, Department of Education and Skills**
The Department Officers were well aware of Australia’s issues, but were keen to tell me that both the culture and public expectations in Ireland were somewhat different. They believe public commitment to the university system is far greater in Ireland and that any government attempts to cut funding to universities would be met with stiff public resistance. It was acknowledged, though, that current spending was unsustainable in the economic circumstances.

**Meeting with Mr Bruce Davis, Australian Ambassador to Ireland**
Mr Davis gave me a briefing on the current political landscape in Ireland and potential reforms, including those to higher education.

**United Arab Emirates**

**Briefing with Mr Kym Hewett, Consul General, and Feras Sallan, Business Development Manager (Education), Consulate General**
Mr Hewett provided a briefing on higher education in the Middle East and Northern Africa as well as the United Arab Emirates. This included discussions on the lucrative opportunities available for Australian industry.

**Meeting with Raymi Van Der Spek, Vice President (Administration), and Vince Lendrum, CEO of ITC (owner of UOWD), University of Wollongong Dubai**
UOWD was the first Australian university established in the UAE – less than 20 years ago. While lacking the feel of Australia’s older universities, it projects a distinct air of excitement. UOWD prides itself on offering degrees to the same standard as their Australian campuses. I was given a campus tour and discussions were had concerning the challenges in establishing a campus overseas and the stigmas attached to offshore campuses.

**Meeting with Professor John Grainger, Pro Vice Chancellor, Murdoch University**
Murdoch University is relatively new in Dubai but is making its mark. Degrees offered are accredited Australian degrees and equivalent to those offered in Australia. Professor Grainger and his staff acknowledge they are doing something new and relish the challenge. Murdoch is eager to increase the number of research students and also develop links with local vocational education providers. Following these discussions, I was given a campus tour – Murdoch’s facilities are quite impressive.
Conclusion

Higher education reform within Australia is a big – and potentially daunting – challenge. In each of my meetings, we spoke not only of the systems in place in that country, but compared it with the Australian scheme and how both systems might be improved. As Dr Donald Markwell, Warden of Rhodes House, suggested, Australia (and the Australian people) must place a higher value on and harness knowledge in order to maintain our high standard of living when our natural resources can no longer carry us. Moving further towards the outlook in Singapore on higher education, where a university education is not elite but essential might be a step in the right direction.

Perhaps Australia might establish an organisation similar to Singapore’s A*STAR sometime in the future. Though their public investment in research far outstrips ours, this agency fosters valuable links between industry, government and academia – something that the research sector in Australia could benefit greatly from. We are moving in this direction, but slowly.

I found it very encouraging that Australian universities’ overseas campuses in Dubai offered degrees that were certified and equivalent to those in Australia. There has long been an unwarranted stigma attached to universities offering degrees offshore; that they are somehow inferior and lack the quality of a ‘true’ degree. Both campuses had good facilities and would be fine models for the future establishment of overseas campuses.

Though Australia has also fared very well in enrolling international students at our tertiary institutions, with nations such as England becoming more aggressive in their recruitment we must not take our past successes for granted. Purely from a financial and research perspective, we need these international students to supplement domestic places.

It will be interesting to monitor the situation in Ireland, where higher education is heavily government funded, to see if the percentage of the population aged 25-34 with a university degree falls following the introduction of administration (and, potentially, tuition) fees. Though education is apparently highly valued there, the people have never been required to pay fees like those charged in Australia (or now, Britain). Seeing how the new reforms in England are going in a few years time will be especially interesting, given the similarities they have to our system. The way they seek to deregulate their market should also be monitored.

I think we should feel proud in the knowledge that countries, such as England, are modelling their reformed higher education systems on what we are doing in Australia. Though in Australia our universities are not so venerable, our regulatory and funding systems are being adopted to varying extents by nations with much longer and richer histories of higher education. This is not to say there is nothing we can do to improve the sector – I strongly believe we should constantly be seeking ways to make the system more efficient and effective. But in some ways we are lucky – we may just be starting from a stronger standpoint than other places in the world.
Minister Gary Gray, MP
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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Trish Cross
12/10/2011
Purpose of the Journey
To attend the Conference: Our Work Our Lives 2011 which was organised by the Working Women’s Centre Timor-Leste and to launch the Timor Leste Working Women’s Centre.

Detailed itinerary Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Darwin to Dili, East Timor</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 September 2011-10-13</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Dili, East Timor</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 September 2011</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Dili, East Timor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 September 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Dili, East Timor to Darwin</td>
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Key Outcomes / Findings

See attached adjournment speech

Conclusion

The success of the Working Women’s Centres in Australia has clearly translated into the benefits they can deliver for women in their working life. It is a privilege to see that Timor Leste has also decided to establish a centre which now sees this model for assisting women with industrial concerns move to the international arena. It certainly builds a case to continue to support and strengthen the Working Women's' Centres in this country and to encourage and build upon the link that has been made with women in Timor Leste.
() (NaN NaN pm)

Senator CROSSIN (Northern Territory) (19:04): I rise tonight to speak about a newly formed organisation that I am very proud to be associated with, and that is the Working Women's Centre Timor-Leste. The Working Women's Centre Timor-Leste has been established in Dili with the support of Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA; the Konferesasau Sindikatu Timor-Leste, or KSTL as it is known, which is the national trade union organisation of East Timor; and the Australian Network of Working Women's Centres, which includes the Northern Territory Working Women's Centre, the South Australian Working Women's Centre and the Queensland Working Women's Service.

Earlier this month, the fourth Conference on Women and Industrial Relations was held in Dili to coincide specifically with the official launch of the Working Women's Centre Timor-Leste. Previous to this, in Australia we had the inaugural Our Work Our Lives conference in 2006 in Queensland, organised by the Queensland Working Women's Service and Griffith University; the second Our Work Our Lives conference in 2007 in Adelaide, organised by the South Australia Working Women's Centre; and of course the last conference in 2009, organised by the Northern Territory Working Women's Centre, with academic support from the University of Western Australia. It was there, actually, at the Our Work Our Lives conference in the Northern Territory, to which women from Timor-Leste had been invited. A number of people got talking about seeing whether we could get a Working Women's Centre established in Timor-Leste, and why we shouldn't even try to have a conference over there in 2011. It was an absolute joy to see both of those dreams realised at the attendance of that conference earlier this month. The conference was held with the support, as I said, of the Australian Network of Working Women's Centres, the University of South Australia and the Queensland University of Technology. It was a resounding success, with people from a range of backgrounds participating in the conference. Academics, policymakers, practitioners and unions, parts of organisations or simply interested individuals discussed ideas around assisting women in precarious or vulnerable work; women's access to their rights and entitlements; progress towards decent work in the Asia-Pacific; and building sustainable communities through women's workforce participation.

Guest speakers included our own Parliamentary Secretary for School Education and Workplace Relations, Jacinta Collins. She spoke on the importance of the women's community sector organisations and also women's access to their rights and entitlements and the equal pay case for social and community workers. Also at the conference was our own Northern Territory Minister for Women's, Policy, Minister Malamndiri McCarthy. The Northern Territory government generously sponsored the conference. ACTU President Ged Kearney was also present. She spoke about the importance of the trade union movement and its connection to the women's community sector. The Vice President of Timor-Leste's parliament, Maria Da Costa Paxiao, and Timor-Leste Parliamentary Secretary Teresinha Viegas were also present.

The working women's centres in Australia provide invaluable support and advice about work related matters to our most vulnerable women workers. Their advice is free and confidential. The centres target their services to those in disadvantaged bargaining positions, insecure and low-paid work. They are not-for-profit community organisations whose objective is to increase women's participation in and contribution to workplace arrangements that improve their income and conditions. I am a proud founding member of the Northern Territory Working Women's Centre and I believe very passionately in the crucial work that they do. Queensland and South Australia also have centres that provide this service.

The Working Women's Centre in Timor-Leste will be providing an even more important service in that country, which is still developing its industrial relations laws. Timor-Leste is ranked 140 on the Human Development Index; two in five people are poor, mainly concentrated in rural areas. Households headed by males are consistently better off than female-headed households in all of the usual indicators: education, health and subjective wellbeing. While cultural attitudes towards traditional gender roles have begun to change, women are still limited in progressing towards equal rights. The new constitution sees equal rights and duties for men and women in all aspects of life, but access, such as to the law, is still an issue for women. This is particularly true in relation to domestic and gender based violence.
While the women of Timor-Leste have traditionally held roles in the home, an increasing number of young women are now accessing formal education and seeking employment to help take themselves and their families out of poverty. Of the working population aged over 15 years, only 29 per cent are female. Labour participation is at its highest when women are aged in the mid-thirties and early forties, with the peak participation rate at 15 per cent when women are between 35 and 39 years of age. Forty-five per cent of women have had no formal education at all, compared to 34 per cent of men. Men are twice as likely as women to have completed university education or a diploma at a polytechnic.

Unfortunately, most work available to women in Timor-Leste is characterised by informal workplace arrangements. It is common for jobs to be found through word of mouth and paid cash in hand, resulting in little or no negotiation of fair wages and conditions, and certainly no such entitlements as leave for illness, pregnancy or family related matters. Since these women are unregistered workers, they are unable to access existing or proposed social security schemes. Since there are no occupational health and safety laws in Timor-Leste, some women are experiencing violence, harassment and other forms of coercion — experiences which no worker should have to put up with. A growing number of women are seeking employment as domestic helpers; however, there is no formal support for them. Domestic workers are not unionised and have no access to minimum entitlements or awareness of decent working conditions.

It is very clear that the services of the Working Women's Centre Timor-Leste will be in great demand as the country sees more women in the paid workforce. The centre aims to provide information, advice and support to women on work issues, initiating and implementing training programs, responding to specific issues and developing resources on issues facing women in or entering the workforce, and actively promoting equal employment opportunity for women through policy development, committees and campaigns. The centre has received support from the AusAID innovation fund to initiate and implement education, support and advocacy for vulnerable women workers in Timor-Leste, a program focusing on women working as domestic workers to provide them with education, advocacy and support to access their rights.

I take this opportunity to place on record the fantastic work that was done by people such as Tanya Karliychuk, who was the project officer for Timor-Leste and Indonesia at Union Aid Abroad APHEDA, who was able to put together a proposal to access those funds and was inevitably successful in getting those funds from the Australian government, and Shabnam Hameed, Trade Union Adviser to the KSTL for the Working Women's Centre Timor-Leste, who relocated to Dili from Sydney for the last year and put in so much time and effort getting the centre established. They were backed in passion and commitment by wonderful women in Australia such as Sandra Dann from South Australia, Robyn Greenwood and my own two really great coordinators of the Northern Territory Working Women's Centre, Anna Davis and Rachael Uebergang.

The Australian Network of Working Women's Centres will support the Working Women's Centre Timor-Leste by helping with policy development, research and capacity building, such as initial staff training. The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse will also be assisting the centre by providing access to national and international evidence based research on violence and its relationship with women's work. Working Women's Centre Timor-Leste has the full support of all seven affiliate unions of the KSTL. These are unions that represent nurses, teachers, public servants and agriculture, construction, general and maritime and energy workers.

I congratulate the founding members of the Working Women's Centre Timor-Leste: Abelita Da Silva; Ana Filipena Soares Mariano; Cecilya de Jesus; Eduarda Martins Goncaves; Elisabeth De Araujo, an outstanding woman who has done a great job there; Henya Casimira; Marlia Lese Pires Moniz; Odete Amaral; Ricar Pascoela; and Rosa Soares. Of course, my very special congratulations, and all the best, go to Jessica Sequeira, who is the newly appointed Coordinator of the Working Women's Centre Timor-Leste. I am extremely proud to see the establishment and the opening of the Working Women's Centre Timor-Leste, which can now join a wonderful network of three working women's centres that we have back home here in Australia.

Senate adjourned at 19:14
Overseas Study Travel Report

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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Senator Claire Moore
27 October 2011
Purpose of Journey

Australian Working Womens Conference: *Women and Industrial Relations*

I attended the Australian Working Womens Conference, the theme, Women and Industrial Relations.

This conference is the fourth conference focussed on the issues around wages and work, sponsored by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The 2011 Conference featured the formal establishment of the Working Women’s Centre Timor-Leste which has been supported by Union Aid Abroad (APHEDA), the national trade union organisation of East Timor, and the Australian Network of Working Women's Centres.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 August 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Depart Brisbane at 5.45pm on QF545 - arrive Sydney 7.20pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 August 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Depart Sydney at 8.05pm on QF846 - arrive Darwin at 12.20am on Wednesday 31 August</td>
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<td>30 August 2011</td>
<td>In transit</td>
<td>1 night in Darwin – Rydges Darwin Airport Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 August 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Depart Darwin at 9.45am on QF373 arrive Dili, East Timor at 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 August 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Marie Stopes East Timor Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 August 2011 to</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Accommodation: 3 nights accommodation at: Hotel Esplanda, Dili, East Timor</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 September 2011</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Conference: 8.15am to 4.45pm – Day 1 of 4th Conference on Women and Industrial Relations – Our Work, Our Lives held at Arbiru Beach Resort, Bebonuk, Dili, East Timor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 September 2011</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Conference Dinner: 6.15pm to 8.30pm at Sol e Mar Restorante in Areia Branca</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 September 2011</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Conference: 8.15am to 5.45pm – Day 2 of 4th Conference on Women and Industrial Relations – Our Work, Our Lives held at Arbiru Beach Resort, Bebonuk, Dili, East Timor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 September 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Depart Dili, East Timor at 8.00am on QF374 – arrive Darwin at 9.45am</td>
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<td>3 September 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 September 2011</td>
<td>Flight QF825</td>
<td>Depart Darwin at 1.40pm on QF825 - arrive Brisbane at 5.50pm.</td>
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Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Australian Working Womens Conference: Women and Industrial Relations

I have attached the Conference Program which lists the major issues.

Key Addresses:

- Senator Jacinta Collins, Parliament Secretary for School Education and Workplace Relations, provided historical information and industrial processes around the critical issue of Equal Pay.

- Ged Kearney, National President of ACTU, highlighted the essential consultations between the trade union movement and women’s community sector organisations.

- Hon, Malarndirri McCarthy NT Minister and Jannette Galton, Office for Women’s Policy, presented on the process for integrating gender equality measures into the NT Government policy development.

- Jessica Sequeira, Co-ordinator of the newly established Working Women’s Centre Timor-Leste and a panel of local women workers discussed the issues/challenges of security of work in the country.

The major event of the Conference was the formal opening of the Working Women’s Centre in East Timor.

The Deputy President of East Timor attended the session and reinforced the importance of this centre and congratulated the women who had made it happen.

Other Meeting

With Senator Trish Crossin I visited the Marie Stopes East Timor Centre and met with local workers.

We were able to learn about the services for women and families, especially the outreach to remote areas.

As members of the Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, Senator Crossin and I have worked with Marie Stopes International to support the aim of reproductive health in our region and the visit reinforced the need as well as the programs.
Conclusion

I believe the attendance of Australian Women Parliamentarians at this Conference reinforced the commitment of our Government to the issues of women in the workplace – safety, equal pay, child care and inclusion.

The Conference also focussed on our link with East Timor, and again our attendance was noted and welcomed.

The Marie Stopes visit was particularly important in our ongoing work of policy around reproductive health.
# Program

**DAY ONE: Thursday September 1 Arbiru Beach Resort, Bebonuk, Dili, Timor-Leste**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.15 – 9.00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 – 9.15</td>
<td>Conference Opening and Welcome: Jessica Sequeira, Co-ordinator Working</td>
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<td>Women’s Centre Timor-Leste</td>
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<td>9.15 – 10.00</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker – Milena Pires: CEDAW Committee Representative of SE</td>
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<td>Asia</td>
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<td>Chair: Elisabeth Araujo: Apheda Dili</td>
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<td>CEDAW and women’s employment issues</td>
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<td>10.00 – 10.30</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
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<td>10.30 – 11.30</td>
<td>Session 1a</td>
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<td>Chair: Amelia Richardson-Dear</td>
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<td>Marilyn Davis: Queensland</td>
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<td>Working Women’s Centre</td>
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<td>Women’s access to their rights</td>
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<td>and entitlements through mediation and conciliation</td>
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<td>Lynda-Ann Blanchard: University of Sydney</td>
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<td>Gender and the development of</td>
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<td>11.30 – 12.30</td>
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<td>Chair: Sara Charlesworth</td>
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<td>Ann Purdy &amp; Nadine Levy: South</td>
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<td>Australia Young Workers Legal Service</td>
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<td>Young women, small business</td>
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<td>and sexual harassment in OHS&amp;W context</td>
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<td>Paula McDonald: Queensland University of Technology</td>
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<td>Bystander approaches to workplace sexual harassment</td>
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<td>12.30 – 13.30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13.30 – 14.15</td>
<td>Session 2b</td>
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<td>Chair: Anna Davis</td>
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<td>Suzanne Franzway: University of South Australia</td>
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<td>Women and decent work in the Asia Pacific:</td>
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<td>agency and empowerment</td>
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<td>Ludo McFerran: Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse</td>
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<td>The challenges of promoting domestic violence</td>
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<td>in Industrial Instruments &amp; engaging the</td>
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<td>Australian domestic violence sector with the</td>
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<td>14.15 – 14.30</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker – Senator Jacinta Collins: Australian federal</td>
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<td>Parliamentary Secretary for School Education and Workplace Relations</td>
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<td>Women’s Access to Their Rights and Entitlements: The Equal Pay Case for</td>
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<td>Social and Community Sector Workers</td>
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<td>Roberto Pes ILO, Jakarta. (Chair: Janet Giles SA Unions)</td>
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| 14:30 - 15:30 | Joint presentation by Australian Network of Working Women's Centres: Sandra Dann, Anna Davis, Rachael Uebergang, Kerriann Dear  
Feminist Service Provision and Governance: The Perspective of Australian Working Women's Centres  
Chair: TBC |
<p>| 15:30 - 16:00 | AFTERNOON TEA                                                        |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | Speaking Book - the oral histories of women working in Timor-Leste    |
| 17:00 - 17:45 | Conference Summary and Closing: Elisabeth de Araujo: Co-ordinator, APHEDA-Dili |</p>
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<tr>
<td>8.15 - 9.00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>9 - 10.00</td>
<td>Welcome to Day 2</td>
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<td>Panel Participants:</td>
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<td>- Ludo McFerran: Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearing House</td>
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<td>- Alexandrina Verdel De Sousa Gama: Chief of self-employment, Secretary</td>
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<td>of State for Vocational Training and Employment (SEFOPE)</td>
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<td>*'Agora' panel discussion - of the Australian and Timorese experience of</td>
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<td>building sustainable communities through women's workforce participation*</td>
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<td>Chair: Milena Pires</td>
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<td>10:00 - 10:30</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
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<td>10:30 - 12:00</td>
<td>Session 4a</td>
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<td>Chair: Kerriann Dear</td>
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<td>Sandra Dann: Working Women's Centre South Australia</td>
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<td>Life Quilt SA project, engaging women in workplace issues through</td>
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<td>participation in arts and crafts</td>
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<td>BecSahr: Deakin University (with Rosemary Nugent: Geelong West</td>
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<td>Neighborhood House)</td>
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<td>Community Capacity Building: A fertile ground for change and</td>
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<td>If you could only bottle it’ 5 stories of women’s activism</td>
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<td>Chair: Rachel Uebergang</td>
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<td>Janine Simms (with Wendy Morton): Northern Territory Council of Social</td>
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<td>Capacity Building – Not for Profit Service Organisations</td>
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<td>Sara Charlesworth: University of South Australia</td>
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<td>Gender Equality and Decent Work: Does national context matter?</td>
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<td>Teresa (Alita) Verdel: Aloha Foundation</td>
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<td>Elisa Savio da Costa Soares: Aloha Foundation; &amp;University of South</td>
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<td>Harmonia Iha Familia - the association between secure employment,</td>
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<td>mental health and family wellbeing amongst women in Timor Leste</td>
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<td>12:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13.00 - 14:00</td>
<td>Keynote Speakers: Hon. Malanndirri McCarthy MLA and Janette Galton:</td>
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<td>Office for Women's Policy</td>
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<td>Chair: ShabnamHameed, Trade Union Advisor, Konfederasaun Sindikatu</td>
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<td>Integrating gender equality measures into Northern Territory government's</td>
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<td>plan for improving the lives of remote Territorians</td>
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<td>14:00 - 14:30</td>
<td>Official Launch of Working Women’s Centre Timor-Leste</td>
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<td>14.30 – 15.30</td>
<td>Chair: Suzanne Franzway</td>
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<td>Monica Costa: University of South Australia &amp; Australian National University</td>
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<td>Progress thus far: A look into research on gender-responsive budgeting work</td>
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<td>in Timor-Leste</td>
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<td>Carey Trundle: Regional Services &amp; Targeting (Fair Work Ombudsman)</td>
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<td>Regulatory challenges in the enforcement of Australia’s first Paid Parental</td>
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15:30 – 16:00  | Afternoon Tea                                                               |

16:00 – 16:45  | Keynote Speaker - Ged Kearney, Australian Council of Trade Unions, President |
|              | Chair: Rigoberto Monterio, Konfederasaun Sindikatu Timor-Leste, General SECRETARY |
|              | The importance of women’s community sector organisations and their           |
|              | connections to the Trade Union movement                                      |

18:15 – 20:30  | SoleMar Restorante in Areia Branca 🍴                                      |
Overseas Study Travel Report

25 October, 2011

The Hon Gary Gray OA MP
Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister Gray

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 overseas study travel to Turkey from 23 September to 4 October, 2011.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

Ian Macfarlane MP
Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources
11-10-11
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of the journey was to study the Turkish electricity market, with particular emphasis on the privatisation and deregulation process, and the role of renewable energy in the energy mix.

Of particular interest was the deregulation path chosen by the Turkish Government while it maintained control, either directly or indirectly, over the distribution network.

Also of particular interest was the balancing of the network with rapid expansion of wind energy forecast over the next eight to ten years.

The trip was also to determine the likely path of Turkey in relation to the EU target of 20 per cent renewable energy by 2020 and the likelihood of the development of a carbon pricing mechanism in Turkey in the next decade.

I also planned to take the opportunity to lay a wreath at Lone Pine, Gallipoli in memory of those Australians, particularly those from my electorate of Groom, who made the ultimate sacrifice defending the freedom every Australian now enjoys.
Detailed Itinerary Schedule

Friday, 23 September

15:00  Arrive Istanbul Ataturk Airport

Saturday, 24 September

Free Day

Sunday, 25 September

Free Day

Monday, 26 September

Attended meetings accompanied by Ms Tibet Kara, Austrade, Istanbul

10:00  British Petroleum Turkey, Istanbul Office

Corporate Relations Director
Address: Kozyatagi Mahallesi
Sari Kanarya Sok K2 Plaza No: 14

Phone: +90 216 5712000

14:00  Director
Istanbul Technical University- New Energy Technologies Platform (TIYEP)
Address: Istanbul Teknik Üniversitesi Enerji Enstitüsü, Ayazaga
Yerleskesi  Maslak / Istanbul
Phone: +90 212 285 39 39
President
Ericon Telecommunication & Energy Technologies Co

15:30  President of National Energy Forum
Address: Meclis-I Mebusan Cad. Bilezik Sok. Lugol İş Merkezi No: 4 B-Blok Kat:5 Fındiklı
Phone: +90 212 293 1170
0534 944 0530
17:00  Executive Manager  
CEV Clean Energy and Vehicle  
www.cev-tr.com  
Meeting at Austrade Office

**Tuesday, 27 September**

9:00  Depart Hotel

10:00  Ciner Group  
Head of Energy Group  
*Address: Paşalimanı Caddesi No:73, 34670 Paşalimanı Üsküdar / ISTANBUL*  
*Phone: +90 216 531 24 00*

11:00  Depart for BOTAS LNG TERMINAL in Tekirdag (2 hour drive from Istanbul).

13:00  BOTAS LNG TERMINAL in Tekirdag  
Petroleum Pipeline Corporation (BOTAS)  
Istanbul Operation Management  
PK 17 59740 Marmara Ereğlisi Tekirdag  
0282 611 57 00

15:30  Return to ISTANBUL

**Wednesday, 28 September**

08:30  Depart Istanbul for Canakkale on TK9060

09:30  Arrive Canakkale  
Met on arrival by Mr Andrew Koc-McDonald, Consul  
*Mob: +90 533 380 3643*

10:00  Arrive Kolin Hotel  
*Address: Boğazkent Mekii 17100 Kepez Canakkale*  
*Phone: +90 286 218 0808*  
*Fax: +90 286 218 0808*

11:15  Depart Hotel for full-day tour of Gallipoli Peninsula  
*Guide: Mr Kenan Celik, Mobile: +90 532 7386675*

*Mr Macfarlane laid wreath*
Thursday, 29 September

07.00  Depart Canakkale for Ankara on TK9007

08:30  Arrive Ankara

09:20  Depart  Ankara for Izmir on TK7002

10:40  Arrive Izmir

14:30  Chairman
       Board Member
       Gucbirligi Holding AS
       Address: Sair Esref Bulvari No: 3/2 Umurney Ishani Kat:8 Çankaya
       Phone: +90 232 446 4480
       E-mail: oznur@gucbirligi.com.tr

Friday, 30 September

10:00  Depart for Inspection of Yuntdag Wind Power Plant in Bergama

12:00  Inspection of Yuntdag Wind Power Plant in Bergama
       General Manager
       Plant Manager
       Address: Koyuneli Koyu, Korutepe Mevki, Bergama Izmir
       Phone: +90 232 658 20 00
       mobile(isa Alkan): 0533 442 40 40
       E-mail: nurullah .celik@dostenerji.com

2:30   Return to Izmir

Saturday, 1 October

19:55  Depart Izmir for Istanbul on TK2335

21:00  Arrive Istanbul

Sunday, 2 October

Free Day
Monday, 3 October

10:00

AGAOGLU ENERGY GROUP

Deputy Director General responsible for investments
Address: Agaoglu My World 34746 Bati Atasehir
Phone: +90 216 687 10 56
E-mail: saygin.oytan@agaoglu.com.tr

Deputy Director General responsible for Business Development
Phone: +90 216 687 1335
E-mail: kor.ozay@agaoglu.com.tr

Solicitor
Phone: +90 216 687 1328
E-Mail: ali.quden@agaoglu.com.tr

11:30

BORUSAN ENBW ENERJI

Manager
Strategic Planning and Business Development
Address: Büyükdere Caddesi Nurol Plaza No: 255 Kat: 19 Maslak
Phone: +90 212 340 2760
E-mail: eokuyan@borusanenbwenerji.com

Director
Business Support
Phone: +90 212 340 2792
E-mail: bozbay@borusanenbwenerji.com

19:25

Depart Istanbul for Dubai on EK122

Tuesday, 4 October

17:25

Arrive Perth on EK420
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

British Petroleum Turkey, Istanbul Office  26-09-11

1. BP have been in Turkey since 1912 and have been involved in downstream since the ‘40s & now both upstream and downstream including retail and commercial fuels, lubricants and LPG.
2. No exploration & production since ‘06
3. Major pipe BTC pipeline opened ‘06 – 1MB/day from Caspian sea to port in Turkey
4. Gas from Caspian to Turkey (ITCF) – 6bcm for Turkey, 10bcm for Europe
5. New field ‘17 Caspian (Shah Domiz) where BP is part of consortium of 9 companies
6. Turkish gas consumption is flat but will grow - currently consuming 38bcm/a consumption increasing to 40 bcm/a
7. Algeria & Nigeria supply LNG on long term contracts
8. Aga Gas in Izmir bought about 1bdm and tried to sell it into spot market which flooded the market
9. Turkish relationship with Russia is complicated and not transparent. Russia has negotiated a deal to supply a nuclear plant which will be Turkey’s first - 1000MW
10. Some anxiety about nuclear and Turkey would not go to nuclear if they had enough gas
11. 9% growth rate in GDP & current account deficit is driven by energy imports
12. 50% of gas for electricity
13. Wind has grid problems
14. BP were looking at wind & decided against it & to invest in US
15. Govt needs to be clearer on what they will do with solar
16. EU standard for E10 started in Germany but Turkish consumers didn’t want it and there is no clear biofuels direction in Turkey yet

Istanbul Tech University 26-09-11

1. Govt has a concentration on gas projects because of take on pay contracts
2. No carbon tax planned
3. Govt didn’t want to subsidise solar power and grid parity for solar is near but maybe 5 years
4. Turkish govt didn’t want to subsidise other countries’ industries on wind turbines and solar cells.
5. A$138/ mw hr retail price
6. PV solar is for show in most cases by companies who want a good corporate image
7. Energy efficiency is the growing area and the govt has introduced EE standards for new buildings
8. New buildings must have central heating and cooling systems for EE
9. Mandatory installation (but no subsidy) for new buildings & 5 years for old buildings to comply
10. Distribution networks are being privatised but there have been some problems
11. Illegal use of electricity is a problem – even in Istanbul 7% is taken illegally and 15% in country
12. Smart grids are just coming in and will help deal with this by real time remote reading which will allow tracking from the transformer/distribution line to combat illegal use of electricity
13. 250/kw hr/ month for 4 people household expectation
14. Generation break up is 20% hydro, 60% gas, 20% coal, wind <1%

National Energy Forum 26-09-11

1. NGOs campaign against N energy and hydro
2. NGOs also campaigned against Normandy Gold mining & shut them down
3. The National Energy Forum tries to walk both sides of the road & bring people from both sides together
4. 800 people attended the last forum
5. NGOs haven’t been contributing to the operation of the NEF
6. Annual budget of $5-600K – no govt funding – 11 staff

CEV Clean Energy 26-09-11

1. 33K members through companies in all parts of the industry/energy sectors
2. Involved in waste to energy projects
3. Organised conference for 140 countries
4. Tried to form a JV with Australian company Kuth for geothermal project
5. Turkey has a large amount of lignite – want to look at gasification and is talking to Linc
6. International Energy bill in Turkey $50B
7. 3 options – lignite, EE and energy produced from agriculture
8. 95% of gas is imported, 65% from Russia, 25% Iran, rest Nigeria and Algeria
9. Interested in CSM & shale gas and looking for investors, maybe Australia
10. Privatisation authority reports to the treasury
11. 80% of power generation belongs to govt [AER, AMEC, AEMO] & retail is still government owned
12. Distribution – 21 regions – most are still negotiating privatisation – 20% complete - it has turned into a fiasco because the companies that won the tenders couldn’t get finance
13. EMRA is the independent authority for energy market regulation
Ciner Group 27-09-11

1. Black Lignite fuelled production in CFB – circulated floating bed technology – no SO2
2. Demand for natural gas in the region is high & prices are $9.40 TJ
3. Currently the company has 1300 MW of power generation – goal of 3-4000MW
4. The company wants to control all parts of production – owns coal miner & also has a retailer
5. Price is adjusted with hourly bids but this may change (4 years old). Prices placed at the start of the day
6. Govt owned electricity production assets will be sold/privatised by ’14
7. Govt owns 30-35 GW of generation, privately owned generation 13-15GW
8. 8-9c kw hr on an hourly bloc bid, 13-14c at retail – fixed price
9. Distribution will remain govt owned
10. The company is not interested in renewables and believes CCS will leak.
11. 41% thermal efficiency from their boilers - 300MW moving to 400 MW super critical
12. Privatisation of coal reserves gives them the opportunity to build 2400MW – 4x600 super critical.
13. To date the restrictions of coal reserves has restricted power
14. Financing is a problem due to GFC & Europe finance problems
15. 5% /a electricity growth
16. Turkey has noted the EU 20% renewables by 2020 – Europe standard – but has not committed to it

Marmara LNG Terminal 27-09-11

1. Feasability study started ’84 & first receivable ’94 (Aug)
2. Can unload at 6.67 m3/a @ 685 km3/hr 24 Mm3/day
3. The terminal has 3 tanks x 5 Km3 & 155 workers
4. Gasified LNG goes into trunk limit and is also stored in underground aquifers & loaded into road tankers
5. Sea water is used to gasify - 5 degrees to 26 degrees sea temperature
6. Warm water from power plant is used to vaporise LNG + 13 degrees heat available
7. Vaporiser uses water 18 degrees to 30 degrees in temperature
8. Also uses hot air if needed during winter generated from gas fired furnace
9. 14 hrs to unload ship & 56 ships from Algeria + 14 Nigeria/year
10. Nigerian LNG for 20 years 4 Mm3/a
11. 96 ship capacity
12. 75% capacity is current operation
13. There is a privately owned LNG terminal at Izmir

Gallipoli 28-9-11

This was a deeply moving and extraordinarily interesting experience, accentuated by laying a wreath in memory of the fallen at Lone Pine.
Gucbirligi Holding (Izmir 29-09-11)

1. Specialising in manufacturing plastics and pipes & sister company is property, textiles and alternative energy - 80 years in business
2. Started making plates & tooth paste tubes
3. Sees Turkey as an energy bridge country
4. Wind farm of 7.2MW @ Cesme 5 years ago (80 km W of Izmir) and is looking to expand to 100MW
5. Nordex is market leader in Turkey for wind turbines
6. High availability ratio & over 40% efficiency
7. 7c/kw hr feed in tariff for wind & 13c/kw hr for solar
8. The company is investigating geothermal – talking measurements but no development
9. Govt owns infrastructure & charge high prices to connect into the grid

Yuntdag Wind Power Plant 30-09-11

1. Wind energy has grown 1,600MW in 4 years with a target 10,000MW in 10 years
2. Wind power is not subsidised and is sold into the market same price as coal & gas hydro
3. Feed in tariff provides the base @ 7.3c/kw hr for 10 years - extra feed in tariffs for local blades, tower & totally 10c/ kw hr feed in tariff
4. Current price is low because of exchange rate
5. Efficiency factor 25-30 in Europe, in Turkey 40% goal
6. The company has 2 existing sites 80MW - 120MW under development
7. Hottest months July & August also highest wind and there are no overheating problems
8. 21 distributors 400 generators
9. Bulk sales of >35 MW hrs can be sold, private distribution
10. Prices for electricity are set by gas (particularly) & coal plant
11. Wind makes predictions every hour
12. Turkey increased total generation capacity 10GW in last 3 years
13. 50GW of capacity but max of 35GW at any time – plenty of capacity to 2016
14. 48% generation govt owned directly with 73% of electricity generation government controlled through government agreements with private electricity plants
15. Aim of privatisation is 15-20% govt owned
16. Financing is a problem
17. Only subsidisation of electricity is through gas prices which 70% from Russia @ $300-350/Mm3
18. Distribution network needs investment
19. Prices are set for each hour at the beginning of the day and marginally adjusted at the end of the day depending on the supply/demand of the day. Price of extra or deficit portion is all that is adjusted
20. 96% capacity 97% possible
21. The companies wind farms reduced CO2 initially by 113kt/a of CO2 reduction, now 150kt/a of CO2 reduction - Kores contributes 40kt reduction
22. The wind farm commissioned in March & June 2008 on a 49 year lease on govt (forestry) land
23. 3 partners in Dost Energi – all private companies. Total capacity 23 turbines, 57.5MW
24. Euro 67M investment producing 214M kw/hr/year
25. The Kores site is 6x2.5=15MW. 60M kw/hrs – Euro 21.8M investment
26. Chinese are offering 35% discount for their turbines but warranty & service are very important
27. Min wind speed for operation of 3 m/sec & Max 27 m/sec
28. Only shut down 2 or 3 times due to high wind >100km per hour
29. April and November are bad times for wind, August and December are good
30. 80% accuracy in predicting hourly production 1 day ahead

**Agaolu Energy Group – 03-10-11**
1. 1,000 MW installed generation capacity in Turkey - 50% gas, 1% is wind & renewable (1650MW)
2. Renewable energy of wind, hydro & geo
3. The companies primary reason for investing in green energy is because it looks good and helps his company sell residential units
4. The company has 126MW of wind (2 projects)
5. 2 gas co-gen plants which heat residential projects – 85% efficient open cycle with heat exchange – 35MW each
6. Projects outside city be considered and will be combined cycle gas plants
7. Geothermal plants use 180 degrees Celsius temperatures -90MW already of geothermal, 300MW target - 10.5c/kw feed in tariff for geothermal
8. Ormat – geothermal all Rankin cycle site in operation now - 9MW plant operates 8,600hrs/a
9. Geothermal plant using steam turbines $2,500/kw for 35 MW, has taken 3 years to build
10. Feed in tariff is usually lower than spot market for wind generated electricity & is there to underwrite the project for financing purposes
11. Market based on UK mode
12. Turkish companies will invest in generation in Georgia >10,000 MW in power station
13. Also investment in Iran where gas is almost free
14. 20% renewable target is a soft target
15. Renewable has first priority in the market
16. Renewable investment is driven by return on investment. Pay back times – solar – 15 years, wind – 7 years, hydro – 9years, Gas (cc) 4.5 years
17. Wind and hydro has to pay a royalty to government on new projects
18. Started in 07 and no royalty to govt at that time but renewables don’t make sense now because of royalties
19. Turkey is a good example of what not to do
20. Spain’s feed in tariffs killed the industry there – Euro 40c/ kw hr feed in tariff
21. Surplus capital is being invested in energy & renewables are used to balance the portfolio
22. Company portfolio is 60% gas, 30% hydro, 10% wind
23. 1 hydro in Turkey & 3 in Georgia to be built by company
24. Doesn’t believe in solar – high cost, low efficiency
25. Licences for renewables are being banked and traded rather than used in projects – this is disrupting development of new plants
26. The constant view is that renewables will only work in Turkey if they can compete with gas...
Borusan – 03-10-11
1. Established ’07 -Borusan & EnBW
2. Borusan – flat steel and pipe production & distributor of Catapillar & BMW and logistics
3. 611 MW of generation - 43 Mw wind 57 Mw hydro
4. Target by 2020 2000Mw - 50 Mw wind 25 Mw hydro 25 Mw Geo being built
5. 50MW run of river being commissioned now
6. 1564MW wind in Turkey now – 5000Mw in 5 years
7. Target is 20 GW by 2023
8. 9 GW built and planned
9. Pays a royalty to supply to the grid
10. Govt ask for wind tax/ kw hr delivered to the grid
11. Also need to build power line and sub station (govt will pay back over 10 years)
12. Feed in tariff – Blade .8c/kwhr, Electrical 1.0c/kwhr, Tower .6c/kwhr, Rotor/Nascelle 1.3c/kwhr +7.3c/kwhr
13. Solar up to 22.5c/kw hr local content for 5 years
14. China are considering local manufacturing but will be involved in project
15. Normal electricity price 9c/kw hr
16. Considering 4GW lignite power station <2000 cal/t

Conclusion

Turkey is highly dependent on and extremely vulnerable to the supply of gas from Russia. Its major reason for pursuing renewable energy is to attempt to diversify its electricity energy base and improve its energy security.

There are no set targets agreed to by Government in relation to renewable energy, although aspirational targets have been set.

The expansion of the coal-fired sector continues at a rapid rate and while gas is seen as the preferred generator of electricity, the low cost of coal will see a major expansion in this area over the next decade.

It is worth noting that while I was in Turkey, the Australian Government released tenders to close 2000MW of brown coal generation in Australia. At the same time, I was advised that Turkey is investigating building a single 4000MW mega power station operating on low quality brown coal.

The wind industry is growing rapidly. The clear difference between the Turkish wind energy industry and the Australian industry is that wind competes without subsidy against gas-fired generation and that their wind farms are far more efficient than those in Australia. Most of the new wind farms claim at least 96-97% availability and 40-45% efficiency.

Turkey has no plans to price carbon. Its priority is firstly to produce enough reliable power to fund its rapid economic growth and secondly to stabilise the reliability of its electricity grid.

To highlight this point, Turkey has decided to build its first nuclear power station and also has extensive plans to build power stations, both hydro and gas, in the adjoining country of Georgia, and gas-fired generation, where I was informed gas is “almost free”.
THE HON MALCOLM TURNBULL MP

Hong Kong, France, Germany and the United Kingdom
22 September – 7 October 2011

Due to the size of this individual study report a number of pages are not included in this Tabling document. A copy of the full report (and any supporting documentation) is available on written request to the Office of the Special Minister of State.
9 November 2011

The Hon Gary Gray AO MP
Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Overseas Study Travel Report

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 travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Turnbull
The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP

Purpose of Journey

The purpose of accessing my overseas study entitlement was to travel to Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and Europe in order to get a global perspective on the development of broadband technology and gain insight into the broadband policies of governments around the world.

I delivered a keynote speech at the World Broadband Forum on new developments in broadband technology and how they can be used to deliver a more cost-effective alternative to the National Broadband Network. The World Broadband Forum is the World’s largest Broadband event and brought together service providers and industry experts from more than 100 different countries.

In London I delivered a speech at the London School of Economics on the rise of China and its impact on the Australian economy. I also attended the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester and held meetings with key Ministers and Conservative Party Members to learn more about the direction of the UK’s communications policy and gain insight into the current political climate in both the UK and Europe.

While in Britain I met with the two Ministers responsible for broadband policy, the director of Ofcom (the regulator) and the executive at BT responsible for their broadband deployment. In addition I met with the Editor of the Guardian and his editorial team to discuss newspapers in a digital age – the Guardian is one of the most digitally advanced newspapers in the world.

I also travelled to Berlin where I took the opportunity to meet with communications industry and government leaders. The focus of these discussions was to put into perspective the spending of the Australian Government on broadband infrastructure compared to the major European economies.
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<td>11 Avenue de l’Arche, Paris La Defense</td>
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<td>Ericsson</td>
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<td>Deutsche Telekom AG Französische Str. 33a-c</td>
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<td>Co Chairman of the Conservative Party and Minister without Portfolio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>4 October</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Gunilla Carlsson MP, Swedish Minister for International Development</td>
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<td>4 October</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport</td>
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<td>4 October</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Andrew Rosindell MP, Chairman of Australian &amp; New Zealand (ANZAC) All Party Parliamentary Group</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Australian High Commission, HC London, Stoke Lodge, 45 Hyde Park Gate, SW7</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 October</td>
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<td>Guardian Morning Editorial Conference &amp; coffee with Alan Rusbridger, Guardian News &amp; Media, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London</td>
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<td>5 October</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Norman Lamont, Gran Paradiso, Wilton Rd London</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 October</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Mr Johnny McQuoid, Superfast Broadband Programme Director, BT Centre, 81 Newgate St, London, EC1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 October</td>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>Speak at London School of Economics, Hong Kong Theatre, Clement House</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ed Vaizey, Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries</td>
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<td>6 October</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Sajid Javid MP Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Further Education, Skills &amp; Lifelong Learning, Portcullis House, Embankment, SW1</td>
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<td>6 October</td>
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<td>Ed Richards, Chief Executive, Ofcom, Australian High Commission</td>
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Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

The visit was primarily intended to enable me to obtain a better understanding of how other countries are undertaking their broadband upgrades and to add to the knowledge and contacts developed during my earlier visit to Singapore and South Korea.

In Hong Kong I met with both the incumbent telco, PCCW, and discussed their broadband strategy and with a rising rival HK Broadband. Hong Kong is the most densely settled city in the world and the Government has wisely ensured that there is plenty of scope for facilities based competition – I inspected high rise developments where in the basement there were connections available from four broadband service providers offering residents the ability to switch from one to the other and driving of course very low broadband costs in that market.

In Paris I addressed the World Broadband Forum which was an excellent opportunity to discuss different approaches to broadband deployment and meet operators from many different countries all of whom have experience relevant to Australia. The big challenge facing operators as described to me there is how to deploy broadband in a cost effective fashion and for that reason the predominant approach is some form of Fibre to the Cabinet (or to the Node) which has a cost advantage in that there is not the need to run fibre into every premise.

Germany is a very interesting market from our point of view. The country has a very serious commitment to science and technology and so broadband is, from their point of view, a vital national priority. In meetings with the Government, Deutsche Telekom and the industry organisation it was clear that Germany is rapidly upgrading broadband to at least 50 mbps, that it is being done with very little government subsidy, that policy actively encouraged facilities based competition. It was also clear that telcos were struggling to persuade customers to pay for higher speeds – indeed I was advised by the Government that of those Germans with access to 40 mbps or more (about 40% of the country to date), only 3% pay for the higher speeds the vast bulk taking the slowest, cheapest speed. This is the central problem as of today of high speed broadband in a residential context – the applications are not there to justify people paying a premium for very high speeds.

In the United Kingdom we visited Oxford and while there met with and addressed Weidenfeld and Rhodes Scholars. Thereafter both at the Conservative Party Conference and in London met with Ministers responsible for broadband policy – the Government is committed to high speed broadband upgrades and is spending over five years £34 million pounds to subsidise deployment in regional or remote areas only. As BT advised me the technology being used to upgrade services is largely FTTC (VDSL) with speeds of 80 mbps down 20 mbps up being delivered over this technology by next year. Once again Government policy is clearly focussed, as Ofcom described to me, at ensuring and promoting facilities based competition.

Conclusion

European approaches are more cost effective, and more competitive than that being employed in Australia. Government subsidies where present are very modest and focussed only on rural and remote areas. There is no counterpart to the NBN with Government building a new telecom network, let alone a monopoly one. Technology to enable very high speeds over FTTC deployments is rapidly advancing delivering speeds which are well above what households need or will pay for.
Due to the size of this individual study report a number of pages are not included in this Tabling document. A copy of the full report (and any supporting documentation) is available on written request to the Office of the Special Minister of State.
The Hon Gary Gray  
Special Minister of State for the Public Service  
and Integrity  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA 2600

Dear Minister

I write to submit my study leave report resulting from my visit to the United Kingdom and Europe from 23 September 2011 – 10 October 2011.

As you are aware, the purpose of my overseas visit was to discuss unexplained wealth legislation and procedures being adopted in various overseas jurisdictions to combat serious and organised crime.

In order to incorporate my observations of international developments into the current inquiry being undertaken by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement into Unexplained Wealth, my report was tabled in the House on 23 November 2011 and to that extent, it is already a public document.

As I previously advised, officers from the Australian Crime Commission and Federal Police attended interviews with me with the various overseas jurisdictions and therefore formed part of the Australian delegation.

Finally, I thank you for your approval of my leave and the opportunity to visit the various law enforcement authorities in the United Kingdom and Europe. It has given me the opportunity to acquaint not only myself, but the Parliamentary Joint Committee, with the contemporary developments occurring overseas with respect to law enforcement and in particular, the issues of asset confiscation as well as unexplained wealth being used as a tool in the fight of serious and organised crime.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

CHRIS HAYES MP

Ref: GrayG-gen111212-1558.Doc/GC

13 DEC 2011
Study Leave Report
Europe 23 September – 10 October 2011
Mr Chris Hayes MP
Chair
PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
Mr Chris Hayes MP
Federal Member for Fowler (NSW)
Chair, Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement

Accompanied by:

Commander Ian McCartney
Manager Criminal Assets
Australian Federal Police

Ms Kim Ulrick
Acting Executive Director
Fusion Target Development and Performance
Australian Crime Commission
**Background**

The Australian Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement (PJC-LE) is conducting an inquiry into Commonwealth unexplained wealth legislation and arrangements.

In order to support this inquiry, the Chair of the PJC-LE, Mr Chris Hayes, together with representatives from the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP), visited a range of law enforcement, policy and legislative organizations in the UK, Ireland, Italy and France to gain a better understanding of how relevant agencies in these countries deal with unexplained wealth and proceeds of crime matters.

The objectives of the delegation were to consider ways to improve existing unexplained wealth legislation and arrangements in order to maximize the opportunities to counter serious and organised crime in Australia in light of international best practice.

Mr Hayes, Mrs Kim Ulrick (ACC) and Mr Ian McCartney (AFP) were assisted during the visits by AFP Senior Liaison Officers Kieran Miller (UK, Ireland and France) and Ric Cummins (Italy), Jonathan Eyres, the senior AFP officer based at Interpol in Lyon and by Sue Spencer in Australia.

The visit reinforced the need for the Australian Government to vigorously pursue stronger unexplained wealth legislation and demonstrated the direction Australia has started to take in targeting criminal wealth is the right one.

The terms of reference for the PJC-LE inquiry are set out in the next section.
Terms of Reference of the PJC-LE Inquiry into Commonwealth unexplained wealth legislation and arrangements

Pursuant to the committee's functions set out in paragraph 7(1)(g) of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Act 2010,

(g) to examine trends and changes in criminal activities, practices and methods and report to both Houses of the Parliament any change which the Committee thinks desirable to the functions, structure, powers and procedures of the ACC or the AFP;

the committee will examine law enforcement legislation and administrative arrangements that target unexplained wealth in connection with serious and organised crime, through bodies including the AFP, ACC and the Assets Confiscation Taskforce. In particular the committee will examine:

(a) the effectiveness and operation of current Commonwealth unexplained wealth legislation and associated administrative arrangements and whether they are working as intended in countering serious and organised crime;

(b) the likely effectiveness of proposed relevant Commonwealth legislation;

(c) the effectiveness of and potential changes to unexplained wealth legislation and associated administrative arrangements in other countries.

(d) the extent and effectiveness of international agreements and arrangements for law enforcement activities in relation to unexplained wealth;

(e) the interaction of Commonwealth, state and territory legislation and law enforcement activity in relation to the targeting of criminal assets of serious and organised criminal networks; and

(f) the need for any further unexplained wealth legislative or administrative reform.
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1 Executive Summary

Organised crime is motivated by money. The cost of organised crime to the Australian community is estimated at up to $15 billion annually, with around $6 billion going offshore each year. Making organised criminals account for their criminal or unexplained wealth is the major focus of this inquiry and is a vital tool for law enforcement agencies in Australia to disrupt and dismantle organised crime.

It is clear from the organisations visited by the Australian delegation that one of the most effective ways to attack organised crime is to attack criminal profits. Many of the organisations visited by the delegation such as the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, City of London Police, Derbyshire Constabulary and Department for Home Office, cited examples of where organised criminals would go to great lengths, including opting for gaol time, to avoid relinquishing their assets, criminal profits and consequently their criminal lifestyle.

Some of the challenges faced by agencies internationally are similar to the challenges facing Australian authorities for unexplained wealth. One of the main barriers to pursuing unexplained wealth in Australia and internationally is the extent to which the burden of proof is actually placed on the individuals whose wealth and lifestyle clearly outstrips their legitimate income. While some burden of proof can be placed on the individuals being investigated, there are concerns that the burden is relatively easy to discharge, thereby effectively shifting the burden back to the applicant to cross examine or refute claims.

Access to judiciary who have experience of and knowledge in complex criminal financial matters has proven to be an effective approach to unexplained wealth prosecutions internationally. While Ireland does not explicitly have unexplained wealth orders like Australia, the practice of utilizing experienced judiciary has been highly successful in Ireland with one magistrate in particular dealing with unexplained wealth, money laundering, and criminal financing cases.

Organised crime is a global, connected and networked business. Greater international collaboration and more consistent approaches to criminal asset confiscation and unexplained wealth is required in order to make all countries hostile to organised crime activity. The delegation heard from a number of agencies that organised criminals are quick to exploit loopholes in order to hide their criminal wealth in countries where it may be more difficult for authorities to seize money or assets.

The delegation also heard from a number of agencies about the value of multi-agency teams in pursuing unexplained wealth. Co-located teams such as the Regional Assets Recovery Teams in the UK and the Criminal Assets Bureau in
Ireland draw on the experience and skills of staff from tax, social welfare, Customs and prosecution agencies in order to maximize opportunities to identify unexplained wealth and organised criminal activity. Australia’s Criminal Assets Confiscation Task (CACT) also takes a multi agency approach, is led by the AFP and includes staff from agencies such as the ACC, Australian Taxation Office, and Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The CACT model draws on the Irish approach and has many similarities to the Irish model, although there are also some key differences. Under the CAB model, agencies are permitted to use their powers for CAB purposes as well as the purpose provided for in their own legislation. Further, the remit of the CAB is much broader than the CACT. While the CACT is focussed on proceeds of crime and unexplained wealth proceedings, the CAB also undertakes taxation and social security fraud action.

Community support is important in the fight against organised crime and the delegation heard about how agencies are making sure the public are aware of the need to attack criminal profits and the generally high level of support from the community for this work, particularly in light of the current global financial crisis.

All agencies agreed that targeting criminal or unexplained wealth attacks the very heart of organised crime. Some agencies such as the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in the UK measure their effectiveness in this area through actual accounts from those whose criminal wealth has been stripped away. While there has been a move towards requiring organised criminals to explain their wealth where this does not match their legitimate earnings, many of the agencies visited by the delegation face a range of challenges in embedding this approach. Some of the challenges include:

- the need to link to a predicate offence or wait until a conviction is delivered before pursuing unexplained wealth measures;
- the ineffective “burden of proof” on individuals being investigated reduces the willingness of agencies to take up criminal asset and unexplained wealth actions;
- lack of understanding of complex criminal financing and willingness by some prosecutors and magistrates to pursue proceeds of crime, criminal asset confiscation and unexplained wealth;
- concerns about being perceived as punishing the families of organised criminals;
- need for continued education within many law enforcement agencies of the value of financial investigations; and
- need to co-locate and connect different agencies to comprehensively attack criminal profits.
While Australia is well advanced in a number of areas, the current Commonwealth unexplained wealth legislation has not been used in court. This is a lost opportunity for law enforcement and reinforces the need to strengthen current arrangements to make them more effective.

For Australia, returning to the original intent of the Commonwealth’s unexplained wealth legislation and arrangements would help to overcome many of the challenges identified above. This visit has been very useful in identifying a range of issues and ideas from other countries. The PJC-LE will be seeking further evidence on, and considering the merit of a range of ideas, including those below as part of its inquiry into unexplained wealth:

- whether there would be value in the establishment of a specialist proceeds of crime court or tribunal to deal with proceeds of crime matters;
- establishing a more effective “onus of proof” on those whose wealth clearly outstrips their legitimate income would also lead to more effective outcomes;
- providing the Commissioner of the AFP and the heads of relevant law enforcement agencies with the authority to determine freezing orders and civil recovery action would align with the approach taken by the Criminal Assets Bureau in Ireland;
- finding ways to improve the unexplained wealth laws within the context of constitutional requirements, such as the need to prove a Commonwealth offence in current legislation and arrangements; and
- introducing laws to treat large amounts of unexplained cash as criminal commodity may also be beneficial in attacking the profits of organised criminals.

Mr Chris Hayes MP
2 Visit Program

Monday 26 September 2011
0900 – 1000 Independent Police Complaints Commission, London
1030 – 1200 City of London Police, Economic Crime Unit, London
1230 – 1430 Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs, London
1530 – 1730 Department for Home Office, London

Tuesday 27 September 2011
0630 – 0830 Travel to Derbyshire Police Constabulary
0900 – 1200 Meeting with Derbyshire Police Constabulary and the Regional Assets Recovery Team, Derby
1230 – 1430 Travel to London
1530 – 1630 Meeting with Crown Prosecution Service, London

Wednesday 28 September 2011
0800 – 0900 Meeting with the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, Australian High Commission London
0930 – 1030 Meeting with National Police Improvement Agency, Australian High Commission London
1030 – 1050 Meeting with Australian High Commissioner to London
1100 – 1155 Meeting with Professor Michael Levi, Australian High Commission London
1300 – 1500 Meeting with the Metropolitan Police Service (working lunch)
1910 Travel to Dublin

Thursday 29 September 2011
1000 – 1100 Meeting with Australian High Commissioner, Australian High Commission Dublin
1215 – 1430 Meeting with Chairman and members of the Oireachtas (Parliament) Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality (working lunch)
1530 – 1645 Meeting with Criminal Assets Bureau, Dublin

Friday 30 September 2011
0710 – 1200 Travel to Rome
Monday 3 October 2011
0930 – 1130 Meeting with Criminal Police Directorate, Rome
1145 – 1345 Meeting with Direzione Investigativa Antimafia, Rome
1600 – 1645 Meeting with Australian Ambassador to Rome, Ambassador’s residence

Tuesday 4 October 2011
0900 – 1100 Meeting with Guardia di Finanza, Rome
1130 – 1300 Meeting with Ministry of Justice, Rome
1400 – 1440 Meeting with Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, Australian Embassy Holy See
1740 Travel to Lyon, France

Wednesday 5 October 2011
1030 – 1040 Welcome from Jonathan Eyers, Acting Director Specialised Crime and Analysis, Interpol Lyon
1100 – 1145 Presentation on Interpol
1215 – 1240 Presentation of the Command and coordination centre, Interpol Lyon
1230 – 1400 Lunch with Interpol members
1430 – 1530 Presentation on financial and high tech crime, Interpol Lyon
1530 – 1630 Presentation on anti-corruption, Interpol Lyon

Thursday 6 October 2011
0730 – 0930 Travel from Lyon to Paris
1045 – 1245 Meeting at SIRASCO, Paris
1300 – 1430 Lunch with French National Police members
1500 – 1630 Meeting at OCLO (Central office for fighting against organised crime)
1630 – 1800 Meeting at PIAC

Friday 7 October 2011
1000 – 1200 Meeting at OCRTES (Central Office for the fight against drug trafficking)
1500 – 1600 Meeting with Deputy Director for Criminal Investigation and Vice President of Interpol’s Executive Committee
THE HON JOHN MURPHY MP

Germany and the United Kingdom
24 September – 8 October 2011
Overseas Study Travel Report

Hon Gary Gray AO MP
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 report on my recent overseas study travel.

In accordance with Departmental Circular 2011/65 I acknowledge that my report must be limited to five pages and be submitted in the new standard template (attached).

I further 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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six-monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

John Murphy MP
31 October 2011
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of the overseas study was to examine the petitioning processes of the German and British parliaments and also to be briefed on the economic environment inside the Euro Zone. A further purpose of the visit was to discuss the UK media ownership laws and the issues arising from the telephone-hacking scandal.

Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<td>24-25 September 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Sydney, Singapore, Frankfurt, Berlin (direct)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
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<td>26 September 2011</td>
<td>Observe</td>
<td>Public hearings of Bundestag Petitions Committee</td>
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<td>26 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Mr Stefan Schwartze MdB, Member, Bundestag Petitions Committee</td>
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<td>27 September 2011</td>
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<td>Prof. Christian Dreger, German Institute for Economic Research</td>
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<td>Mr Gerrit Weismann, Germany Correspondent, Financial Times</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Mr Bjorn Sanger, Member, Bundestag Finance Committee</td>
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<td>27 September 2011</td>
<td>Guided tour</td>
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<td>28 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>His Excellency, Mr Peter Tesch, Australian Ambassador to Germany, Switzerland and Liechtenstein</td>
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<td>28 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ms Kersten Steinke MdB, Chair, Bundestag Petitions Committee</td>
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<td>29 September 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Berlin to London</td>
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<td>30 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>His Excellency Mr John Dauth, Australian High Commissioner</td>
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<td>30 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Mr John Whittingdale, Chair, Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2 October 2001</td>
<td>Weekend</td>
<td>Private arrangements</td>
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3 October 2011  Meeting  Mr Mark Lewis, Partner, Taylor Hampton Solicitors Limited

4 October 2011  Meeting  Ms Tiffany McDonald, First Secretary Political, Australian High Commission

4 October 2011  Meeting  Ms Kerstin Wiyeyewardene, Minister-Counsellor, Australian High Commission

4 October 2011  Meeting  Mr Tom Watson, Member for West Bromwich East and Rt Hon John Spellar, Shadow Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Office

5 October 2011  Meeting  Meeting with Rt Hon Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister, cancelled

6 October 2011  Flight  London, Hong Kong, Sydney (direct)

Key Meetings and Outcomes/Findings

In relation to the German petitioning system the key meetings that I attended were with Ms Kersten Steinke, Chair, Bundestag Petitions Committee, and Mr Stefan Schwartz, Member, Bundestag Petitions Committee. Following these meetings, together with the experience of observing first hand the public hearings of the committee, I am convinced that the German parliament has a very dynamic petitions system which provides its citizens with a very accessible and powerful mechanism to have issues dealt with efficiently and effectively.

The Bundestag Petitions Committee comprises 26 members and handles some eighteen to twenty thousand petitions (total signatures 1.8 million) annually. The committee is supported by a secretariat numbering about eighty staff. The composition of the committee is in proportion to the breakdown of political parties in the parliament. Unlike Australia, where a parliamentary committee is chaired by a Government member, the German system allows for a member of a minor party to chair a committee. Ms Steinke is a case in point, being a member of a minor party (The Left Party).

It is noteworthy that anyone has the right to petition the German parliament, irrespective of one’s age, nationality or place of residence.

Unlike Australia, there is no strict format for lodging a petition. If someone has a “complaint” or “request” of a federal nature that is forwarded to the Bundestag, it is referred to the committee for its consideration. Importantly, petitions can be lodged electronically. Not surprisingly, approximately ninety per cent of petitions are against government policy.

Petitions are referred from the committee to the relevant minister and have to be responded to within six weeks. This deadline is not always met because of political pressure. If the response from the Minister satisfies the petitioner that is the end of the matter and that issue cannot be the subject a further petition in the life of the current parliament, unless new evidence on the issue not previously considered by the committee comes to light. Sometimes petitions are referred to other parliamentary committees for resolution. Where the petition is not resolved to the satisfaction of the petitioner there is a further process of negotiation between government and opposition members in
order to reach a compromise. The committee remains involved until a petition is resolved. Typically, when that process is complete, a proposal is put to parliament recommending changes to legislation. The parliament has the final say on the matter.

Petitions of general public interest are put on the website of the Bundestag and can be signed by other petitioners who are registered with the Bundestag. Petitioners can discuss any aspect of the petition on-line and offer solutions to resolve the issues subject to the petition. At the time of my visit there were some one hundred petitions on-line and 1.5 million registered petitioners.

Every petition is treated with an equal level of engagement. Where more than fifty thousand signatures are obtained within a three week period the committee calls a public hearing and witnesses may appear before the committee and make statements and ask questions of the committee. In this regard, I was fortunate to witness two public hearings in relation to two important federal issues, namely, a petition to ban the cultivation of genetically modified plants and a petition in relation to nuclear supply and waste management and the observance of contracts for the nuclear phase-out in Germany by 2023. There were very many spirited statements, questions and exchanges between witnesses and committee members before a packed public gallery. I was left in no doubt that this forum is highly interactive and serves German democracy well.

In relation to the economic environment, Professor Dreger of the German Institute for Economic Research reported that Germany was experiencing “moderate growth that is hampered by the debt crisis”. Unemployment is high at about 7% with job losses occurring in the car industry.

Professor Dreger believes economic growth will “cool” in China and this will cause downward pressure on the world economy.

Fifty per cent or more of Germany’s exports go to the Euro Zone and Germany profits from the globalisation of markets.

In relation to the economic situation in Europe, Professor Dreger stated that Greece’s debt crisis is at the heart of resolving the problems of the Euro Zone. Professor Dreger made it clear that each country is responsible for its debt and that Greece should implement measures to solve its problems. However, in the face of its ever-increasing level of debt (debt-to-GDP ratio of more than 160% while current fiscal deficits exceed 10 per cent) Professor Dreger conceded that Germany would probably agree to a second rescue package for Greece (“haircut”) by writing off 50% or more of its debts. Professor Dreger believed that France would not be so easily persuaded because of its “heavy involvement with Greek banks”. Importantly, Professor Dreger stated that “if we don’t support the banks there will be a credit crunch” and he believes that “Eurobonds will come”.

Professor Dreger was very impressed with the performance of the Australian economy and is interested in making contact with some of our economic think tanks. I provided him with a list including: the Committee for Economic Development of Australia; the ANU Research School of Economics; the Centre for Applied Macro-Economic Analysis; the Australian Treasury; the Reserve Bank of Australia; Deloitte Access Economics; the Grattan Institute; the Lowy Institute and the Crawford School of Economics.

Like Professor Dreger, Mr Weismann, Germany Correspondent, Financial Times, and Mr Bjorn Sanger, Member, Bundestag Finance Committee, supported the proposition of a fifty per cent write-off of Greece’s debts but that this would cause markets to suffer. They, too, were impressed with the performance of the Australian economy.
The key meetings I attend in London were undoubtedly with Mr John Whittingdale MP, Chair, Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sport, Mr Mark Lewis, Partner, Taylor Hampton Solicitors, Mr Tom Watson MP, Member, Committee for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Right Honourable John Spellar, Shadow Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Whittingdale's inquiry into the News of the World telephone-hacking scandal is ongoing and the committee will be reporting by year’s end.

The telephone hacking inquiry came to a head on 19 July 2011 when Mr Rupert Murdoch, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, News Corporation, Mr James Murdoch, Chairman, News International and Ms Rebekah Brooks, former Chief Executive, News International, gave evidence before the committee. Arising from their evidence (and that of others), it became evident that there was a complete lack of corporate governance at News Corporation in relation to this scandal.

All those whom I spoke with believe it is inconceivable that others, including the most senior executives employed by Mr Rupert Murdoch, were unaware of the extent of the telephone-hacking scandal at News of the World.

It was astonishing that the evidence provided to the committee revealed that there were many instances of serious wrong-doing at News of the World that were allegedly not brought to the attention of the Chief Executive of News Corporation, Mr Rupert Murdoch, or his senior executives, including his son Mr James Murdoch. It was also astonishing that a very large payment (reported to be between 700,000 pounds and 1,000,000 pounds) was authorised by Mr James Murdoch to be paid to settle a legal action brought by Mr Gordon Taylor of the Professional Footballers Association for a story that was never published. Mr Rupert Murdoch was not made aware of this.

Mr Rupert Murdoch did not accept that he was accountable for the News of the World telephone-hacking scandal. Mr Murdoch offered an explanation, not an excuse, that News of the World was only 1% of his company, and that others he trusted had let him down.

There was serious concern about the vagueness of the evidence given by Mr James Murdoch to the committee in July. As a result of other evidence that has come to light Mr James Murdoch has been called to again appear before the committee on 10 November 2011.

There are allegations that Murdoch employees have hacked into people’s computers.

Further, there are grave concerns about the relationships Murdoch employees have with politicians and the implications for the public interest.

In conclusion, the British Government has placed Lord Leveson, a respected judge, in charge of an independent inquiry into phone-hacking and media practices following the News of the World scandal. The Opposition is advocating that the inquiry also examine a public interest test covering media takeovers, and there is some cross-party support for including a test of whether or not a person is fit and proper to run a media company. There is an early consensus that cross-media ownership laws should be tightened considerably to prevent the concentration of power in the hands of certain media moguls.

Part 1 of the inquiry will address ‘the culture, practices and ethics of the press’ and ‘the extent to which the current regulatory regime has failed’. Part 2 will address ‘the extent or unlawful or improper conduct within News International, other media organisations or other organisations.’
Lord Leveson has been asked to make recommendations on a “more effective policy and regulatory regime which supports the integrity and freedom of the press, the plurality of the media and its independence from government”.

**Conclusion**

I was very impressed with the way the German parliament deals with its petitions and clearly there is a real and serious effort made by the Bundestag Petitions Committee to resolve all petitions.

I acknowledge that, unlike Australia, Germany does not have the range of government agencies (for example, a Federal Ombudsman) to deal with particular complaints. This significantly contributes to the large volume of petitions received by the German parliament.

Further, our parliament does not, as yet, permit electronic petitioning, even though this was recommended by the House of Representatives Petitions Committee when it conducted its inquiry during the preceding parliament.

I believe that the very interactive nature of the on-line petitioning process and the public hearings strengthens the empowerment of the German people in bringing important issues before the parliament in a very inclusive and public way.

It is my view that Australia can learn much from the German parliament in its handling of petitions and I encourage anyone who has an interest in petitioning to visit the Bundestag.

In relation to the world economy, I note the recent outcome of the 13th crisis summit of European leaders. Despite this welcome outcome, two big challenges facing the Euro Zone are the need for further economic growth and job creation.

In relation to the telephone-hacking scandal both Mr Mark Lewis, the solicitor who acted for Mr Gordon Taylor and the victims of telephone-hacking, and Mr Watson are writing books on this matter. In this regard there is great concern about the power and influence of the Murdoch media in the United Kingdom. Clearly, from the evidence to date, the standards of accountability applied by the Murdoch media to public figures are not the same standards that they apply to themselves.

There were very many matters brought to my notice that I was asked not to report on. Moreover, some of these are potentially serious criminal matters and are the subject of more than two hundred police investigations currently being undertaken by Scotland Yard detectives.

Bearing in mind the very extensive print and electronic media interests held by the Murdoch family in our country, I believe that the Australian Government needs to follow very closely the future developments and outcomes of the inquiries and police investigations that are being undertaken in the United Kingdom.

John Murphy MP
Member for Reid
31 October 2011
SENATOR GAVIN MARSHALL

Sweden, Russian Federation and Germany
24 September – 9 October 2011
Overseas Study Travel Report

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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six-monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Sincerely,

Senator Gavin Marshall
11 November 2011
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Purpose of Visit

The purpose of accessing my overseas study entitlement was to travel to Sweden, Russia and Germany to investigate how these countries implement Vocational Education, particularly in meeting the demands of industry for high level skills. This investigation was undertaken in the context of significant reform of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector proposed by the Federal Government.
## Itinerary

### SWEDEN

| Västerås | • Visit to the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education  
|          | • Meeting with Stefan Skimutis, International Coordinator  
|          | • Meeting with Pia Enochsson, Director General |
| Stockholm | • Visit to LO - The Swedish Trade Union Confederation  
|          | • Meeting with Thomas Hagnefur, Unit Liaison for Economic Policy and the Labour Market  
|          | • Visit to the Department of Education and Research  
|          | • Meeting with Malin Mendes, Deputy Director and Fritjof Karlsson, Deputy Director  
|          | • Visit to the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise |

### Kiruna

|          | • Visit to LKAB (Luossavaara-Kirunovaara Aktiebolag)  
|          | • Visit to mine  
|          | • Meeting with Grete Solvang-Stoltz, Head of Human Resources |

### Kiruna

|          | • Visit to Avalon Minerals Viscaria AB  
|          | • Meeting with Nicholas Bryce, Principal Geologist  
|          | • Visit to Scandinavian Resources AB/Kiruna Iron AB  
|          | • Meeting with Christina Lundmark, General Manager  
|          | • Meetin with LKAB labour unions |
| Stockholm | • Visit to Riksdagen (the Swedish Parliament)  
|          | • Meetings with members of the Committee for Education |

### RUSSIA

### St Petersburg

|          | • Meeting with Natalia Putilovskaya, First Deputy Head of the Committee for Education  
|          | • Visit to 15th International "Russian Industrialist" Forum  
|          | • Meeting Australian Honorary Consul, Mr Sebastian Fitzlyon |

### St Petersburg

|          | • Visit to St Petersburg State university for Economics and Finance (FINEC)  
|          | • Meeting with Igor Maksimtsev, Rector; Alexander Karlik, Vice Rector for Science and Research; Dmitry Vasilenko, Vice Rector for International Relations; Veronica Shubaeva, Dean of Faculty for International Economic Relations and Tatiana Kuzmina, Director of Association for Intercultural Communications  
|          | • Visit to St Petersburg Interregional Resource Centre  
|          | • Meeting with Ms Elena Sokolova of UNEVOC  
|          | • Visit to St Petersburg Technical College for Management and Commerce  
|          | • Meeting with Viktor Sirnov, Director |
- Visit to St Petersburg Technical College
- Meeting with Mr Alexey Burasowskly, Director
- Visits to training and workplace facilities

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<td></td>
<td>- Meeting with Federal Ministry of Education — delegation included Larisa Efremova, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation and other Ministry officials</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- Meeting with Ms Olga Oleynikova, Director, Centre on Vocational Education and Training Studies and UNEVOC contact</td>
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<td>Moscow</td>
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<td>- Meeting with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs — delegation included Pyodor Prokopov, Executive Vice President, Managing Director, Directorate for Labour Relations and Social Policy</td>
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<td>- Meeting with Peter Thielen, Head of Vocational Training</td>
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<td>- Visit to the Vocational Education and Training Division of the Bonn Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK)</td>
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<td>- Visit to Connect Industries to meet and discuss on-the-job training with apprentices and training managers</td>
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- Visit to Federation of German Trade Union Movements (DGB)
- Meeting with Thomas Giessler, Head of Vocational Education Policy
- Visit to Vocational Training Facility
- Meeting with Ralf Becker, Hesse Representative Federal Taskforce, German Teachers’ Union (GEW)
- Meeting with Sybille Lust, Deputy Head, Hesse Branch Service Sector Union
Sweden

Overview

The Swedish school system is a goal-based system with a high degree of local responsibility. The main responsibility for education lies with the municipalities and authorities responsible for independent schools. Appendix A contains an overview of the education structure in Sweden.

The overall national goals are set out by Swedish Parliament and Government in:

- The Education Act
- Curricula
- Course syllabi for compulsory school
- Program goals for upper secondary school

The National Agency for Education draws up and takes decisions on:

- Course syllabi for upper secondary school
- Grading criteria for all types of Swedish school
- General recommendations

The municipalities are to distribute resources and organise education such that students are able to achieve the national goals. Individual schools, preschools and leisure-time centres can then choose work methods suited to their local conditions. This work is followed up in annual Quality reports.
VET Policy Challenges in Sweden

Two of the most pressing VET policy challenges in Sweden are to increase upper secondary completion rates and prepare for demographic change. Sweden is undergoing a demographic change which, if it continues, will result in a shortage of skilled workers. This is due to retirement related labour force exit exceeding the labour force entry of newly trained young people with VET skills. This will, in turn, put additional pressure on creating a better adult entry point to VET. At present, most adults who enter VET do so through municipal adult education and in 2009 the government announced the new adult VET initiative to fund the creation of approximately 21,000 additional adult VET training places between 2009 and 2011.

Sweden has responded to the challenges by appointing a series of government investigative commissions and, subsequently, introducing a series of reforms designed to make VET a more attractive option for young people and adults. These include major changes to the structures of both initial VET (IVET) and adult entry VET over the next few years.

The status of VET in Sweden needs to be improved, partly due to the country's emphasis on higher education in recent decades. Under the current system of integrated upper secondary vocationally-oriented education, all programmes provide eligibility for higher education. However, many employers feel IVET in Sweden is too theoretical and does not adequately prepare students for the labour market. Major reforms scheduled for 2011 will move the focus of IVET programmes towards vocational studies and slightly away from theoretical studies.

In 2002, the government made permanent the pilot project on advanced vocational education. This form of post-secondary VET raises the status of VET and should assist learning routes (including credit transfer) to higher education.
Current VET Policy Priorities in Sweden

- Lowering unemployment among young people; those without a complete upper secondary education are particularly vulnerable. A reform of upper secondary education, which includes IVET, should increase the proportion of students completing upper secondary education and better prepare them for labour market needs;

- Improving upper secondary IVET completion rates to prevent social exclusion and promote integration through measures combining Swedish language training for immigrants with other measures that support integration. Practical vocational training in a workplace and shorter vocational training courses are also important measures;

- Raising the competence of teachers and trainers as well as the status of the teaching profession, a high priority and essential for quality. To attract more people with enough competence from working life, VET-teacher education will be reformed. The government is also considering a new form of training for principals to improve school leadership;

- Improving post-secondary VET via a more attractive alternative. The aim is to create clear structures and establish more consistent guidelines governing post-secondary VET forms. All post-secondary VET forms have been brought under a common framework administered by the new Agency for Higher Vocational Education, created on 1 July 2009;

- Developing a clearer system for validation that will contribute to social inclusion and recognise the competence of individuals, aiding entrance to the labour market, mobility between occupations and participation in education and training;

- Responding to the needs of individuals affected by the economic crisis by increasing the number of initial and post-secondary VET courses and programmes for adults, offered in a flexible way and adapted to personal needs. This will aid their entry and return to the labour market and help address future skills shortages in occupations resulting from the ageing population.

As part of the Swedish Government’s response to the policy challenges and priorities outlined above the Swedish Government established the National Agency for Higher Vocational Education (NAHVE) in 2009 to develop a new form of publicly funded vocational education at post upper secondary level.
Higher Vocational Education Courses (HVECs) cover a wide range of vocational areas, but they have one goal in common, namely the provision of advanced vocational education, tailored to the needs of the labour market. In HVECs, a modern approach is taken where theoretical learning is integrated and blended with vocational practice at the workplace.

HVECs are needed as they are intended to serve the needs of job seekers and industries where competence and labour are in demand. For this reason companies and the business sector partner in design and construction right from the very start. Content is jointly determined. Course instructors and mentors have accumulated knowledge and expertise gained from many years of working in their respective areas. HVECS provide opportunities to gain firsthand experience and contacts in working life. Blending allows participants to get an insight into their chosen professions early in their training and to become familiar with the skills and competencies of their potential co-workers of the future. HVECs last for at least six months and participant progress and outcomes are assessed and recognised by a certificate/diploma that validates their skills for employment.

The role of the NAHVE is to set up a common framework agreed on and followed by vocational education training providers. Content is based on the knowledge and experience of what is needed in working life.

As NAHVE is responsible for all publicly funded courses throughout the country, the principal missions of the Agency are to:

- Determine what courses are to be provided
- Make decisions on public funding to be allocated to education providers
- Assess and audit quality and outcomes of courses
- Analyse and assess needs for skilled competence and the development of the labour market
- Coordinate and support a national framework for validation
- Serve as the national coordinator for EQF – the European Qualifications Framework in Lifelong Learning
The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise

The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise is Sweden’s largest and most influential business federation representing 50 member organizations and 60,000 member companies with over 1.6 million employees. It was founded in 2001 through a merger between the Swedish Employers’ Confederation (SAF, founded in 1902) and the Federation of Swedish Industry (SI, founded in 1910).

Close to 70 percent of the Confederation’s member companies have fewer than 10 employees, while only 1.5 percent have 250 employees or more. Whilst virtually all of Sweden’s multinationals are members, these figures reflect the great number of small, entrepreneurial companies in Sweden’s thriving business environment.

Employers have significant concerns about the quality of VET graduates. A survey conducted by the confederation amongst its members indicated that up to 50 percent of VET graduates did not possess the skills, experience and competence required to fill their job vacancies.

The Confederation believes that the needs of employers are not adequately reflected in VET courses and outcomes. Whilst there is an acknowledgement that the Government has been reforming the system, the links between employers and the type and content of VET courses offered is missing. The Confederation is opposed to the Government’s proposal for employer based training of apprentices - the most common method of training in both Australia and Germany. The Confederation view is that it is the Government’s responsibility to provide trained, skilled workers as required by industry.
The Ministry of Education and Research

The Ministry of Education and Research is a Government Ministry in Sweden responsible for matters relating to schools, universities, colleges and research. The Ministry has a staff of 200. The Head of the Ministry is the Minister for Education, currently Jan Björklund.

VET Reform in Secondary School

This year, the Swedish Government is introducing further reforms to the system of integrated upper secondary school with moves to three pathways:

- Academic
- Vocational
- Apprenticeship

It is the third pathway which is new and is the revival of an apprenticeship system similar to that in Australia and Germany. This reform is to reset the training focus towards employability.

Whilst this reform is being resisted by both employer organisations and unions, the Government considers it to be significant and there is currently a pilot underway.
LKAB (Luossavaara-Kirunavaara Aktiebolag) is a Swedish mining company. The company is mining iron ore at Kiruna and at Malmberget in northern Sweden. The company was established in 1890, and has remained entirely state-owned since the 1950s.

The iron ore products are mainly sold to European steel mills. Other important markets are North Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Industrial minerals are sold mainly in Europe, but also in Asia and the USA.

LKAB has more than 3,800 employees, of which more than 600 are outside of Sweden. There are iron ore mines, processing plants and ore harbors in northern Sweden and Norway and sales offices in Belgium, Germany and Singapore. LKAB has subsidiaries for industrial minerals with processing plants in Sweden, Finland, Greenland, the UK, the Netherlands, Greece, Turkey and China. There are company subsidiaries in Germany, the USA and Hong Kong in addition to representative offices in Slovakia and Thailand.

LKAB's chief assets are the magnetite ore of the Orefields of northern Sweden. LKAB's corporate headquarters are in Luleå and the main production sites are in Kiruna and Malmberget, close to Gällivare. The ore is processed to pellets and fines, before being transported by freight train (Malmbanan) to the harbours at Narvik and Luleå or the Luleå steel mill.

LKAB have a large internal Training program due to the unique skills required for underground mining. They are generally dissatisfied with the skill and competence of graduates from the VET system. As a consequence, LKAB invest heavily in the local VET training school which provides skills for the mining workforce. LKAB take full responsibility for on the job training specifically for occupations that are unique to the company. This training is often company specific, and there is no formal recognition of these skills in the qualification framework. This highlights a general weakness in the Swedish VET system with a lack of portability and recognition of post apprenticeship skills restricting labour mobility.
Germany

A common feature in Germany is that VET is widespread in terms of enrolment rates and often takes place in the framework of an apprenticeship system similar to that of Australia. Theoretical aspects of the occupation are learnt at school whilst the practical skills and competencies are provided at the workplace. This is referred to in Germany as the “Dual System”.

The Dual System provides for a shared responsibility for vocational education and training. A company enters a training contract with a trainee/apprenticeship and assumes the responsibility for teaching the required training contents. The company provides on the job learning on three to four days per week with one to two days in a vocational school. Learning in both venues is governed by different but co-ordinated regulation. Training in the company is provided according to the Federal Government regulations issued for each occupation. This ensures the same level of training competence and qualification throughout Germany.

In the training contract, the company undertakes to ensure that all the requirements of the training regulations are actually taught. Each of the contracts must be approved and monitored by a competent public agency. A unique feature of the German system is that it is the Chambers of Industry and Commerce of employer organisations that are generally authorised to conduct this role.

Most school leavers, approximately 60% move into dual training apprenticeships or traineeships. School leavers must have completed 10 years of basic education prior to entering the dual system. Other than this minimum; there are no other formal requirements for entrance. There are currently 343 recognized training occupations (apprenticeships). These occupations are continuously updated and new occupations are introduced when required.

Training regulations are a central element of the German vocational training system. Although they are incorporated in state law, trade and industry also play a decisive part in their formulation. In the preparation of these regulations, the responsible federal minister is assisted by the Federal Institute of Vocational Training, which in turn is advised by committees of experts representing the organizations of trade, industry and the unions. In
their discussions, which are often difficult and protracted, the representatives allow for the widely differing conditions throughout the working environment.

Every training employer is obliged to provide training systematically in accordance with a syllabus and timetable in a form appropriate. The nature, syllabus, timetable and purpose of the training must be defined in the training contract. To assist employers in setting up the training plan relating to each course of training, the training regulations are issued together with an annex giving guidelines on the systematic presentation of the syllabus and timetable of training. There has been a tendency in recent years to present training contents in the form of learning objectives. It is of decisive importance for any such presentations to make it quite clear that the essential feature of on the job training is learning by doing. Thus, there is no need to adopt categories of learning objectives such as have been formulated in educational theory. Instead, concepts should be employed that will be readily intelligible to the training employer as well.

It is acknowledged that there will always be firms that are unable to provide the full range of skills and competencies required for each of the vocations because of their structure or the limitation of the breadth of skills utilised in the workplace. Technical developments have meant that training contents, particularly in the field of industrial training, have become increasingly complex; so much so in fact, that in training for a large number of occupations, specific training contents, especially what are known as the basic skills, have to be imparted independent of production in separate training courses. For this purpose, many medium and large-scale enterprises have installed special training workshops. For those firms that are too small to operate their own facilities, training workshops above single-firm level have been established by the Chambers and by professional associations. However, such facilities are no substitute for, but only a supplement to, training on the job, as they cannot provide the above-mentioned advantages of in-plant training - they can at best provide only a simulation of practical work. Attendance at the vocational training schools, which accompanies on the job training, is compulsory for every trainee for twelve hours of instruction per week. The schools are state-run. The emphasis in instruction is on the occupation in question, and instruction is generally given in classes specializing in one occupation.

As previously mentioned Chambers of Industry and Commerce hold a unique place in Vocational Education in Germany and this also extends to examinations and the granting of qualifications. The Chambers of Industry and Commerce may hold examinations as a basis
for a uniform vocational training. The Vocational Training Committees issue special regulations governing the subject matter, purpose, standards procedure and conditions of admission of such examinations. For their part, the Chambers establish boards of examiners to hold the examinations. To achieve an orderly and uniform system of further training, the Federal Minister for Education and Research may issue ordinances regulating the examinations. The Chambers collaborate in formulating such regulations through experts appointed by them.

The activities of the Chambers of Industry and Commerce in the field of further training are not confined to holding examinations. They also provide further training measures. In this context, there is a differentiation between training for advancement, the object of which is to enable the trainee to gain advancement in his job, i.e. to take on a better-qualified position in his or her firm, and training for adaptation, the object of which is to retain and to extend occupational knowledge and skills and to adapt them to technical developments. These are generally short-term measures, whilst training for advancement will normally require the trainee to attend courses totalling 500 to 700 hours of instruction. As a rule, only these courses are completed by sitting an examination held by the Chambers.

The Chambers also provide what is referred to in Australia as “recognition of prior learning examinations”. The Chambers of Industry and Commerce hold examinations for persons who have been retrained for a different occupation, setting up the required boards of examiners. Where these examinations are not held for recognised training occupations, the Chambers must issue the necessary regulations concerning subject matter, purpose, standards, procedure and conditions of admission by their Vocational Training Committees.
Russia

Russia experienced a chronic lack of investment in the years preceding the collapse of the Soviet Union which continued throughout the following decade. Prompted by globalization and technological change which has brought more demanding processes, the Russian economy is now competing with other emerging economies in reforming Vocational Education and Training. Russia is seeking to bolster the image and attractiveness of VET and looking at better ways to identify and anticipate skills needs. There is little or no workforce or skills needs forecasting at preset and skills shortages are generally addressed by the migration of labour from former satellites of the former Soviet Union.

VET in Russia is a school based training system with practical experience being gained through work experience within companies or through the reproduction of real workplace situations within schools. There is an interesting trend for large employers to provide up to date equipment for schools to mirror the specific workplace conditions of the company. This is resulting in many schools becoming feeder schools for specific companies or industries. An unusual situation in Russia is that the school may produce parts and goods for the sponsoring company in order for real life time and quality experience to be obtained and can, in fact, be part of the formal production process. Many of these schools have surprisingly advanced equipment.

The vehicle industry provides an example of the collaboration between schools and industry which has enjoyed rapid growth in the last decade and significant investment. The schools sector is struggling to keep up with rapid expansion with individual companies being required to engage in significant core skills training within their own company structures. An example of investment and capacity is as follows in the Saint Petersburg region only:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Investment ($)USD</th>
<th>Production Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toyota</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$110M</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$115M</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nissan</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$200M</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyundai</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$400M</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$200M</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scania</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$75M</td>
<td>400 (buses)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Saint Petersburg also has an expanding and developing ship building industry employing around 50,000 people.

Pharmaceutical production is a more recent industrial section which is receiving significant encouragement and support. Production increased by 24 percent in 2010 alone. The city presently has eleven pharmaceutical research institutes, four universities with pharmaceutical research centres and seven pharmaceutical companies.

The Russian VET system is managed by regional authorities who have the responsibility for professional education. In theory, this is to keep the decision making processes close to regional communities and businesses but it has resulted in very diverse standards and methods of delivery.

VET is offered by institutions called professional schools. In these institutions, educational programs are aimed at the acquisition of professional qualifications and mainly cover subjects for professional training. The duration of these educational programs is generally:

- 1-3 years following the completion of basic general education (9 grades)
- 1-2 years following completion of secondary general education (11 grades)

Vocational education is aimed at the training of skilled workers, usually on the basis of basic general education (9 years). Vocational training for certain occupations also may be based on secondary (complete) general education. Educational programs for persons wishing to take up vocational education after basic general education are different from those offered to persons who have finished secondary general education.

The sheer size and diversity of the Russian Federation itself is an enormous challenge. The Federation includes 3325 vocational education institutions, some of which are private, with an enrolment of 434 thousand students in their course programs in 2008. Admission to vocational education institutions normally does not require any entrance examinations.
Conclusion

The three countries visited are all facing similar challenges to Australia in terms of meeting the demand for highly skilled workers. Surprisingly, even skilled workforce mobility is a significant problem, with skilled workers reluctant to move to different areas where skills are in higher demand. Globalisation and rapidly changing technology are challenges that each of the VET systems struggle to contend with.

All countries recognise the need to have a reliable and expert workforce, and that skills planning is required to assist Vocational Education and Training and industry to meet future workforce and skills requirements. Such planning is still virtually non-existent in Russia, whilst Sweden is advancing rapidly in this area and Germany is well advanced.

The school based apprentice/trainee systems utilized in both Sweden and Russia have major drawbacks. The supply of skilled labour is driven by the VET system itself and not by industry. This leaves a significant disconnection to industrial demand. The employers involved in the on the job aspects of training, where they exist, do not have a direct investment in the individual being trained nor are they necessarily seen as future employees. This can lead to a lower investment in the training effort and, inevitably, lower quality of training.

Sweden is seeking to move to an employee based apprenticeship system more akin to that of Germany and Australia. A pilot is in place but significant opposition from employers and unions makes it unlikely that this will be a quick transition.

Germany’s employers and unions are enormously supportive of the Dual System and believe that this system is responsible for their low national youth unemployment rate. German employers are of the view that, in most instances, apprenticeships have a positive economic benefit during the training period in addition to the economic benefit of securing their future skills needs. Germany also invests heavily in the positive image of VET trained graduates and readily equates skilled tradespeople with holders of bachelor degrees. Such status aids recruitment and further work is being undertaken to enable transition between VET and university in many occupational fields such as IT and electro technology.

Anecdotally, Australian employers see apprenticeship training as costly and burdensome, even though there are significant government subsidies for employing apprentices. Despite the lack of any government assistance in Germany, employers appear to accept that training provides economic benefit to the host company. Australia should consider doing economic case studies to enable the
economic case for training apprentices to be marketed. Australia should also consider the advantages of a longer term attitudinal marketing campaign to ensure that VET is highly regarded within the general community.

Russia is an emerging economy but advancing rapidly. The trend of significant company and/or industry investment in VET schools is something that Australia may consider encouraging. Australia’s education system is highly regarded in Russia. There are numerous opportunities to collaborate with Russian universities and VET schools. Such collaboration would be welcomed by these institutions, particularly in the mining and resources field. Investment in education is predicted to increase exponentially as Russia continues to modernise and there are opportunities for Australian institutions to compliment this rapid expansion and modernisation.
Appendix A: The Swedish Education System
SENATOR DOUG CAMERON

United Kingdom, Spain and France
24 September – 10 October 2011
Hon Gary Gray AO MP
Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

Overseas Study Travel Report

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 travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Doug Cameron
Senator for New South Wales

9 November 2011
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of my visit to the UK, Spain, and France was to examine the operation of the European Union emissions trading scheme and developments in renewable energy, carbon capture and storage and employment opportunities arising from early adoption of a price on carbon. I briefly joined the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement for their meeting with the Independent Police Complaints Commission in London at this meeting covered a range of issues pertaining to my membership of the joint committee which overviews the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity.
## Detailed Itinerary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 September 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Canberra to London</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>IPCC (Independent Police Complaints Commissioner)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Commissioner &amp; other Australian Government Representatives, London</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>The Carbon Capture &amp; Storage Association</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chief Executive, London</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Australian High Commission</td>
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<td>Energy &amp; Climate Change Policy, UK Business Council</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>for Sustainable Energy &amp; Allianz Specialised Investments, London</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Australian High Commissioner, London</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ofgem Sustainability Adviser, London</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>London to Glasgow</td>
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<td>28 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Scottish Renewable Forum</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Chief Executive, Glasgow</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Scottish Trades Union Congress</td>
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<td>Associate Secretary, Glasgow</td>
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<td>29 September 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Pelamis Wave Energy Commercial Director, Edinburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 September 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Glasgow to Malaga (Spain)</td>
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<td>3 October 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>ENDESA Smart City Malaga Project</td>
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<td>Director of Smart City Malaga, Malaga</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Malaga to Madrid</td>
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<td>4 October 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ministry for Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Secretary of State for Water and Rural Development, Madrid</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Briefing</td>
<td>Australian Spanish Ambassador &amp; Industry Representatives, Madrid</td>
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<td>5 October 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
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<td>Director for Renewable Energy, Madrid</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Fotowatio CEO, Madrid</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Briefing</td>
<td>Trade Commission, Madrid</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Madrid to Paris</td>
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<td>6 October 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>International Energy Agency Carbon Capture &amp; Sequestration Director, Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 October 2011</td>
<td>CDC Climat CEO, Paris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senate Parliamentary Office for Evaluation of Scientific &amp; Technological Choices, Senator Procaccia, Paris</td>
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<td>ADEME, Deputy Scientific Director for Strategy, Research and International Relations, Paris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>OECD Environment Director, Deputy Director and Policy Instruments Environment Directorate, Paris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ALSTOM Power Philippe Paelinck + Team Director CO2 Business Development, Paris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>OECD Australian Energy Adviser, Australian Delegation to OECD, Paris</td>
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<td>IEA, Senior Analyst Renewable Energy Division, Paris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ambassador to the OECD, Paris</td>
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<td>8 October 2011</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 October 2011</td>
<td>Flight London to Canberra</td>
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</table>
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Independent Police Complaints Commissioner

We were given a briefing from Commissioner Nicholas Long in relation to the operation of the Independent Police complaints Commission. Commission Long provided an overview of the obligations of the Commission under UK and European law. Discussions took place in relation to budget constraints and reductions in personnel due to government cutbacks.

Findings
Problems exist in relation to the decentralised and autonomous role of police commissioners in various police areas. This makes it difficult to apply consistent complaints procedures when inconsistent rules apply within regional jurisdictions.

The Carbon Capture and Storage Association

Attended meeting with Dr Jeff Chapman, Chief Executive of CCSA. Dr Chapman outlined the development of carbon capture and storage in the UK and the importance of the electricity reform market including a carbon floor price, feed in tariff, payment for capacity, and emissions performance standards.

Findings
Carbon capture and storage has a crucial role to play in sustaining energy intensive and carbon intensive process industries in the UK. To ensure a progressive rollout is delivered, a demonstration project needs to be operational by 2015. Academia and industry are confident in CCS and its ability to deliver, and the technology continues to attract interest and investment.

UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy and Allianz Specialised Investments

Attended meeting with Miss Kirsty Hamilton, UK Business Council and Mr Bill Calcroft, Managing Director of Allianz Specialised Investments and discussed the opportunities for renewable energy arising from the EU emissions trading scheme.

Findings
The market for renewable energy in Europe has grown dramatically over the last few years. Investment in wind and solar offers an attractive yield with an acceptable risk profile by generating an annual income stream. Allianz is one of Europe’s leading alternative asset investors. Since 2005 it has invested over €1 billion in what it describes as “the market of the future”. The current investment portfolio consists of over 30 wind farms in France and Germany and Italy with a total asset base of over 600 MW. Renewable energy provides a good long-term investment for many companies.
Australian High Commissioner

Met with H.E. John Dauth, Australian High Commissioner.

Discussed the ongoing implications of the global financial crisis in Europe, in particular government debt, unemployment and the implications for Australia.

Ofgem Sustainability Adviser

Met with Professor Michael Grubb, Sustainability Adviser. Ofgem has a duty to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development since 2004. Since 2008, the energy act promoted this duty and placed it on an equal footing with duties to meet reasonable demand and financing unauthorised activities.

Findings
Ofgem focuses on five themes in relation to sustainable development.

- Managing the transition to a low carbon economy
- Eradicating fuel poverty and protecting vulnerable customers
- Promoting energy saving
- Ensuring a secure and reliable gas and electricity supply
- Supporting improvements in all aspects of the environment

Scottish Renewable Forum

Met with Mr Nial Stewart, Chief Executive, Scottish Renewable Forum. Mr Stewart outlined the importance of renewable energy and renewable energy employment to the Scottish economy. The SNP government has a strong commitment to renewable energy and seeks to be an early adopter in order to build employment in renewable using traditional Scottish engineering skills.

Findings
Traditional engineering skills provide a significant base for employment growth in renewable energy. The Scottish Renewable Forum is an industry group promoting a win-win vision to harness Scotland’s immense natural resources to enrich the economy, communities and the environment. By the end of 2009 there were just over 3.5 GW of install renewable technology capacity in Scotland with almost 2GW of this onshore wind. Scottish Renewables are working with the public and private sector to promote better regulation, improved grid access, and stable financial incentives.
Scottish Trades Union Congress

Meeting with Mr Stephen Lloyd, Associate Secretary, Scottish Trades Union Congress. The STUC had been promoting renewable energy and renewable employment. We discussed the employment potential of renewable energy arising from the Scottish National Party’s commitment to reducing Scotland’s reliance on fossil fuel.

Findings
The Scottish trade union movement continues to engage with the Scottish government to promote renewable energy and renewable energy employment. Wind power in particular provides employment opportunities for workers with traditional trade skills and the focus is on becoming an emerging player in the manufacture of renewable energy equipment.

Pelamis Wave Energy

Met with Mr Richard Yemm, Commercial Director of Pelamis Wave Energy and inspected a Pelamis Wave Energy Converter under construction. The Pelamis has five tube sections linked by hinged joints. Floating on the sea surface, incoming waves cause the tube sections to move relative to one another, causing bending movements at the joints of the machine. This movement is resisted by hydraulic cylinders which pump fluid into high-pressure storage accumulators allowing electricity generation to be smooth and continuous. Hydraulic motors drive generators to produce electricity. All equipment is housed inside the machine and power is transmitted to shore using standard subsea cables.

Findings
Pelamis has become the world’s first exporter of electricity from an offshore wave energy converter into an onshore grid network. Pelamis has secured the UK’s first commercial orders for wave energy converters from customers E.ON and Scottish Power Renewables.

Endensa Smart City Malaga Project

Met with Mr Alfredo Rodriguez, Director, Smart City Malaga for a briefing on the Endensa Smart City project. The project is designed to reduce electricity consumption in Malaga. The project involves 11,000 homes in 1200 businesses in the area of Misericordia Beach. Energy generation systems based on renewable energy sources will be installed in homes, offices and industries in the area. A user can produce not only the energy that they consume, but also store it in batteries for later use by other inhabitants, for lighting purposes, climatisation of buildings or public transport. The project uses smart consumption metres and advanced telecommunication and remote control systems to optimise the distribution grid, enabling a new approach to energy management and, in turn, enhancing the quality of the service.
Findings

Malaga is one of six cities in the world to apply the Smart City model. Initiatives are under way in Stockholm, Dubai, Malta, Ohio and Colorado. The benefits of the project include energy savings, energy efficiency, optimisation of the electrical distribution network, reduction of CO2 emissions, development of local technologies and new employment opportunities in rural and urban areas of Malaga. This is an important demonstration and evaluation of a pioneer model.

Ministry for Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs and Secretary of State for Water and Rural Development

Attended a meeting with Mr Josep Puxeu, Secretary of State For Water and Rural Development. We discussed the crisis in the euro zone and its effect on Spain particularly unemployment which is in the region of 25%. I raised the question of the Alvarez analysis which blames the crisis on renewable energy. This was dismissed as incorrect with the most significant factor being the bursting of the building and credit bubble. Mr Puxeu outlined Spain's commitment to renewable energy and the benefits of having companies which can compete effectively around the world for renewable energy projects.

Findings

Spain's economy has been particularly hard-hit by the global financial crisis. The government is continuing to invest in renewable energy as an alternative to nuclear and fossil fuelled power. The combination of wind, photovoltaic, hydro has made Spain one of the world leaders in the use, manufacture and export of renewable energy technologies.

Spanish Ambassador and industry representatives

I attended a lunch meeting with the Australian Ambassador and Spanish industry representatives. A range of issues were discussed including business opportunities in Australia for Spanish companies in both renewables and desalination technology.

Institute for Energy Diversification and Conservation

I met with Mr Jaum Margarite the Director of Renewable Energy for the Institute for Energy Diversification and Conservation. Mr Margarite advised that Spain had no indigenous oil or gas and had previously relied on expensive coal and ageing nuclear power plants for its energy requirements. As a result of the 1980-1 energy crisis Spain decided that energy supply was one of its most strategic questions. A programme of hydro and wind power was undertaken with the first modern wind farm being built in Spain in 1990-1. Solar technology supplies about 4000 GW of Spain's electricity needs. New technologies such as molten salt solar power plants are being tested and commissioned. Photovoltaic accounts for 400 megawatts of energy with the price reducing significantly from €420 per megawatt hour in 2008 to €130 per megawatt hour in 2011.
Findings
The Spanish wind industry has created a strong competitive business structure with significant international reach. The wind industry has generated more than 40,000 jobs. The sector is comprised of more than 700 companies: 19 wind turbine manufacturers, 270 component manufacturers, hundred and 40 wind farm developers, and 277 service providers. Exports by the sector amount to around €3 billion per annum. In 2009 the Council of Ministers agreed to establish a roadmap for the growth of solar thermal electric technologies to 2400 MW by 2015. Spain continues to invest extensively in wind energy, solar thermal electric, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, biomass, biogas, biofuels, small hydro, marine energy and geothermal.

Fotowatio

I met with Mr Raphael Benjumea, Chief Executive Officer of Fotowatio. The company has an industrial business model focusing on integrated project management covering the development, construction, financing and operation of photovoltaic solar thermal electric installations. The company has been successful in their joint proposal to build Australia's first utility scale solar project, the 150 MW Moree Solar Farm in New South Wales tablelands. This is being built under the Solar Flagships Program. When completed, the Moree Solar Farm will comprise around 650,000 PV panels and produce enough power are around 45,000 households leading to annual displacement of around 400,000 tonnes of CO2 through generation of new renewable electricity.

Findings
Fotowatio demonstrates the opportunities arising from the global engagement on renewable energy. While the Spanish economy is in deep recession, renewable companies continue to engage internationally and use their expertise to create opportunities for the Spanish economy around the world.

France

International Energy Agency – Cabin Capture and Sequestration

I met with Mr Bo Dicfalussy, carbon capture and sequestration director, International Energy Agency and Dr Keith Burnard. They outlined the roadmap for carbon capture and storage and spoke of the World Energy Outlook which factors in a 15 to 20% reduction in carbon emissions through carbon capture and storage. They indicated that China is doing more carbon capture and storage demonstrations than anywhere in the world. Carbon capture and storage remains a key technology for reducing future CO2 emissions.

Findings
Carbon capture and storage is a key cost-effective option for reducing CO2 from industrial applications. In several industries decommissioned reductions can only be achieved through CCS.

CCS could reduce CO2 emissions by up to 4.0 gigatonnes annually by 2050 and industrial applications. CCS in industry needs more specific support, including financial assistance for investing in an operating CCS. Over time, however, incentives for CCS technologies should be linked primarily to their ability to reduce CO2 emissions. Additional capital investments of about 256 billion US dollars would be required for industrial CCS between 2010 and 2030. Of this total, 172 billion US dollars will be needed in developing countries.
CDC Climat

I attended a meeting with Mr Pierre Ducret, chief executive officer, Jean Pierre Sicard his deputy and research analyst Oliver Sartor. Mr Sartor is an Australian. CDC Climat was launched in 2010 and provides climate market services, investment in climate market assets, and research in the economics of climate change. CDC Climat’s research objective is to understand, anticipate and facilitate the development of economic tools to tackle climate change. They have an international team of economists and engineers specialising in three areas, the economics of carbon pricing, and the analysis of project-based mechanisms to reduce emissions, the analysis of climate policy at the subnational level.

Findings

CDC Climat demonstrates that there is a sophisticated market developing in climate change economics with short and long-term investments continuing. Advances on a range of climate change issues from a market perspective have opened up opportunities for CDC Climat.

Senate Parliamentary Office for Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices

I met with Senator Catherine Procaccia and representatives of the Parliamentary Office for Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices. Senator Procaccia outlined the work of the Parliamentary office which operates in a similar manner to our committee structures. The office conducts inquiries into a range of issues associated with science and technology including renewable energy, global warming, nuclear waste disposal and many other issues.

Findings

The operation of the Senate Parliamentary Office demonstrates the importance of the inquiry process not only in Australia but in France. France continues to adopt and investigate renewable options in order to reduce its carbon footprint.

ADEME

ADEME is roughly the equivalent of Australia’s CSIRO. I met with Mr Daniel Clement, deputy scientific director for strategy, research and international relations. ADEME is the public research agency designed to enhance applied research involving private and public laboratories in the field of energy and environment. ADEME does not have its own laboratories and is neutral in relation to technical choices. It supports research from laboratory to markets. It conducts strategic planning of research priorities for the ministries with roadmaps, design and stakeholders networking. It supports research and development programmes with an industrial finality (public and private research) it had an annual budget of €50 million per year, reduced to €35 million as a result of the GFC. It also had a fund for research demonstrators in new energy technology of €400 million here four years reduced to €170 million per two years as a result of the GFC. Research priorities including, low emissions and energy efficient transport, zero emission buildings, CO2 capture and storage, renewable electricity, bio resources and bio fuels, smart grids and energy storage, fuel cells and hydrogen.
Findings
France like other European countries continues to invest in renewable energy and associated technologies. Pricing carbon has given an incentive to companies to invest in renewable energy.

OECD
Attended a meeting with Mr Simon Upton, environment director, OECD, Miss Helen Mountford, deputy director, environment directorate OECD and Mr Nils Axel Braathen, policy instruments, environment directorate, OECD.

The OECD takes the view that today’s environmental challenges demand a concerted effort of citizens, firms and governments to encourage less pollution and environmental degradation and change existing patterns of demand and supply. The OECD states that environmentally related taxation does induce innovation, with firms responding in positive ways to market signals – developing new products, creating novel means to neutralise pollutants and altering production practices to make them cleaner. To bring about the widest range of innovations, environmentally related taxes must be properly designed and predictable to give businesses confidence that the clean technologies developed today will have a market in the future.

Findings
The OECD is committed to a market-based approach for dealing with climate change. This is consistent with the governments approach to a fixed carbon price moving to a cap and trade system. The OECD continues to work with governments to promote economically sustainable approaches to reducing CO2 pollution.

Alstom Power
Attended a meeting with Mr Phillippe Paelinck and team leaders in relation to Alstom’s clean power strategy and renewable energy technologies - including carbon capture and storage and technologies in the field of high-speed transportation. Alstom has 93,500 employees worldwide with 1000 employed in Australia and New Zealand. Alstom offers a complete portfolio of power generation equipment and services for all fuel types. This includes Hydro, nuclear, geothermal, solar, wind, tidal, coal, gas, biomass, energy management, full service and retrofits. Alstom believes that with fossil fuels accounting for 60% of installed power generation base by 2030 the successful application of carbon capture and storage technologies is essential. Alstom is concentrating on the two most promising families of CO2 carbon capture technologies, Oxy combustion and post-combustion capture. Alstom offers customers a CCS ready plant concept.

Findings
Increased investment in carbon capture and storage is required to ensure that the technology can meet the expectations of significantly reduced CO2 emissions from power stations and other industrial processes.
OECD
I attended a meeting with Mr Ian Cronshaw, Australian Energy Adviser, Australian Delegation to OECD. We discussed the World Energy Outlook in relation to coal and gas. Mr Cronshaw indicated that China now used four times the coal that the US economy uses. Following the 1970s oil crisis the world diversifies is electricity supply into coal gas and nuclear. This mix is progressively being replaced by gas across the OECD with combined cycle gas turbines providing 55% thermodynamic efficiency. China is the largest power user in the world the comparison is that Australia uses 250 terawatt hours, the US 4200 and China 4600. China is using approximately 4 billion tonnes of coal each year with Australia supplying 1% of the total use. The ongoing use of gas which has been described as the golden age of gas will need a golden age of environmental controls. Mr Cronshaw indicated that excellent environmental performance in gas production is required to maintain confidence in the commodity.

Findings
China's economic growth and modernisation programme is the key economic driver for increasing investment and growth in the minerals sector. Environmental issues are becoming increasingly contested and it is essential that the minerals sector act in a manner which creates confidence in the environmental sustainability of the sector.

IEA
I attended a meeting with Adam Brown, Senior Analyst, Renewable Energy Division IEA. Mr Brown outlined the technology roadmaps that the International Energy Agency was developing in relation to renewable energy. Technology roadmaps for renewables are being created for biofuels, electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, energy efficient buildings, geothermal, smart grids, solar photovoltaic power, and wind energy.

Findings
The International Energy Agency recognizes a significant role of renewable energy in the global strategy to reduce carbon pollution and global warming. An example is that the wind roadmap targets 12% of global electricity from wind power by 2050.

Achieving these targets will require the investment of some USD 3.2 trillion. 47 GW would need to be installed on average every year for the next 40 years – amounting to a 75% increase on annual investment to USD 81 billion. From 2030, non-OECD economies, including in particular China, Latin America and India, will produce some 17% of global wind energy, rising to 57% in 2050. Onshore wind technology is proven. Costs per MWh range from USD 70 – 130. Wind power can be competitive where the resource is strong and when the cost of carbon is reflected in markets. Costs are expected to decrease further as a result of technology development, deployment and economies of scale – by 23% by 2050.

Transitional support is needed to encourage deployment until full competition is achieved. To achieve high penetrations of wind power, the flexibility of power systems and the markets they support must be enhanced and, eventually, increased. Flexibility is a function of access to flexible generation, storage, and demand response, and is greatly enhanced by larger, faster power markets, smart grid technology, and the use of forecast models in system scheduling.
Conclusion

My study tour the UK, Spain, and France has reinforced my view that Australia needs to continue to act on building a comprehensive suite of measures to deal with global warming. It is clear that many European countries have adopted an approach to renewable energy which will stand them in good stead in the future.

The challenge of Australia is to build on the successful passage of the government's legislation which places a price on carbon. This is consistent with the approach in the UK and Europe to price carbon through a market-based process.

It is clear that the UK and Spain in particular view renewable energy as a significant component of the future energy mix. Wind power and solar voltaic are the emerging technologies with the capacity to provide significant input to electricity demand. Spain has created 40,000 jobs in renewable energy and despite the effects of the global financial crisis and the busting of the housing bubble in Spain, Spanish companies export $3 billion of renewable energy goods and services each year. This is one of the few bright spots in the Spanish economy.

In the UK, Scotland and particularly the north of England the traditional skills of the engineering industry have been focused on wave power and wind power. Employment for boilermakers, welders, fitters and electricians along with other skilled engineering trades is in increasing demand in the north-east of England, Belfast and Scotland.

If Australia is to ensure that it is not left behind in the development of renewable energy the opportunities the government's carbon price legislation creates must be used to build the innovation and research and development required to kickstart a renewable energy industry.

Carbon capture and storage is seen as an important technology to facilitate the reduction in greenhouse gases that would allow domestic and international targets to be met. Carbon capture and storage requires further investment to move from the trial stage to the production level and much work is being done around the world, particularly in China on this issue.

My study tour has reinforced the need to continue significant focus on renewable energy within the Australian economy.
THE HON PHILIP RUDDOCK MP

United States of America
30 September – 6 October 2011
Overseas Study Travel Report

The Hon Gary Gray AO, MP
Special Minister of State
Suite M1.23
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 travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

The Hon Philip Ruddock MP
Member for Berowra
27 October 2011
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of accessing my overseas study entitlement was to travel to Honolulu to participate in the Australian American Leadership Dialogue 2011, which aims to further mutual understanding between the leaders of both countries.

My particular interest was to engage in international dialogue with persons of influence in our most important strategic ally, the United States. There was a great deal of participation which was most valuable to me. This included the rare opportunity to engage the US Pacific Command which, with allies such as Australia, has the mission of enhancing stability in our Asia-Pacific region. Australia and the US have critical security and economic interests in the Asia-Pacific region as it is the most dynamic region and one in which we must engage to ensure its continued peaceful development. I had fruitful dialogue on these topics as well as participation in relevant site visits. In that respect I also visited the Pearl Harbour Memorial which was a sombre reminder of the outbreak of war in the Pacific theatre during World War II and the key role that the US played in protecting Australia. I valued the discussion on our respective perspectives and common interests on the many challenges and opportunities in our region.

I was also pleased to have been selected to deliver the Coalition’s presentation entitled “Update Australia”.

Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<tr>
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<td>Sydney to Honolulu</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 October</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Honolulu to Sydney (6 October)</td>
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Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Welcome Reception
Hosted by Australian Consul-General Mr Scott Dewar
2 October 2011

The welcome reception helped set the scene for the Dialogue and was useful for networking with American attendees. Mr Scott Dewar was a very knowledgeable host with a practical day-to-day understanding of the full range of bilateral issues in the current Australia-US relationship.
3 October 2011

The Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Defence Materiel, delivered the Labor Government’s presentation, “Update Australia”. I responded on behalf of the Coalition.

A corresponding address entitled “Update United States” was then presented to delegates, followed by a general discussion.

Later that day we departed for our visit to US Pacific Command (USPACOM). The role of USPACOM is to defend, in concert with other U.S. Government agencies, allies and partners, the territory of the United States. With the US being our key strategic ally, and the Pacific being our shared interest, I gained valuable knowledge and insights that will benefit my committee work, in particular my role as Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.

We then toured Pearl Harbour, which remains an important site of remembrance for those who perished in the Japanese attack, and a reminder of the need for the US to remain engaged in the Asia Pacific region.

4 October 2011

Valuable presentations which enhanced my knowledge were provided on the following topics:

- American and Australian Perspectives on Northeast Asia.
- American and Australian Perspectives on Southeast Asia.
- The Future of Regional Architecture: APEC, East Asia Summit.
- The Pacific Island World.

Conclusion

In summary my attendance at the Australian American Leadership Dialogue 2011 in Honolulu was very beneficial. From my dialogue with US political, academic and business leaders participating in the event I gained valuable perspectives on the current state of the Australia-US relationship. I both offered and received perspectives on the issues affecting the Asia Pacific region we share. The contacts I made during the Dialogue will also assist in my future parliamentary activities. I hope that other parliamentarians with an interest in these issues will be able to attend future Dialogue events and I commend the event to them.
THE HON JOHN COBB MP

New Zealand
18 – 21 October 2011
**Purpose of Journey**

This journey was orchestrated by the New Zealand Government. An invitation was extended by the NZ Government to relevant members of the Opposition Government to visit New Zealand’s orchards and pack houses to gain an understanding of all aspects of the compliance programme as they apply to the different stages of the production and export process to meet export protocols to Australia.

The following itinerary was designed to provide an overview of the operation of the New Zealand "Apples to Australia Programme".

The itinerary included visits to apple orchards, packing houses, storage and phytosanitary inspection facilities, Pipfruit New Zealand and the Plant and Food Research centre in Havelock North.

During the course of this visit MAF (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) officials provided an overview of how the MAF export phytosanitary certification system operates.
**Detailed Itinerary Schedule**

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<td>19 October</td>
<td>Field Visit</td>
<td>Hawkes Bay</td>
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<td>Senior Government Officials</td>
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<td>Senior Managers Pipfruit New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 October</td>
<td>Field Visit</td>
<td>Commercial Manager Johnny Apple Shed</td>
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<td>Area Manager Asure Quality</td>
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<td>CEO and Chairman Pipfruit New Zealand</td>
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<td>Australian and New Zealand senior Scientists</td>
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<td>New Zealand Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity and Forestry</td>
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<td>21 October</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Wellington to Sydney</td>
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</table>
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

The New Zealanders certainly know how to grow apples, and there are plenty of them, they are very proud of their operations and so they should be, they grow the second best apples in the world!

Investment in knowledge, intellectual assets and new technologies, as well as the adaptation of existing good business practices and technologies has been a valued creation in the New Zealand agricultural sector.

Farmers are very innovative, efficient and sustainable in their farming methods. The New Zealand Government is very supportive of their industries and with diverse climatic conditions it allows the cool climates suit apples production of a wide range of fruit crops.

The local apple industry was keen to point out that fire blight was manageable in New Zealand apple orchards. However, when pressed they are far less certain of their ability to maintain a vibrant pear industry, which is just one and a half percent of the size of their apple industry, because pears are much more susceptible to fire blight.

Biosecurity Australia were on site defending their position, although we didn’t invite them and as we were not permitted to take our own technical expert we were not in a position to adequately assess the science.

The Coalition’s major concern is that Biosecurity Australia could have done much more within the WTO rules that would have alleviated disease risks to Australia and our apple and pear industries, such as mandatory orchard inspections for the first couple of years to ensure no system breakdowns would risk importing pests or diseases to Australia. Also there is new technology that gives much greater confidence in trash removal in packing houses that could be implemented.

My concerns regarding fire blight lie firmly with the substandard quarantine arrangements put in place by Australian Labor Government, not New Zealand. My sincere thanks go to New Zealand for being wonderful hosts and allowing us to gain a first hand experience of practices within their country.
Conclusion

Our visit to New Zealand has highlighted that there are simple commonsense, practical measures within the WTO rules that Australia can add to the protocols to ensure apples can be imported into Australia with more confidence.

Measures to ensure trash, most commonly leaf matter, is removed in New Zealand apple consignments should be the main focus as this is the most likely way their pests and diseases will be transmitted to Australia through imports.

The New Zealanders grow a lot of apples and do it very well though I don’t believe they taste as good as ours. Getting import protocols right is important in fostering long-term cooperative arrangements with our neighbours.

In conclusion there is still a very real risk that fire blight entering Australia in one of the consignments from NZ, thus having the potential to severely damage the local apple and pear industries. I believe there is much more Biosecurity Australia can do to minimise this risk.
THE HON DR SHARMAN STONE MP

New Zealand
18 – 21 October 2011
THE HON. DR SHARMAN STONE MP
Federal Member for Murray

Overseas Study Travel Report

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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Sharman Stone

3 November 2011
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of this journey was to travel to New Zealand between the 18th of October and the 22nd of October 2011 in order to study the New Zealand response to the new fresh apple export protocols imposed by Australia’s quarantine services. The objectives and program was the same as submitted by the Hon John Cobb, who led this study tour which included three other MPs and officials from DAFF. The objectives were:

- to give the delegation an opportunity to visit orchards and pack houses for apple exports to Australia in order to understand all aspects of the export protocol compliance program as they apply to different stages of the production and export business,

- to experience first hand the random audit process on approved orchards and packing houses to show what is involved in auditing their facilities and pest and disease management.

Detailed Itinerary Schedule

Day 1: Tuesday 18 October (Arrival in Napier)

5.10 pm       Australian officials arrive in Auckland on QF43.
7.45 pm       Depart Auckland
8.45 pm       Arrive Napier

Met at Napier airport by VCO and transported to accommodation in Napier.

Accommodation:    Crowne Hotel    Corner of Bridge Street & Hardinge Road Napier

Day 2: Wednesday 19 October (Napier/Hastings)

8:30 am – 12 pm       Field visits – production sites

Field visits observing the production operating components of the Apples to Australia programme in Hawkes Bay.
Briefing on:

- A2A orchard production site registration processes (by David Cant, AsureQuality)
- Orchard apple production systems, pest management, IFP (by Richard Hill, Tony Waites, Phil Thomas and Dr Peter Lo)

12:00 – 1:30 pm  Lunch  Venue: “Off the Track”, Havelock North

1.30 – 5:00 pm  Field visits – packing and inspection sites

Continued with field visits observing the packing and inspection operating components of the Apples to Australia programme in Hawkes Bay, including visits to an A2A registered apple packhouse, apple coolstore facility and phytosanitary inspection facility of “Johnny Appleseed”.

Briefing on:

- A2A facility registration process (AsureQuality)
- MAF authorised independent verification agency (IVA) auditing of an A2A registered facility process (AsureQuality)
- IVA verification of an A2A registered facility activities for product compliance to pest management requirements. (AsureQuality)
- Set up and monitoring of high pressure washing facility, and observation of the effectiveness of this facility at “Johnny Appleseed”.
- Phytosanitary inspection processes in the A2A pathway (AsureQuality), including an observation of these being undertaken by the A2A registered and MAF-approved packing facility for phytosanitary inspection.
- Product identification and traceability from A2A registered production site through to point of export from NZ (AsureQuality).
- Observation of “Johnny Appleseed” pre-clearance inspection facility (AsureQuality).

7:00 pm  Delegation dinner  Venue: Mission Estate Winery

Day 3: Thursday 20 October (Napier)

9:30 – 12:30 pm  Met with Pipfruit New Zealand

For discussions on collaborative market development (discussion leader Peter Beaven), and Fireblight model (discussion leader Dr Rob Beresford).

Venue: Havelock North Community Centre

12:30 – 1:45  Lunch

1:45 – 2 pm  Travel to Havelock North
2pm - 3:30 pm Visit to Plant & Food Research Centre

Met with plant breeding specialist on collaborative programme (PREVA). Discussion leaders Peter Beaven, Bill Kirkland and Vincent Bus.

3:30 - 4 pm Travel to Hastings

4 – 4:30 pm Meeting with Hon David Carter, Minister of Agriculture; Hon Craig Foss, MP for Tukituki; and Chris Tremain, MP for Napier

Venue: Hon Foss’ electorate office, corner of King and Queen Streets, Hastings

4:30 – 5:15pm Returned to Crowne Hotel

Dinner (private arrangements)

Day 4: Friday 21 October (Napier/Wellington)

8:30 – 10:30 am De-briefing meeting with MAF & DAFF officials
Venue: Crowne Hotel

Travel to Napier Airport

11:20 am Depart Napier on NZ 8443

12:10 pm Arrive Wellington

Travel to the Australian High Commission

12:45 – 2 pm Lunch hosted by Australian High Commission

Travel to Wellington Airport

3.55 pm Depart on QF48
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

19 - 20 OCTOBER
8.30am and 1.30pm Briefings - David Cant, Richard Hill, Tony Waites, Phil Thomas and Dr Peter Lo, MAFF and Pipfruit NZ

FINDINGS/OUTCOMES

The New Zealand Pip fruit industry was able to inform us about how they will improve fruit packing and exporting procedures to overcome the 25% rejection rate of exported fruit due to pest and trash contamination.

20 OCTOBER (2pm)
Plant & Food Research Centre - Peter Beaven, Bill Kirkland & Vincent Bus

FINDINGS/OUTCOMES

We were briefed on the apple and pear new varieties breeding program which is 50% funded by Australia

20 OCTOBER (4pm)
Hon David Carter, Minister of Agriculture; Hon Craig Foss, MP for Tukituki; and Chris Tremain, MP for Napier

FINDINGS/OUTCOMES

The briefing with the Minister and local member reinforced our need to see quarantine inspection outcomes improved.

21 OCTOBER
De-briefing meeting with MAF & DAFF officials

FINDINGS/OUTCOMES

Officials described in detail the quarantine system structures and processes in New Zealand, in particular their contracting out of inspections.
Conclusion

The tour helped education the New Zealand pome fruit sector about the significance of pears as a species of concern re fire blight.

We were also able to inspect and hear about the new efforts on New Zealand’s part, in response to the significant failures in the first consignments.

The orchardists we met were keen to stress their appreciation of our concerns re avoiding fire blight, apple curling leaf midge and European canker, the one pest and two diseases that are included in the Australian New Zealand fresh apple export protocol.
MR STUART ROBERT MP

South Africa
25 – 30 October 2011
Overseas Study Travel Report

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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of
entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and
Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Stuart Robert MP
20 November 2011
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of accessing my overseas study entitlement was to travel to South Africa to attend a range of meetings on African poverty, causes and effects, resultant orphan care and global aid governance.

I currently sit on the International Board of one of the world’s largest non institutional orphan care programs and have had a great interest in finding solutions to the crushing issue of inter-generational poverty caused by HIV AIDS and war and the resultant legacy of up to 50 million African orphaned children.

Australia has recently increased its aid budget to Africa to address some of these issues and thus I met with some of South Africa’s leading edge organisations that are working right at the coal face to discuss the effectiveness of Aid programs.

Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<td>Sydney – Johannesburg</td>
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<td>28 – 29 October 2011</td>
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<td>Dubai - Brisbane</td>
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Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Meeting 1

*Life Church (a mixed race Capetown Church)*

26 October 2011

I met with the leadership of Life Church, one of the few mixed race South African Churches (White, Black and mixed, including Asian) who are involved in a program with HIV positive women within the Samora Machel informal settlement.

Samora Machel is one of many thousands of informal settlements that have risen right across South Africa. It is estimated that at least 10% of South Africa’s 45 million people live in predominantly urban informal settlements. This equates to more than 1.2 million households and an informal settlement population of over 4.5 million. Approximately 23% of the households in South Africa’s nine largest cities are estimated to be without adequate shelter. In reality, the actual numbers are probably significantly higher than these figures suggest.
Within these settlements, unemployment is incredibly high and the resultant idleness leads to incredibly high rates of HIV infection, violence, drug and alcohol abuse. This is also leading to an ever increasing rise in the number of orphaned and vulnerable children.

The work within Samora Machel is focusing on providing HIV positive women with life skills that lead to employment such as sewing, cottage industry or basic manufacturing of local products. The intent is that with basic skills, these Mums can keep themselves alive through purchasing anti-retroviral drugs and consequently be able to care for their children. The care of orphaned children is incredibly expensive, thus the most cost effective manner is for their Mum to stay alive.

**Meeting 2**

*Living Hope*

27 October 2011

I met with the management of the Living Hope program that is being effectively run in Eastern Africa with thousands of HIV women. Living Hope provides women with training and skills, including literacy and numeracy to allow them to learn a work skill to continue to raise their family. Skills being taught include jewellery making, Shay butter cream production, doll making, sewing and knitting. This combined with a nurturing environment and support structure, including a novel banking system using a basic mobile phone network is empowering some of the most vulnerable women to care for themselves and their children.

Living Hope is bringing their model into the informal settlements of South Africa.

**Meeting 3**

*Bethel*

27 October 2011

I met with the management of Bethel Church in the UK who are working in Dagenham, Essex, the scene of much of the recent street violence in the UK. Bethel is home to many African migrants and refugees who have fled Africa, yet remain afflicted by the violence, poverty and resultant HIV AIDS epidemic.

I learnt about Bethel’s Street Pastor program that is a response to the Local Community issues. Street Pastors volunteer their time one night per month to help the vulnerable, to care for those in need and to listen and support young people who have found themselves disenfranchised and/or marginalised from society, especially those from Africa. The initiative is working in partnership with the Council, Police and Local Churches. The initiative so far represents 13 Churches in the borough with Bethel London’s-Riverside Church taking the lead role with over 40 street pastors involved.

The program is unique in how it deals at a community level with those predominantly from Africa who remain disenfranchised from their local community.

**Conclusion**

In summary I found my travel to South Africa to investigate causes and responses to the plight of the Africa orphan due to poverty, violence and HIV AIDS to be a sobering yet encouraging experience. Whilst many of the policies of the South African Government remain ineffective and the politicisation of the informal settlements exacerbates the situation, there is hope through the community’s response to the problems.
Whilst Australia is spared many of the endemic problems of South Africa, African immigrants remain in many areas isolated and disempowered from their community. There is much Australia can learn from what community groups and churches are doing in South Africa and in other areas of the world with large African populations to engage with informal settlements and provide not only hope, but valuable skills.
THE HON PETER SLIPPER MP

New Zealand
9 – 12 November 2011
Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination No. 14 of 2003, I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel (effectively two days).

(i)  (a) Confirmation of Purpose:

(i)   a. Given the relationship between Australia and New Zealand and our shared Westminster parliamentary system of government, I am interested in comparisons between parliamentary practice and innovations in both jurisdictions.

b. Given membership in my former capacity as the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, I am keen to learn the process and extent of art acquisition by the Parliament of New Zealand.

c. As the Member for Fisher I am interested in encouraging private benefactors to make donations/loans of art for community purposes/display. I am also keen to encourage a process of incentives for private individuals to donate/lend collections.

d. Given the imminent New Zealand election, I am keen to learn about preparations and likely outcome.
(ii) Itinerary:

9 November

Brisbane to Auckland arriving 11.55pm.

10/11 November

Meeting with Rt Hon Jonathan Hunt, Former Speaker of House of Representatives of the New Zealand Parliament and former New Zealand High Commissioner in London. Discussions on the respective operations of the Australian and New Zealand Parliaments and discussion on procedures for Question Time. Also discussion on prognosis for the coming New Zealand election.

Meeting with the Hon Dr Lockwood Smith MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the New Zealand Parliament. Comparison of differing parliamentary procedures at Question Time, discussion about authority of the Speaker, discussion on the operation of the New Zealand Parliament and art in the building and discussion on the possible results for the coming New Zealand election.

Meeting with Mr Alastair Carruthers, Director of Carruthers Consulting/Chairman of the Arts Council Creative New Zealand. Discussions on the role of the Arts Council Creative New Zealand and private art benefactors.

Meeting with Mr Peter Goodfellow, President of the New Zealand National Party to discuss preparations for the coming election campaign, issues, campaign processes, the MMP system and likely election outcome.

12 November

Auckland to Brisbane departing 6am.

I was not accompanied by any person.

Conclusion

The study tour was relevant to my positions as Member for Fisher and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the discharge of my duties. It assisted me to appreciate more fully both the similarities and differences between parliamentary practice and innovations in both jurisdictions. I was also able to learn about election preparations and various scenarios for the outcome of the election.
I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination No 14 of 2003 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.

Kind regards
Yours sincerely

PETER SLIPPER

13/12/11
MR GRAHAM PERRETT MP

Switzerland, France, United Kingdom and the United States of America
30 November – 24 December 2011
Overseas Study Travel Report

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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Perrett MP
Member for Moreton
Purpose of Journey

I undertook study leave to investigate the long-term guardianship options available for children who are at risk and any other leading edge child protection initiatives that might be worthy of consideration for implementation in Australian states and territories. I considered these options in the context of the commonwealth, state and territory government’s movement towards a National Child Protection Framework and, hopefully, the uniform practice initiatives that will subsequently follow.

I considered a variety of care models and strategies in four countries that have different statutory child protection schemes, programmes, laws and challenges. The issues and opportunities that Australian child protection practitioners could consider embracing included the following:

(a) models that combine medical, therapeutic and residential services;
(b) child development learning opportunities for carers working in the child protection field;
(c) the availability of child protection registers for all professionals;
(d) child protection workers training;
(e) remuneration levels and associated skills of staff who undertake the most complex work with chaotic and vulnerable families;
(f) the range of therapeutic treatment services available to provide a suite of child protection service delivery options for children at risk;
(g) increased joint training between child protection professionals and police;
(h) information sharing among all agencies dealing with children at risk;
(i) how multi-agency and integrated working initiatives benefit the protection of children; and
(j) how the implementation of a clearly articulated complaints process for children and young people benefit those who are at risk.
Focus of Investigations

*Service de Protection de Mineurs, Geneva, Switzerland*

(Meeting with Director Mark Favez, Mme Cindy Ponard and the Social Service Team in Geneva on 2 December 2011)

Switzerland has 23 Cantons with 23 different systems of child protection notifications. There are also variations occurring across the nation, with nuances and clusters occurring, depending on the languages spoken in the region. There are regional clusters, but apart from this Switzerland, while only a small country, does not have all of the benefits of easily sharing information between Cantons and recognising best national practice.

In Geneva there are approximately 6000 children a year that need care – with about 3,000 asking for help and the remainder receiving the attention of the State due to the intervention of a judge. Geneva has a particular focus on the prevention and investigation of child protection matters by utilising the services of nurses in Canton schools. The especially trained nurses report abuse and support children who have been the victims of abuse. Whilst this approach is not based on a medical model if intervention it was reported to be very effective. Furthermore, the scheme also involves the school based nurses making contact with doctors.

Whilst reporting is not compulsory for all citizens of Switzerland, or the Geneva Canton, it is for all professionals involved in the area of child protection. From 1st January 2013 a tribunal, (compromised of a judge, a psychiatrist and a social worker), will make decisions as to whether a penal case is warranted where a professional involved in the area of child protection has failed to properly notify the authorities.

Director Mark Favez, Mme Cindy Ponard and the Social Service Team reported that domestic violence is a big issue in many of the child protection cases that they investigate. Another significant and regular factor is poverty. The latter had become even more of a dominant factor as the economic circumstances of the Geneva Canton have deteriorated slightly over the time since the Global Financial Crisis. And there had also been an increase in the number of non-Swiss citizens living in the Canton, and these people did not have the benefits of economic security and family support. In fact, overall, a compounding factor and/or regular consideration among child protection investigations was the fact that 42% of the residents of the Geneva area are foreign. Nevertheless, it was reported that
overall, Geneva has a good and strong welfare system.

Marijuana use and binge drinking are becoming more significant issues in the investigations of recent juvenile delinquency cases, especially in the last five years. It was also reported that knives are becoming more prevalent in altercations amongst young people. However, while the number of incidents hasn’t increased substantially, the severity of the crimes has.

The child protection workers I met with reported that the families they encounter throughout the Canton are becoming more dysfunctional, i.e. with multiple causes for concern. Overall, the Social Service team follows about 650 young people per year. Each child protection worker in the team is responsible for around 40 families, which usually translates into around 65 assigned children. Supervision of the child protection workers occurs via a review process. This case work review is an important part of the support process for workers and also is a part of their professional development.

Overall, the meeting with Director Mark Favez, Mme Cindy Ponard and the Social Service Team highlighted the benefits of a well resourced child protection service, but also the challenges of those on the margins who wish to avoid scrutiny and do so by leaving the Canton or Switzerland. It may have been more instructive to study the weakest link in the Swiss system, rather than one of the strongest and most professional.
Human Rights Watch, Geneva, Switzerland

(Meeting with Philippe Dam at the United Nations building, Geneva on 2 December 2011)

Human Rights Watch does not have a specific focus on child protection issues and rarely focuses on individual cases. Human Rights Watch has a broader approach to defending and protecting human rights, with children often being the beneficiaries of their campaigns, and sadly, also the reasons for attention in the first place.

Mr Dam stated that by Human Rights Watch focusing international attention on countries and areas where human rights are being violated, they are able to give a voice to the oppressed, who are often children. Subsequently, Human Rights Watch is also able to help in the process of working towards holding the oppressors of children accountable for their crimes. Unfortunately, while the meeting with Mr Dam was informative, and provided a broader context for global investigations and targeted advocacy that obviously helps raise the global cost of human rights abuse, it was not specific enough to be of great assistance to any critique of the Australian systems.

However, Mr Dam did have much to say about the Commonwealth government’s detention of refugee children through the immigration system and also the Northern Territory intervention. Mr Dam raised concerns about the access to justice of the children in the immigration system and those affected by the Northern Territory intervention. He was particularly concerned about preventing discrimination against these children and suggestions of inhumane conduct, particularly for unaccompanied migrant children under the age of 18. He argued strongly that it would be in the best interests of such children if they were not detained, especially when balancing a judge’s interpretation of administration law were considered alongside the health needs of the detained children.

The broad ranging discussion also explored how the Australian states and territories ensured that the rights of our children were respected under international human rights law. While detained children are a cause of great concern for me, I have made them a particular focus of this report, as they would require additional research. Moreover, their specific legal situation is not typical of the vast majority of children who are encountered in the child protection and notification systems.
Le Défenseur des Enfants (Children’s Ombudsperson), and Conseil Français des Associations des Droits de l’Enfant, Paris, France

(Meetings with Children’s Ombudsperson and other NGO representatives on 5 December 2011)

The roles of Le Défenseur des Enfants basically focus on defending and promoting children’s rights. The representatives in the meeting explained how they carry out this advocacy work through the national laws of France and the variety of treaties that the nation was a signatory to. Whereas the Children’s Ombudsperson is appointed by decree by the President of the Republic, for a non-renewable term of six years. The French government created the institution of Children’s Ombudsperson in March 2000 to defend and promote child rights as defined by law or by international treaties such as the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. Its three priority missions are to receive and handle individual complaints, to propose modifications to legislative texts and to promote children rights.

The make up of the multi-disciplinary team was similar to the Swiss child protection team I met with in that it included lawyers, magistrates, social workers, and psychologists, all working together. The medical input was found from outside this approach and will be discussed in more detail below. An innovative feature of the approach was the use of a team of 32 Young Ambassadors for the Ombudsperson for Children, who are recruited within the framework of the voluntary French civil service. They work essentially in schools but also in social centres and children’s hospital departments. The mission of this young team is to introduce young people to the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and the role of the Ombudsperson for Children.

The awareness campaign is also assisted by a network of 55 regional representatives in different counties across France who work to raise awareness. Furthermore, these representatives report on any dysfunctions in local institutions and also discuss positive initiatives. The Ombudsman is further assisted by a consultative committee of 20 young people aged 12 to 18 who express their opinions on issues, action and projects of interest to them. Their proposals enrich the public debate on the fundamental rights of children.

Conseil Français des Associations des Droits de l’Enfant (French Council of Associations for the Rights of the Child – “COFRADE”) had a broad ranging reach and included approximately 80 associations connected with the well being of children and child protection issues. COFRADE is also the patron of
numerous operations and work closely with the entire political community, as well as the Euronet network (European Children’ Network). COFRADE was created in 1989 through an initiative of the International Catholic Child Bureau, of the Institute of Childhood and Family and of UNICEF. COFRADE’s main objective is to ensure that the International Convention for the Rights of the Child is applied and known throughout France.

The meeting detailed COFRADE’s four main missions: including working closely with many Children Rights’ Agencies, which allows COFRADE’s to express more strongly their common positions and influence authorities further, so that the Convention is better applied. The meeting reported that 45% of French adults and 65% of children do not know that children have rights. COFRADE considers it its duty to develop necessary tools to build awareness of the Convention amongst institutions and professionals and society generally.

Through a continuous dialogue, COFRADE incites authorities to implement necessary legislative and institutional adaptations so that French law is in line with its international commitments. Most importantly, COFRADE plays a monitoring role. COFRADE also campaigns internationally so that the objectives of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children are met.

Unlike Australia, France has one system of child protection that is pretty much consistent across the 89 regional areas. However, it was stated that there is a lack of consistency in some of the French colonies.

The meeting explained that all doctors in France are mandated to report the abuse or harm of children. This medical centred focus is a very important part of the strong French system that detects and investigates child abuse. The maternal and child protection system is largely consistent throughout the 89 regions of France. However, it was stated that there are regional variations that mainly flow from budget and geography constraints.

All French women must report their pregnancy to the state, and then it is mandatory for them to report for seven check ups. While this system where the State pays for seven check ups has been the norm since 1945, it was pointed out that if the pregnancy is not declared then the child was declared to be at risk. The 89 regions are okay with this early intervention program but sometimes some French colonies do not always provide adequate information about this early intervention.
In addition to doctors, child abuse is reported via a 24 hour contact service that is staffed by volunteer social workers. Teachers also play an important role in reporting the abuse of or possible harm endured by the children in their care. There is also a planned schedule of doctors visiting schools. French children are very likely to be screened and brought to the attention of authorities in the lead up to their third birthday. However, despite the benefits of systemic check ups and early intervention, COFRADE representatives reported that approximately 75% of French children miss out on the required six year old check up. This failure was of particular concern to the COFRADE representatives and they spoke of it as a sadly missed opportunity for the nation and French children.

The meeting also detailed increasing national concerns about childhood obesity and a lack of commitment to necessary vaccinations. Consequently families and children were presenting with co-morbidities when they encountered the child protection system.

The French child protection framework is always to help the family first and try to keep the family together, just as in the Australian and Swiss systems. It was also noted that foster parents receive some money for having children in care, yet nevertheless, the biological parents of the child in care, retains some residual say in parenting decisions that affect their children.

In the French child protection system there is a strong focus on professional development, especially in those regions or areas where there are significant multicultural considerations surrounding a child who comes to the attention of the State. All French social workers are four year trained, however, there is a distinct profession called Children Nurses (Puésicultrice) that would appear to have similar levels of training to a midwife in Australia. The focus of these Children Nurses is on French children under the age of three. The role of the Puésicultrice in the community might be deserving of better research and then compared and contrasted with Australia’s community health nurses.
The Child Protection Hotline (#119) was created in the early 1990’s. It is the response of a centralized government to a decentralized French nation. The board of Enfants en Danger is comprised of national representatives (12 ministers), representatives from the 89 regions and concerned NGOs. France’s simple unified call system facilitates consistency across the 89 local government regions of France. Moreover, there are both outcome and economic efficiencies that come from having a central notification processing service.

The majority of the employees at Enfants en Danger (about 85%) are psychologists and social workers, however only around 25 actually sit on the Child Protection Hotline (#119) and answer the telephone. Of the telephone calls into the call centre, approximately 60% of the contacts are new cases and 80% of these contacts are then confirmed as requiring the attention of Enfants en Danger staff.

Enfants en Danger also plays an international role, and is one of the 27 countries that have formed the ChildONE Europe. This is an international society to prevent child abuse and neglect, and it does so particularly by looking at the training standards of child protection staff. (N.B. European Social Network & ISPCAN 22,701)

Every citizen in France must report abuse. In the calendar year 2006, Enfants en Danger received 1,063,396 calls. Of these interactions 590,831 calls (68%) were answered and immediate help provided. There is also a pre-screening process for calls before the professional child protection workers interact with the caller. Furthermore, there were 10,755 transmissions made to the regional county councils (departments), which works out to approximately 29 per day.

Enfants en Danger have a thematic file on “Children faced with domestic violence” and are more inclined to provide intensive support for a family rather than organise for the removal of the children in the household. This would appear to be a crisis intervention model that is similar to the child protection services in Australia. However, Enfants en Danger would be likely to take steps to arrange for the child to be kept out of the home during the time of crisis, and might utilise the services of child meeting groups or day care services. For example, such an arrangement might involve the child being taken during the day throughout the time of investigation or crisis. This could involve a child sort of living between an institution and home, i.e. whilst being supported in both environments by the State.
Graham Perrett MP

For example, the state would have control of the child in care, but he or she is woken up at home and sent to school and then goes home to do homework etc. This is called a “place without placing” and is done with the authority of the parents or by way of a court order.
Defender of Rights, Paris, France

(Meeting with Charlotte Clavreul on 5 December 2011)

The Defender of Rights is a relatively recently formed organization. It is an amalgamation of many organisations, the four main ones dealt with: ethics; children; discrimination; and ombudsmen type roles. The Defender of Rights notion is based on the Guardian of the revolution concept and uses this female figure from history as the organization’s symbol.

The Defender has three deputies, who specialise in the areas of discrimination, ethics and children and there is also a public service mediator. The Defender of Rights has more powers than the previous four separate organizations because it is a constitutional body. Therefore, it is more powerful than the sum of its parts and now has 250 people working throughout France. There are also 450 volunteers.

The Defender of Rights Office can be invoked by any person, irrespective of whether or not they are a citizen of France or not. Nevertheless, there was much discussion about the treatment received by refugees and/or the children of refugees. However, Charlotte Clavreul assured me that they were treated no differently to all of the other children in France.

The Defender of Rights can intervene in three ways in matters within its statutory powers:

1. in response to a written complaint, e.g. where parents are involved the Defender of Rights would intercede on behalf of the child at risk;
2. Promotion of children’s rights, i.e. under the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child. (As stated above, this convention is applied and is quite well known throughout France);
3. Legal reform, for example it could result in a law being abolished because it is discriminatory.

(Meeting with Director and six staff on 9 December 2011)

The United Kingdom has two levels of government. Therefore, there is national child protection legislation which is then implemented on the local level by counties and boroughs. London has 33 boroughs. The Hammersmith and Fulham Boroughs have pockets of affluence but also areas of significant need and disadvantage. The Hammersmith and Fulham Boroughs are responsible for overseeing the care of approximately 200,000 children. However, the number of children that come to the attention of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board is significantly less.

The Hammersmith and Fulham Boroughs Social Care Service utilises three tiers of social worker, where the Principal Social Worker provides overall supervision of field work. Referrals to the Social Care Service come from other agencies arrive via a three page form. All schools in the boroughs have a designated contact person who deals with child protection matters. It was stressed that it is crucial for the appropriate borough personnel to receive elevated training about how to respond to child protection incidents. The Hammersmith and Fulham Boroughs Social Care Service do this through Multi Agency Critical Incident Training, which is conducted via the Child Abuse Investigation Team. On a smaller scale, localities Services are delivered by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, which almost operate on the community policing level.

The primary child protection legislation in the United Kingdom says that a child at risk must be placed with family or with community representatives who are connected with the family under investigation. However, there are obviously many occasions when an appropriate representative from this aforementioned grouping is unable to be found. In these circumstances and foster parent is selected.

The foster parents utilised by the Hammersmith and Fulham Boroughs Social Care Service are trained at the Borough level. This occurs irrespective of whether they are accessed under an Agency foster care service (i.e. via a private family placement) or through the less frequently utilised residential care service.

The Hammersmith and Fulham Boroughs Social Care Service utilises an Independent Reviewing Officer who regularly assesses and reviews a child’s care plan.
Social Care Institute for Excellence, London, England

(Meeting with Ms Patricia Kearney, head of Family and Children Services on 9 December 2011)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence does widely respected research on social care and social work issues. It is widely known throughout the United Kingdom. It is a registered charity and receives the majority of it’s funding via contributions made from the public. However, the U.K. Department of Health does provide 30% of the funding that the Social Care Institute for Excellence receives.

The meeting occurred with the manager of the children’s team at the Institute. Much of the meeting was devoted to exploring the empirical evidence available regarding effective foster care services. However, there was also a particular focus on a group of at risk children, i.e. the children of prisoners in the United Kingdom. This project by the Social Care Institute for Excellence was peer reviewed and then distributed to authorities. The study also resulted in the development of a practice guide, which includes an e-learning package, and a film. The funding for this project was provided by the central government.

The Social Care Institute for Excellence tends bids for projects and funding that will support:

- Troubled families – i.e. families with complex need; and
- Initiatives that result in universal protocols that are able to be applied right throughout the United Kingdom. However, such protocols develop out of extensive stakeholder engagement

An example of a universal protocol that is used throughout the United Kingdom includes the document that was the result of the Social Care Institute for Excellence doing extensive research on Foster Carers.

The Social Care Institute for Excellence was also involved in the Monroe Review that is more effective services to be provided throughout the United Kingdom. This review flowed from the Peter Connolly case where a child was murdered by his mother’s partner. Following reviews and investigations it also resulted in the establishment of the Social Work Reform Board. The Review set out eleven recommendations for child protection services in 2012 to be implemented. For example, serious case reviews are to be done systematically, as per The Social Care Institute for Excellence schema.
The most significant reform to flow from the “blizzard” of standards will hopefully be the Government’s eventual progression towards a national standard. This will be complemented by a capabilities framework for social workers, especially regarding their professional development. More consideration of the Hackney model for Remodelling Social Work should occur. And also comparison should be made with the achievements in Glasgow where a similar remodelling occurred with the continuing professional development for social workers.

The Social Care Institute for Excellence has worked with the Social Work Reform Board is also looking at the higher education courses provided for social worker students, especially in the context that there may already be too many academic courses available. Unfortunately, this is occurring in a context of where many United Kingdom universities are also moving towards full fee recovery for courses. The new oversight body, called the College of Social Work, will have a focus on public safety and this new legal entity was to commence in January 2012.

The Social Work Reform Board has agreed to develop a capability framework for social work, as they considered this would best provide a unified structure for professional development and life-long learning.
Andrus Children's Centre and Andrus Centre for Learning and Innovation, Yonkers, New York, United States of America

(Meeting with MR Brian Farragher, Nancy Woodruff and various staff on 13 December 2011)

The Andrus Centre nurtures social and emotional well-being in children and their families by delivering a broad range of vital services and by providing research, training and innovative program models that promote standards of excellence for professional performance in and beyond our service community. The Sanctuary Institute is the division of ANDRUS providing training and consultation services to organizations that work with vulnerable adults, children and families, with the goal of helping an agency’s leaders reclaim a culture of hope and innovation.

The Andrus Institute was initially established as an orphanage in 1928. It persisted as an orphanage until 1975 when it undertook a major change in focus and approach to caring. This change saw the Institute begin to focus much more significantly on the needs of the children it encountered – particularly children in the care system who strong emotional needs. Subsequently the Andrus Centre for Learning and Innovation was built to assist in the educational needs of the children in care. It is significant that the Centre did not take any public money for the provision of these educational and care services until 1991. This has fostered a culture of innovation and independence amongst the staff and families of Andrus.

The Andrus Institute contains 73 beds for children with serious emotional needs and they reside on the premises in Yonkers. Many of these children arrive at the Centre because of a service contract existing with the state of New York. The Institute also services 85 children who attend on a daily basis. A typical such client would be an autistic five to fourteen year old child that had been unable to fit into alternative care and education systems. However, most of the children at the Andrus Institute range from eight years of age up to twelve. Whilst there is no stringent means test on the parents of the children at Andrus the majority of them could be described as working class.

The average residential stay is around 18 months. Many of the students that I encountered during the visit were described as seriously emotionally disturbed students. However, most of these children would tend not to have any criminal records. That is, the environment is one that is catered towards caring with children who are mostly fragile, rather than delinquents. Nevertheless, the Andrus Institute provides extensive training for staff who work at actual Juvenile Delinquency Centre throughout the east coast of the United States. Results are starting to flow out of the training and
approach as there has been a statewide reduction in violence in the systems whereas previously the recidivism rate was disturbingly high, i.e. around 80%.

The staff at the Andrus Institute are mainly social workers, speech therapists, OT, psychologists and psychiatrists. They work with the children in their care and push towards mainstreaming them. This would mean the child would eventually leave Andrus with a permanent plan.

Andrus also serves approximately 2,000 children who are located in the community. These children can be assisted from birth onwards through a variety of interventions, including school based clinicians in public schools, child care program, and preventative programs. These programs occur throughout the state but the area surrounding Andrus, Yonkers, is a particularly stressed city.

The Andrus Institute has provided training to 200 organisations scattered all around the world, including Australia. This has included the abovementioned training but also restorative work after a significant incident. It also provides educational interventions: for example the Peaskill School Program has been successful with teachers, as it was with childcare workers.
Sanctuary Training - Andrus Centre for Learning and Innovation, Yonkers, New York, United States of America

(Training session with Dr Sandra Bloom on 13 December 2011)

Training session with a variety of groups from across eastern states of the United States focused on the seven Sanctuary commitments, with the session I participated in dealing primarily with attachment. Dr Bloom stated that the core understanding of care is lodged in the brain in a non-verbal way and that trauma disrupts attachment. Consequently children with disrupted attachment issues will repeatedly test and test again the attachments that they have made, even if tenuous. Dr bloom stated that it only took about five generations to create a multiple personality condition.

Repeatedly Dr Bloom referred to the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACE study). This Ace Study was conducted in 1998 and involved approximately 18,000 people. It involved sampling and utilising using the data provided by a major private health insurance company. The Kaiser HMO data had extra status as it is one of the oldest HMO's in the USA. The study found that the higher the ACE score the more likely the person had co-morbidities and other adverse characteristics. More detailed analysis and peer reviews of the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study would be useful.
A Clinical Perspective: Andrus Centre for Learning and Innovation, Yonkers, New York, United States of America

(Meeting with Siobhan Masterson and Sandra Vilar on 13 December 2011)

The focus of much of the intervention at Andrus is on individual education plans. The funding to support these plans comes from the school districts that refer the children and requires at least a year long commitment to be effective. The cost to implement such education plans for a child is usually about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum. It is an interventionist program and one of the greatest risks for the children is for them to merely be provided with supportive counselling.

From a treatment perspective much of the intervention is trauma focused cognitive behaviour therapy. Most of the teachers involved in the program are Special Education trained and are familiar with implementing aspects of cognitive behaviour therapy. However, the school also provides group therapy classes for children.

The clinicians suggested that many of the children at Andrus arrive with brains that aren’t ready to learn. Therefore, much of the early treatment involves teaching “mindfulness” to these children. The responses are balanced in terms of providing self care for staff but this occurs in a context of behavioural plans for students. For difficult cases there is detailed affect regulation in the plan, which might involve something as simplistic as a swing for the child to regulate their actions.

The clinicians utilise animal assisted therapy and exposure therapy. The former would involve a tongue test for cortisol and then allowing the child to play with an animal and subsequent testing.

Unfortunately because of management and funding constraints the Andrus Children’s Centre and Andrus Centre for Learning and Innovation only goes up to 9th Grade. When unpacking the Managed care options at Andrus the clinicians said that the children who struggle the most in the program are the ones who have the least amount of hope and can’t dream of a future. For example, how many times are everyday young people asked what they want to be when they grow up? Sadly, for many of the children at Andrus there will never be any imaginative play.
New York Centre for Children, New York, United States of America

(Meeting with CEO Ed Greenbank and Psychiatrist Dr Katherine Grim on 14 December 2011)

Dr Christine Kemp discussed the text dealing with “the world of abnormal learning”. The New York Centre for Children focuses on early intervention and prevention. The team asserted that early intervention and prevention are best practice. Consequently most of the programs they run start with the children, e.g. “Healthy Families America”, which also has a group therapy element; and the “Nurse Family Partnership” which works with teens. One of the indicators of a child’s social resilience is his or her ability to obtain friends.

The New York Centre for Children relies on statistical analysis and by assessing the risk factors the children they work with will encounter. However, the team also stated that a community champion is needed to run such programs.

The New York Centre for Children also provides an educational program for children, e.g. good touch, bad touch, uncomfortable touch. The workforce at the centre is made up of social workers and medicos, (including doctors and nurses). The Centre has a low turnover of social workers and they have put this down to a strong professional development program and peer review and support. The New York Centre for Children also has a commitment to bringing on and mentoring psychology and social work interns. These interns are not paid but often end up in paid work at the Centre. The Team referred to a New Zealand case study which found that 16% of similar children had been abused and then had intensive psychiatric study and follow up. These results should be combined with the Adverse Childhood Experience study. Mention was made of the fact that children in care tend to go bad, especially after they turn 18, at the time when they are actually cut loose from the care system.

The New York Centre for Children also provides a service where children in care have group therapy. This is geared towards six year olds through to twelve year olds. The program involves these children talking to their peers who have had a similar experience to them. These interventions also provide opportunities for training to be delivered to medical students and new lawyers.

Teachers are now mandated to report the abuse of children to the state authorities in New York. The New York Centre for Children provides training to teaching students about the signs of abuse and protocols to be followed. In fact, the academic schools are almost co-located, such that the Children’s Advocacy Centre and Social Workers and the police and other concerned parties all work together. It
was detailed how the Police who are involved with the care and protection of children focus on prosecution.

There has been a change in approach following some compelling evidence that flowed from some significant child death reviews. Now The New York Centre for Children and other care providers have a particular focus on young pregnancies. This focus on young mums is a comprehensive and holistic approach. An example of this approach and program worthy of more detailed consideration is the “Mothers of Mount Sinai” program. This involves getting jobs for the female participants and helping to build their resilience. Also there is an attempt to engage the fathers and bring them into the young children’s lives.

There is also a program that offers support and counselling for those adults who are the survivors of incest. This is done through group therapy.
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, New York, United States of America

(Meeting with Kendra Gregson, Susan Bissell, Peter Gross and Sandra on 15 December 2011)

The Australian Government provides significant support for UNICEF programmes that work with children who are placed in harms way due to armed conflicts around the world. UNICEF especially targets conflicts that involve child soldiers and works with reuniting them with their families. The UNICEF Child Protection Strategy focuses on the overall system. It was stated that often child deaths and misses come from systems failing to talk to each other eg health, education, justice etc. This is a much more of a meta-analysis focus on the social norms and determinants in a country. Around the globe 140 countries have a child protection program, and UNICEF suggested that there is no “ideal” system but there are “better” systems. And when it comes to children, no child can be protected too much. UNICEF has a mapping tool for child protection systems and 19 countries are currently going through this verification process. And as a sidenote, UNICEF pointed out that the AusAid disability book is actually used throughout the world as a standard for other countries to use in their approaches to disability issues.

UNICEF is considering the funding of the social service workforce plans and models that came out of the international child protection conference that occurred in South Africa in 2010. The conference recommended that nations should particularly consider the role and utilisation of the expertise of health extension workers.

The development of the Alternative Care Guidelines is progressing well and this process was lead by Brazil. However, it is significant to note that the Child Protection Framework specifically excludes the children of refugees. This omission is problematic in many countries and it is hoped that it could be addressed in future global strategies. Committee on the Rights of the Child provides further comment on countries and how they approach child protection and what initiatives they are developing. This should be compared and contrasted with the Harvard model that outlines “the cost of inaction”.

Graham Perrett MP

New York State Social Work Education Consortium, New York, United States of America
(Meeting with Mary McCarthy on 15 December 2011)

There are 17 accredited social work programs available to social work students in New York. The training provided by the consortia in New York is funded with federal dollars, and part of the national move towards safety. The New York State Social Work Education Consortium provides short-term and long-term training for students, including the Bachelor of Social Work and the Masters of Social Work. However, child welfare generally is also provided with state funding. However, it is the implementation of national law (the Child Abuse and Neglect Act) that is actually implemented by the state of New York. Furthermore, there are also 13 county level implementation systems. New York State has 57 counties and New York City has five boroughs.

Incidentally, and consequently there are 58 union negotiated contracts regards the provision of welfare services in the state of New York. In contrast, the states of Kansas and Florida no longer have any state level child protection services. These services are all contracted out to non-government organisations who work under five year contracts. An unfortunate consequence of this is that there is no continuity in the provision of these services. However, New York city has privatised Foster Care.

There are a range of minimum qualifications for social workers across the United States, ranging from a Masters of Social Work through to lower levels such as only a High School Certificate. Only 23 of the states in the USA have unionised Social Worker workforces. This has consequences for the wages and quality of the employees who work in this area. Nevertheless, the Federal Government is committed to capacity building in the Social Worker workforce right across the USA. A report entitled “Fostering connections” considers how the nation is implementing the 2007 recommendations. Overall the New York State Social Work Education Consortium is optimistic about the future direction of Social Work in both New York but has concerns about the patchy nature of the profession across the nation.
New York City Administration for Children’s Services, New York, United States of America
(Meeting with 16 representatives from all Divisions within the Department on 16 December 2011)

The new York City Administration for Children’s Services was created January 10, 1996. Its mission is to ensure the safety and well-being of New York City’s children. On average, ACS investigates more than 60,000 reports of alleged child abuse and neglect each year.

The New York City Administration for Children’s Services Office has an annual budget of $2.8 billion. Children’s Services has around 3000 people in who are employed in the child protection workplace. Furthermore, at the frontline of legal matters Children’s Services have approximately 230 lawyers file around 1000 cases a year. The workforce includes 52 former New York Police Department staff who have brought their investigative skills to the workforce. Many of these former NYPD employees have gone on to obtain Social Work qualifications. This cross-fertilization of skills is something that should be considered in Australian states and territories.

There was much discussion around the table about the way the New York City Administration for Children’s Services Office had changed its approach to putting children at risk into foster care over the last few decades. In the 1990’s Children’s Services Office had approximately 52,000 young people in foster care. This spike in numbers was primarily down to the “crack” epidemic of the late 1980’s and 1990s. However, due to a change in government policies and the prevalence of crack type drugs the number of children at risk who had been placed into foster was now down to around 16,000 children.
Washoe County Department of Social Services – Children’s Services, Reno, Nevada, United States of America

(Meeting with Alice Le Desma and Otto Lynn on 19 December 2011)

Washoe County has approximately 450,000 people living in the county. Because Washoe is a county with more than 100,000 residents the county looks after the child protection system. However, in the State of Nevada there are 14 counties that do not reach this threshold number of residents and therefore there child protection systems are actually run by the state. Interestingly, there are 16 counties in Nevada that have significant child protection workforce issues.

Washoe County addresses serious child protection issues by initially allowing social workers to request a 72 hour emergency care order. However, subsequently, the worker might also request a ten-day care order. All cases start as temporary removals and are reviewed after 12 months.

A significant factor to be considered amongst child protection decision is whether the child or family are American Indians. The Indian Child Welfare Act sits on top of Federal child protection legislation. This must be considered in Washoe as the county contains both Indian reservations and Indian territories. Interestingly, despite the regular and not insignificant care issues, the Washoe Department of Child Safety has no jurisdiction over Indian lands.

The responsibility lies with the Indian tribe who claim the child at risk and his or her family. For example, an Indian tribe from Oklahoma might assert jurisdiction in the matter if the child in question is an enrolled member of the relevant Oklahoma tribe, or is even an eligible member of the tribe. This interplay of cultural sensitivities can have a significant impact on the Child protection activities and framework of the Social Workers at Washoe County. However, I subsequently heard in California that the Washoe County Native American Tribe has a good relationship with child welfare agencies throughout the nation.

Washoe County has 3-4% African American residents. Unfortunately, however, up to 12% of the children in care are African Americans. Some of the Department’s regular contacts with families flow out of methamphetamine use. Unfortunately with methamphetamine children the drug can affect children by the fumes from parental use entering the child’s skin and hair etc. Whilst this is very problematic, other drugs are also at play. Moreover, of late, there has also been a resurgent use in family members taking heroin.
Alcohol abuse is also not insignificant. Sadly Social Workers are now dealing with parents in the County who were Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder children and now have their own offspring. However, because of the physical and mental characteristics of FASD adults, they can not care properly for their own children. This is symptomatic of a common modern phenomenon where families are presenting to the Department with multiple health issues and care concerns.

Washoe County has one emergency shelter that is a type of children’s cottage. This facility provides up to 90-120 day residential care for children who have serious mental health issues. Washoe County has a particularly strong focus on helping sibling groups stay together. In the County foster parent are paid relatively compared to other parts of the USA. The foster parents receive around $40 per child per day. The Washoe County foster parents receive around 27 hours of training before they start caring for children and between 8/12 hours per year of extra training about the issues that can be associated with foster children.

All of the people in Washoe County who work with children are mandated to report all child abuse. In fact, of late, there has much stronger communication between the Social Workers in the Department and the Washoe Education systems. Please note that there is a different approach to Charter schools where educational establishments are state funded but actually operate in a private system.

Like many other facilities and care providers that I met on this study trip, the graduation rates for children in care is very low. This is especially the case in Washoe County for children in care who attend high school. Also noteworthy is that fact that children in care can actually remain under the supervision of Washoe County until after the child turns 18, even right through until the child turns 21 years old.

Sadly, because of the enormous costs associated with healthcare in the United States, it was even suggested that some financially distressed parents might ask for their children to be put into care merely so they can access the healthcare system that the County is obliged to provide.

Washoe County has received funding from the Federal Government of $12 million to do research work into the length of stay that children in foster care currently experience. Currently it is around 17 months in care per child.
San Francisco and Contra Costa County Departments of Social Services, San Francisco, United States of America

(Meeting with seven representatives from all Divisions of both Counties on 21 December 2011)

The state of California is the most populous state and has 58 counties. The San Francisco and Contra Costa Counties are based around the same urban conurbation. Interestingly San Francisco has even fewer children on a per capita basis than the than the borough of Manhattan. This was partially explained by the African American middle class movement from San Francisco towards areas like Contra Costa County.

In both the San Francisco and Contra Costa Counties approximately 95% of the Social Workers have a Masters in Social Work. However, the state of California only requires that 50% of staff have a Social Work degree. This workforce professionalism reflects the focus by the employers on the three pillars:

1. Permanency;
2. Education; and
3. Employment.

It was asserted that Congregate care is the most expensive and usually results in the worst outcome for both the child and the state. The San Francisco and Contra Costa Counties have recently increased their focus on the family. The policy is basically: “Nothing about me, without me”. The workforce also has a much stronger focus on mentoring and engagement rather than classroom training of Social Workers.

There is a bit of a shortage of foster parents in both counties, but particularly San Francisco. A lot of children are now placed out of the county and consequently there is now a strong foster parent recruitment program. San Francisco County utilises the Foster Youth service which works in schools. Also, every community has a Child Abuse Prevention Council which is funded by a Birth Certificate fee. And there is utilization of Health Passports (sounded similar to Queensland model). However, the Californian model involved the provision of health care nurses that entails immunisation and dental programmes.
Before the establishment of the Californian Social Work Education Centre there were 21 universities in California that taught Social Work degrees. There has been a rationalization and harmonization because of the efforts of the Federal government and the Californian Social Work Education Centre’s efforts. Most of the funding for the Centre comes from state, county and federal sources and is directed towards establishing uniform practice and standards across California.

Various workforce strategies have been tried to ensure the various county and state Social Workers staffing levels are maintained. One discussed is where students are given a stipend in return for later providing two years of public sector practice. Overall, at the time of our meeting approximately 6000 people have obtained their Masters of Social Work and gone on to practise in the public sector. The Californian Social Work Education Centre achieves around 300-500 graduates per year out of approximately 1,500 applications for courses and it does this through a competency based curriculum.

There are also five regional training centres throughout California. These courses take at least two years to complete and require the Social Work students to cover 22 agreed content areas. The Federal Government brought changes in national standards by focusing on the improvement of each county and ensuring that all employees were moving towards achieving the required standards in all 22 content areas. Thus the Federal government has a policy development rule and achieves this by providing funding after assessing how all of the states are attaining the levels required. There is a renewed focus on Social Work research, especially on the characteristics of what the ideal Social Worker would have. The Centre has also advocated on behalf of “Fee Release” schemes for Social Work students as a better way to standardise training.
### Detailed Itinerary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 November 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Brisbane to Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 December 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Singapore to London to Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 December 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Service de Protection de Mineurs</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Human Rights Watch</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 December 2011</td>
<td>Train</td>
<td>Geneva to Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 December 2011</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 December 2011</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>Le Défenseur des Enfants (<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children%27s_Ombudsman">Children’s Ombudsman</a>)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>ONED – Observatoire National de l’Enfance en Danger (National Observatory for Children at Risk)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 December 2011</td>
<td>Train</td>
<td>Paris to London</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 December 2011</td>
<td>Rest</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 December 2011</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children</td>
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<td>Ladbroke House</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 December 2011</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>Children’s Services London</td>
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<td>Social Care Institute for Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 December 2011</td>
<td>Rest</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 December 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>London to New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 December 2011</td>
<td>Rest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Location/Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 December 2011</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>Andrus Children's Centre</td>
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<td>Andrus Centre for Learning and Innovation</td>
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<td>Sanctuary Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 December 2011</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>New York Center for Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 December 2011</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>UN Child protection Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 December 2011</td>
<td>Rest</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 December 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 December 2011</td>
<td>Rest</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 December 2011</td>
<td>Flight Meeting</td>
<td>New York to Chicago to Reno</td>
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<td>Washoe County Department of Social Services –</td>
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<td>Children Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 December 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Washoe County – Placer County Health and human</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 December 2011</td>
<td>In transit</td>
<td>Reno to San Francisco</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>Human Services Agency</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>California Social Work Education Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 December 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>San Francisco to Los Angeles to Brisbane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Caseloads

- Caseload sizes including capped caseloads and optimal environments for staff reflection and learning, (as evidenced by the statutory child protection agencies in Geneva, Paris, London, New York and San Francisco) best support Social Workers and the broader child protection workforce.

Professional Capabilities Framework

- A Professional Capabilities Framework that sets out the Social Worker profession’s expectations of what a social worker should be able to do at each stage of their career and professional development is optimal. Such a framework that can be used by and for all social workers, contributes to achieving best practice in Australia.

- A Professional Capabilities Framework provides the context in which the profession exercises judgement about the quality of practice, for individuals, teams and organisations. Such judgements are made in a range of ways: - individual social workers will want to plan their careers and their Continuing Professional Development; teams will be interested in auditing, updating and improving their practice; and organisations operate supervision, appraisal and career progression schemes.

Threshold Standards

- The threshold standards for safe and effective practise describe what Social Workers should know, understand and be able to do when they start practising, and throughout their careers. Such standards of conduct, performance and ethics and the standards of proficiency are able to play a central role in determining a student’s fitness to practice.

- Such threshold standards should apply to all Social Workers in all roles and settings, including independent Social Workers. It helps to shape social work from the point at which an individual applies to a social work qualifying programme, through advanced levels to principal social worker.
Conclusion

- The Australian Government should work strenuously towards achieving national competencies and learning modules for child protection workers. All of the education and training of Social Workers must fit into a qualifications framework and the national child protection framework (as evidenced by the statutory child protection agencies in Geneva, Paris, London, New York and San Francisco).

- There is the strong possibility that the information necessary for the protection of children is not currently being adequately shared between all of Australia’s states and territories. This concern flows particularly from my suspicion that families at risk are more likely to be mobile and will therefore cross state and territory borders. National systems and information sharing would go some way to avoiding children falling between the gaps. The problems associated with information silos was revealed particularly in France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

- In Australia there should be renewed focus on the school to work transition for children in care. All too often young citizens who are at risk are left too much to their own devices when they turn 18 when a guiding hand and support would be in the best interests of the community.
Overseas Study Travel Report

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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Senior Christine Milne
20 December 2011
Purpose of Journey

- To attend and address the GLOBE International Cape Town Legislators’ Forum on December 4th 2011.
# Detailed Itinerary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 December 2011</td>
<td>QF63</td>
<td>Flight - Sydney to Johannesburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 December 2011</td>
<td>SAA365</td>
<td>Flight - Johannesburg to Cape Town</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 December 2011</td>
<td>Address GLOBE International Cape Town Legislators’ Forum</td>
<td>South African Parliament Cape Town</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SAA1869</td>
<td>Flight - Cape Town to Durban</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 December 2011</td>
<td>News radio interview with Steve Chase</td>
<td>Convention Centre Durban - COP17</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 December 2011</td>
<td>Registration process. Scope out the lay of the Convention Centre, location of the Australian delegation office and other delegation offices where meetings will be held. Meeting with Dr. Hermann E. Ott MP Climate Policy Spokesman, Greens in the German Parliament Aus/NZ delegation lunch with Pacific Island delegations Meet Takashi Hongo – Japanese business leader. Meet David Sheppard, Head of SPREP. Meet with Australian NGOs Attend Australian delegation reception</td>
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</table>
6 December 2011

Breakfast with Tokelau delegation and video presentation
Meeting with Greens Members of the European Parliament
Interviews with various Indian media including CNN
Meet with Minister Ville Niinistö, Minister for the Environment in Finland and Head of Finnish Delegation
Meeting with Asa Romson Co-Leader of the Swedish Green Party and Swedish Delegation member.
Meeting with Sunita Narain, Director of the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>6 December 2011</td>
<td>Attend Minister Combet address to the Plenary on behalf of Umbrella group.</td>
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<td>7 December 2011</td>
<td>Breakfast meeting with Green MPs from around the world</td>
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<td>Meet with Mr. Thomas Egebo Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Climate and</td>
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Energy, Denmark
Attend German Environment Minister’s speech and presentation on new German legislative package on Climate Change.

8 December 2011
Interview with Channel 10 - The Project
Interview with Stephen Lacey
Press Conference – Global Greens Parliamentarians
Meeting with Jörg Haas, Director Climate Diplomacy, European Climate Foundation

9 December 2011
Meet with Australian Youth Climate Coalition
Visit the Business Trade Fair and NGO stalls.
Meet with Global NGO’s regarding LULUCF and REDD

10 December 2011
Meetings with Delegation members from various countries regarding the state of the talks
SAA558 Flight - Durban to Johannesburg
QF64 Flight - Johannesburg to Sydney

11 December 2011
Press Conference CPO Sydney
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Key Outcomes of COP17

Whilst the science has never been more conclusive with regard to accelerating climate change and the challenge of constraining global warming to less than 2 degrees, it was obvious listening to the speeches from State Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the UNFCCC that national sovereignty still outweighs global action in the thinking of the developed countries. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the political imperative is way out of kilter with the scientific imperative such that it is likely that we are already too late to stop going beyond tipping points and losing the 2 degree goal.

The small island nations and the least developed countries are suffering considerable climate impacts and are being sidelined in negotiations.

It is clear that with no legal framework in place to 2020, the action required thereafter for a 2 degree limit, will need to be dramatic and the dislocation will be less in those countries that have reduced emissions and begun the transformation to renewable energy. Australia is well placed in that context but needs to stop supporting the efforts of the USA, Canada and New Zealand in undermining good climate outcomes in the negotiations. Domestic action and international engagement are now in conflict.

The changed rules under LULUCF for the Kyoto Protocol which Australia promoted will allow loop holes to be exploited to provide windfall gains against national targets without effort

Meetings with elected representatives from around the GLOBE.

The Forum held by GLOBE in Cape Town was an invaluable opportunity to address more than 60 elected representatives from 15 nations on the Clean Energy Package recently passed in Australia and to hear from them how their own schemes are working including a presentation from British MPs on their Climate Change legislation. This was important because critical components of the Australian package are based on the British structures.

Meeting at which German Environment Minister, Norbert Röttgen outlined Germany’s Legislative Package to achieve 35% renewable energy by 2025.

Minister Norbert Röttgen challenged industrial, developed countries to act credibly in domestic matters if they require countries in the international arena to follow suit. He expressed his conviction that an energy supply based on efficiency and renewables is a: responsible way forward; necessary economic strategy; and demonstration that a major country can decouple from resource destruction. He announced Germany’s intention to, inter alia: phase out nuclear energy by 2022; increase the renewable energy share to 35% by 2020 and 80% by 2025; double the rate of efficiency; make renewable energy sources the pillars of energy supply; facilitate expansion of the current grid with modern grid technologies; and increase energy efficiency for households, working places, and the transport sector. He emphasized the transformation as a development opportunity that will: foster and channel investment; stimulate infrastructure developments; create and maintain employment opportunities; and advance scientific research.

After his speech I met with the Minister and later at other meetings with other German MPs to discuss the legislation that is in place especially that for the grid as that is critical for Australia’s transition to renewable energy as well. The German legislation will be valuable as input to Australia’s implementation of the Clean Energy Package.
Conclusion

Relevance to Parliamentary Responsibilities

As Climate Change spokesperson for The Greens in the federal parliament, the annual Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provide me with an invaluable opportunity to develop networks, assess actions being taken in other countries and access new information about legislative initiatives being taken elsewhere. This trip has strengthened my connections with other Members of Parliament from around the world who are enacting legislation in this field. It will enhance my effectiveness in promoting further action in Australia. It also provides an opportunity to observe Australia’s role in the negotiation process and to communicate that analysis to the Australian community.
Due to the size of this individual study report a number of pages are not included in this Tabling document. A copy of the full report (and any supporting documentation) is available on written request to the Office of the Special Minister of State.
Overseas Study Travel Report

The Hon Gary Gray AO MP
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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon Joe Hockey MP
Shadow Treasurer
Member for North Sydney
Purpose of Journey

In my position as Shadow Treasurer I am responsible for the Coalition’s overarching economic and fiscal policy. While this portfolio demands an acute knowledge and understanding of domestic economic conditions and the policy responses, the portfolio is also heavily dependent upon a thorough understanding of the global economy and international events.

Due to growing economic instability in Europe and North America I decided to visit the United States and Canada to receive up to the minute briefings from economic and political leaders and to study the Canadian and US response to current and past financial challenges. This would assist me to identify aspects of current policy that could best allow Australia to deal with economic challenges now and in the future.

The information gathered in these meetings will be of significant assistance in developing the Coalition’s economic policy in the lead up to the next election.

Specifically the purpose of my journey was:

- To receive expert and up to the minute briefings by senior decision makers regarding the sovereign debt issues faced by both North America and Europe. This will allow me to better understand both the process and the policy responses that may be required in Australia over the coming years.

- To reflect on the Global Financial Crisis, its causes and the regulatory response through meetings with business and political leaders, including leaders of the US and Canadian Governments, International Financial Institutions and business. This will allow me to make an in depth assessment of the North American response to the Global Financial Crisis, and ensure that any Australian response to future financial challenges is based on sound economics and rational decision-making.

- To better understand the US Congressional Budget Office, its purpose, and its capacity to issue forward projections independently of government and Department of Treasury analysis.

- To deliver a keynote address to The Heritage Foundation in Washington DC that outlines my views on the important role played by the free market in ensuring accountability and transparency in government, and its role in poverty alleviation. (Attached)
Detailed Itinerary Schedule

VISIT TO U.S.A. December 2011
OTTAWA - NEW YORK - WASHINGTON DC - LOS ANGELES/ SAN FRANCISCO

Saturday 3rd December
1440(Syd) - 0930(LA)
ACCOMMODATION: Westin Ottawa
VA1 Sydney – Los Angeles

Sunday 4th December
0800-1537
AC 790 Los Angeles – Toronto
1710-1810
AC 460 Toronto – Ottawa

Monday 5th December
ACC 1030
MEETING: Acting Consul General Bruce Soar
1115-1145
MEETING: Minister Jim Flaherty MP, Minister of Finance
1330-1400
MEETING: Governor Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of Canada
1415-1500
QT in Canadian Parliament [Guests of Minister Clement]
1515-1545
MEETING: Minister Tony Clement PC MP, President of the Treasury Board
1805-1928
AC 7734 Ottawa – New York

Tuesday 6th December
0900-1000
MEETING: Ms Mary Kissell + Editorial Board members, Wall Street Journal
10am
MEETING: Terrence J Checki, VP New York Federal Reserve
1300
FINANCIAL SERVICES LUNCH: David McCormick, Co-CEO Bridgewater Assoc
1500
TOUR: New York Stock Exchange
1645
MEETING: James Gorman, CEO & President Morgan Stanley
1930-2130
DINNER: HOSTED by CG Phil Scanlan AM

Wednesday 7th December
ACC
PARK Hyatt (Washington)
0800-0913
US 2165 New York – Washington DC
1130
MEETING: Chairman Hal Rogers & Norm Dicks, House of Rep Committee on Appropriations
1330
MEETING: Charles Collyns, Asst Secretary, International Finance, US Treasury
1500
MEETING: Hon Dr Ben Bernanke (Chairman of Federal Reserve Bank)
1630
ADDRESS: Heritage Foundation - The Heritage Foundation Lehman Auditorium
“The Future of Free Markets, Global Trade and Commerce”
1755
INTERVIEW: for ABC-24 - Heritage Foundation
1900-2130
DINNER: Hosted by HE Kim Beazley AC & Ms Susie Anus

Thursday 8th December
Park Hyatt (Washington)
0800
BREAKFAST MEETING: HE Kim Beazley + Barry Jackson (Speaker Boehner’s COS)
1000
MEETING: Dr Doug Elmendorf (Director, Congressional Budget Office)
1100
MEETING: Representative Paul Ryan, Chair of House Budget Committee
1200-1230
MEETING: Mr Thomas Nides, Deputy Secretary of State
1250
ROUNDTABLE: Peterson Institute, Hosted by Dr Fred Bergsten.
1445
MEETING: Mr Chris Legg, Executive Director IMF
1500
MEETING: David Lipton (First Deputy Managing Dir of IMF)
1730
MEETING: Mr Bob Zoellick, President of the World Bank Group
2030
VISIT: West Wing and Oval Office, White House.

Friday 9th December
Grand Hyatt (San Francisco)
0700-1010
VX 67* Washington DC – San Francisco
1100-1500
TOUR/VISIT/MEETING: Google HQ

Saturday 10th December
1510-1630
VX 932 San Francisco – Los Angeles
2025(LA) - 0625(SYD)
VA 2 Los Angeles – Sydney

Monday 12th December
0625am
Arrival into Sydney International Airport
**Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings**

US Treasury, the US Federal Reserve and most international financial institutions consider their meetings confidential. Their expectation is that no public reference is made to views expressed in them. While I am unable to disclose the content of my individual discussions, I can report on the key themes I found throughout the trip.

In addition to a number of other events, such as boardroom lunches and events hosted by the Embassy, the following is a selection of key people I met with:

- Minister Jim Flaherty MP, Minister for Finance, Canada.
- Minister Tony Clement PC MP, Minister for Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario, President, Treasury Board, Canada.
- Governor Mark Carney, Governor, Bank of Canada.
- The Hon Dr Ben Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, USA.
- Dr Doug Elmendorf, Director, Congressional Budget Office, USA.
- Chairman Paul Ryan, Chairman, House Committee on the Budget, USA.
- Mr Thomas Nides, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, USA.
- Mr Bob Zoellick, President, The World Bank, USA.

The key issues raised in these meetings are as follows:

**European instability**

All meetings shared great concern about recent developments in Europe. While most individuals agreed that European political leaders all shared a common desire for a political agreement, few European leaders were willing to take the measures needed to resolve the crisis.

Going forward, I was told, the major risk to the US financial system and economy was instability in Europe and the possibility of a Eurozone downturn. Most were not willing to speculate about the flow through effects on North America or other regions, other than to say that the possibility of a break-up posed significant risks to Western economies.

**Sovereign Debt**

The trip also gave me opportunities to discuss the impact of sovereign debt. Government debt is borrowing from future generations to fund today’s quality of life. All individuals agreed that the size of the US budget deficit and accumulated borrowings left the US in a weaker position to approach future challenges in the world economy, and underscored the need for strict fiscal commitments and plans to be made over the medium term to rein in government spending and reduce the size of the deficit and debt.
Conclusion

There are three key lessons I took away from my trip to the United States and Canada.

Lesson 1: The danger of excessive government debt and the importance of firm fiscal commitments

The debate occurring in the US regarding the budget deficit and the size of the federal debt ceiling is a lesson to all countries that governments must live within their means. This underscores the importance of firm medium term fiscal commitments such as a bi-partisan commitment to spending restraint, deficit reduction and control of government net debt.

While my meetings noted that there was broad bipartisan commitment in the US to reducing the deficit and eliminating the need to increase the debt ceiling, often the commitment was tested when programs were to be discontinued or reduced in size. This underscores the need for government to show restraint in good times and to avoid spending beyond their means. There are strong lessons in this for Australia. Similarly, as it is almost impossible to gauge or predict the flow on effects of European instability on the global economy, it underscores the need for governments to be in a position of strength, rather than weakness, so as to be best prepared if a crisis should arise.

Lesson 2: The limited power of fiscal stimulus

While many are quick to hail the ‘success’ of fiscal stimulus in Australia, the lessons from the US and Canada have been that fiscal stimulus has been of limited effectiveness. The US economy remains anaemic; their unemployment rate is nearly double that of Australia’s, their consumer sentiment is weak, and their financial institutions are yet to fully recover from their 2008 shocks. Furthermore, the US finds itself in a situation where they will need significant spending cuts in order to stabilise their fiscal position.

Lesson 3: The importance of sound prudential regulation and the risk associated with inopportune government intervention

Where appropriate, regulation and policy should ensure full accountability and full responsibility for risk taking rather than the opposite. Properly regulated markets should avoid “moral hazard” and should not be able to rely on government underwriting risk takers without cost or consequence.

Government must be careful not to underwrite proper commercial risk, as governments did during the financial crisis. Therefore, our challenge, as legislators, is to refocus our financial systems back onto the tried and true commercial principles of risk and reward. This may involve the acceptance that, occasionally, financial institutions can fail and the reality that from time to time they must fail. The challenge is to ensure that individual failures do not lead to systemic risk and it is here the conundrum lies.
MR SHAYNE NEUMANN MP

United States of America
6 – 22 December 2011
Overseas Study Travel Report

17 January 2011

The Hon Gary Gray MP
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 study travel to the United States of America (USA).

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 note that this statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

SHAYNE NEUMANN MP
Purpose of Journey

Australia is in the midst of major change in the areas of health, mental health, aged care and indigenous affairs. The purpose of the Overseas Study Tour to New York and Washington in the USA was designed to increase my knowledge and understanding of practises in the fields of Indigenous language and culture, aged care, disability care and palliative care.

As Chair of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Caucus Committee on Social Policy and as Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the study trip proved to be helpful, informative and interesting.

Detailed Itinerary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th December, 2011</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Brisbane to Los Angeles</td>
<td>QF 15 (1140 hrs) departs Australia Brisbane Int’l Airport</td>
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<td>6th December, 2011</td>
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<td>Los Angeles to New York</td>
<td>QF 107 (1705 hrs) arrives in New York Int’l Airport</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th December, 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Teen Screen - National Centre for Mental Health Checkups</td>
<td>Suite 610, 3 Columbus Circle, New York</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms Laurie Flynn, Executive Director</td>
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<td>Ms Leslie McGuire, Deputy Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th December, 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Kognito Interactive</td>
<td>10th Floor, 130 West 25th Street, New York</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ron Goldman, Chief Executive Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th December, 2011</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>The Centre for Policy, Advocacy and Education; the Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of New York</td>
<td>19th Floor, 50 Broadway, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kimberley Williams, Director</td>
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<td>Lisa Furst, Director of Public Education</td>
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<td>Greg Holzheimer, Program Assistant</td>
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| 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 | Meeting | United Nations Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Affairs  
34<sup>th</sup> Floor Australian Consulate General; 150 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York  
• Ms Sonia Smallacombe, Social Affairs Officer  
New York City Department for Aging  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2 Lafayette Street New York  
• Gabriel Oberfield, Chief of Staff |
| 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 | Meeting | Smithsonian Institution - National Museum of the American Indian and American Indian Community House  
1 Bowling Green, New York  
• Mr John Haworth, Director, George Gustav Heye Centre |
| 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 | Flight  | New York to Washington  
• American Airlines 4454 (1429 hrs) departs New York Int’l Airport  
• AA 4454 (1455 hrs) arrives in Washington Ronald Reagan National Airport DC |
| 15<sup>th</sup> December   | Meeting | Senate Special Committee on Aging  
300 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington  
• Senator Herb Kohl, Chairman  
• Dr Debra B Whitman, Staff Director, Special Committee on Aging  
• Philip Kasting, Chief of Staff, Senator Kohl  
House Natural Resources Indian and Alaskan Native Affairs Subcommittee  
2447 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington  
• US Congressman Dan Boren, Ranking Democratic Member  
• Hilary Moffett, Legislative Director, Congressman Boren |
|               | Meeting | White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation  
The White House, Washington  
• Mr Jonathan Greenblatt, Special Assistant to the President and Director  
House Natural Resources Indian and Alaska Affairs Subcommittee  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington  
• Congressman Don Young, Chairman |
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>16th December 2011</strong></td>
<td><strong>Department of Health and Human Services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200 Independence Ave, Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mr Christopher Carroll, Special Advisor to the Director, Substance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Abuse and Mental health Services Administration</td>
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<td>• Mr Robert Hornyak, Acting Director, Centre for Policy, planning and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Evaluation, Administration on Aging</td>
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<td>• Ms Marla I. Bush, International Coordinator, Administration on Aging</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>National Council on Disability</strong></td>
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<td>1331 F Street, Washington</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Mr Aaron Bishop, Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Senate Indian Affairs Committee</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>838 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Ms Loretta Tuell, Staff Director and Chief Counsel,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senator Daniel Akaka (Chair)</td>
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<td><strong>Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>420 Canon House Office Building, Washington</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Ms Monica Volante, Legislative Director,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Congressman Joseph Pitts (Chair)</td>
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<td><strong>19th December 2011</strong></td>
<td><strong>House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>237 Canon House Office Building, Washington</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Dr Rachelle Pierre-Mathieu, Legislative Health Fellow, Congressman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Frank Pallone Jr (Ranking Democratic Member)</td>
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<td><strong>Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Embassy of Australia</strong></td>
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<td>1601 Massachusetts Ave, Washington</td>
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<td>• Ambassador Kim Beazley</td>
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<td>Tuesday 20th December 2011</td>
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<td>Thursday 22 December 2011</td>
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Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

New York

Teen Screen – National Centre for Mental Health Checkups

This Columbia University programme involves mental health screening for high school and other students and has been adopted in the USA and elsewhere. Currently there are about 1500 sites in almost 50 US States in school and community screening sites. The programme purpose is to screen by questionnaire the mental health and suicide risk of young people. An implementation manual, programme development guide and screening training are provided for those institutions which use the programme. The programme is voluntary and requires parental and participant consent. The screening can lead to clinical interviews and referrals and case management after parental notification of results are given. Successful screening has led to early diagnosis, treatment and help for many troubled young people.

Australia has no similar screening programme and could adopt this programme.

The Geriatric Mental Health Alliance New York

While Australia has peak bodies dealing with aged care and mental health issues, it has nothing akin to the Alliance. The Alliance advocates and agitates on behalf of service providers and others to government and seeks to promote improved geriatric mental health in New York.

The Alliance has been successful with obtaining demonstration grants for $2 million (US) programmes, ensuring the passage of the State Geriatric Mental Health Act and an Interagency Council on issues affecting the City and State. The Alliance develops policy proposals and assists in research, training and technical support and raising public awareness on these matters. Discussion took place in relation to the current state of play in the American polity and particularly in New York also.

Australia could benefit from a similar advocacy body outside of government and so well organised.

Kognito Interactive (Kognito)

By use of an avatar-based simulations and games, it is possible to help families and individuals cope in crisis situations such as relationship breakdown, injury, illness or trauma or even the return of a veteran from a war setting. A demonstration of the veteran family simulation showed the benefit of how to relate to a returned veteran in a family context when the individual was suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.

Kognito is a 25 employee company in lower Manhattan. Its licence for the veteran avatar simulation has been purchased by the US Veterans Administration (VA). In approximately 3 years of operation, nearly 125 Colleges and other educational institutions in the USA have purchased the licence for avatar simulations appropriate to their constituencies. As at 11th November 2011 nearly 56,000 people in the USA have used the simulation.

In Australia, Deakin and Curtin Universities are using Kognito with a focus on the mental health issues of tertiary students particularly in the areas of suicidal ideation and depressive illness. The simulations are accompanied by training and feedback for educators, faculty members and students and officers of the VA.
Australia could benefit from these researched based games and simulations and the virtual role-play conversations.

*United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Persons*

Based in New York, the Permanent Forum plays a role in ensuring the voices of Indigenous Peoples (hitherto marginalised) are heard in discussions and in decision making in the United Nations (UN) and elsewhere. In 2014, the World Conference on Indigenous Issues will be held and the Permanent Forum will be instrumental in its preparation.

Australia is a signatory to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. The meeting in the Australian Consulate in New York focussed on Australia’s role in the UN and how the nation is perceived in light of “the Close the Gap” Strategy and the Northern Territory Intervention.

*New York City Department for the Aging*

With a budget of $300 million (US), the Department is the largest single organisation “at the coalface” of any in the USA operating in respect of the Older Americans Act (the OAA). The Department runs a variety of programmes including its successful Seniors Centres, HomeCare, Home Delivered Meals, transport and legal services, elder abuse advice, case management assistance to help with daily needs and many other programmes.

An overview of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid funding pressures was given. The Department has an increased focus on preventative health and what it calls “wellness” matters. A Wellness Coordinator partners with projects to ensure quality of life issues are not forgotten. With Constitutional and litigious uncertainty surrounding the Obama Administration’s Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Department is looking at ways to engage with private health insurance companies to seek funding to promote “wellness” and some embryonic funding and contacts have been made.

The Department has engaged with the public and the City Council and State on recreational, amenities and infrastructure issues. As New York ages demographically emphasis has been placed on what have come to be called Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs). Specific programmes have been designed and these NORCS engaged in the coordination of services in these communities. Some federal governmental grants have been made for these programmes.

*National Museum of Native Americans*

This Museum highlights the history, achievements and difficulties of the Native people of both North and South America. Discussions with the Director of the Museum revealed the upside and downside of the Gaming legislation concerning Reservations in the USA on which many Native Americans live in the western states. Gaming has brought wealth and economic development but has seen the rise of social diseases such as alcohol and drug abuse. Family dysfunctionality and violence are increasing concerns also. Efforts at cultural and language preservation have been episodic and under funded with poor outcomes in terms of schooling and health common as well on Reservations.
Washington

In Washington the focus was on meeting and discussions with Senators and Congressmen (and their staffs) with similar Committee responsibilities and with Department Officials in the areas of Human Services and Health and Indigenous Affairs. All the meetings, arranged by the Australian Embassy, were attended by Elizabeth Willis Congressional Liaison Officer from the Embassy.

Senate Special Committee on Aging

Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wisconsin) Chairman and Staff Director Debra Whitman attended this meeting which focussed on the role and function of the Committee and its present agenda. Currently the Committee is working on: consumer protection for Older Americans, better systems of care, improved surveillance of medical devices, strengthening care for people suffering from dementia and other matters. Discussions ranged from the ACA and the OAA and the future direction of legislation and policy in the USA together with comparisons and contrasts with Australia.

House Subcommittee Natural Resources Indian and Alaska Native Affairs

This meeting with ranking Democrat Congressman from Oklahoma Dan Boren involved detailed discussions relating to Casino Gaming on Reservations and the pros and cons of the same. Gaming has led to higher incomes and more self sufficiency including better schools and health facilities under the auspices of the Indian Gaming Regulatory legislation which has governed these matters for 20 years now.

The Department of the Interior has ownership of Indian issues and in it can be found the Bureau of Indian Affairs. There is pressure from Native Americans for a stand alone Department and for a House Committee and not just a Subcommittee to deal with Native American Issues.

In respect of reservation rights there is a continuing problem of tribal recognition and ongoing areas of disadvantage. The small population of Native Americans outside of Alaska and Hawaii has meant there is little political will to address these issues currently in the USA. The voice of Native Americans continues to be overshadowed by African American and Hispanic communities.

Comparisons and contrasts with Australia were made.

White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation

This meeting with Director Jonathan Greenblatt concentrated on this new Office. The Director was appointed by President Obama who has taken a deep, personal interest in these issues. The Office aims to assist in identifying local problems and help with local solutions by elevating and leveraging partnerships with funding.

Social innovation is seen as a means to an end – to expand opportunities and cross sector collaboration between the profit and not for profit sectors. The latter sector alone is worth $800 billion (US) and has over 2 million organisations in it. The Office uses 2 levers:

- Human Capital
- Financial Capital

It partners with organisations such as “Teachers for America” and “Habitat for Humanity” and seeks to fund those and other organisations with proven evidenced based results. Funds are matched by private capital. This is done through “Social Innovation Funds”.
House Subcommittee Natural Resources Indian and Alaska Native Affairs
This meeting was with Congressman Don Young (R-Alaska) the Chairman of the Subcommittee and focussed mainly on his main interest Alaskan Native affairs. In Alaska of a population of 710,000 about 275,000 are Native Alaskans. These people suffer from chronic disadvantage in areas such as schooling, health and employment and suffer from substance abuse difficulties.

Other issues discussed included issues of ownership of land, mineral entitlements, timber harvesting rights and service delivery problems. Discussions took place in respect of steps taken to improve local empowerment and decision making.

This meeting was with Senator Bernie Sanders Chairman who is an Independent Senator from Vermont. Also present was the subcommittee’s Staff Director, Ashley Cason Cottingham.
Senator Sanders has been a champion of an Australian style Medicare system for the USA. Presently Medicare covers only seniors and Medicaid the poor with tens of millions left without adequate health insurance unless they are the fortunate few to have it as part of their employment package or can afford private health insurance. The ACA seeks in part to remedy this situation.

The Senator has been a long standing advocate for the USA to look to Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada to reform its health and hospital systems. He was very interested in what Australia is doing in these areas and discussions took place in relation to his recent reports on “Senior Hunger – The Human Toll and Budget Consequences” and “Is Poverty a Death Sentence? – The Human Cost of Socio-Economic Disparities”. A long conversation took place in relation to the ACA and the OAA.

Department of Health and Human Services
This meeting was with Christopher Carroll Special Advisor to the Director , Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Robert Hornyak Acting Director, Centre for Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Administration on Aging and Marla Bush, International Coordinator Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services.

A wide ranging discussion occurred in relation to the current states of the health and aging systems in the USA. There is a new emphasis on what has been dubbed “the no wrong door” approach – with a single point of entry via the Aging and Disability Resource Centres, which is a fairly recent innovation in the USA. There are about 380 of them nationally. They act as one stop shops, not dissimilar to the Gateway approach recently recommended by the Productivity Commission to the Australian Government in respect of aged care reform in Australia.

Accompanying the Resource Centres are an Aging Network of 56 state and territory units on aging and 629 area agencies which work with Senior Centres. The new system is locally driven with great emphasis on local planning re poverty, transport, amenities and community needs assessment. More emphasis has been placed on NORCs and “aging in place”.

SAMHSA funds demonstration grants to local organisations with evidenced based practices and outcomes. The problems of Native Americans re alcohol, smoking and other substance abuse issues were discussed. The challenges of aged care for people with ESL difficulties, those living in regional and remote areas and the gay and lesbian communities were discussed also.

The Department was proud of the success of its “wrap around” services particularly for seniors. E Health and TeleHealth remain variable and under funded. There is no national will to federalise these matters.
National Council on Disability (NCD)
This meeting was with Aaron Bishop the Executive Director, who has lived and worked in Australia before and in very familiar with the country. The NCD is an independent federal agency whose part time members are Presidential appointments but Senate conformational. The NCD has 12 staff members. It publishes reports on disability related issues eg housing, employment and education. It operates under the American with Disabilities Act 20 year old piece of legislation with a long gestation period.

There is no single system re disabilities in the USA. The systems are fragmented, complex and vary from State to State and place to place. While some people are fortunate enough to be “dual eligible” for both Medicare and Medicaid ,the vast majority of Americans have little or inadequate health insurance, disability support and/ or social security.

The unemployment rate for the USA is about 8.5% but for those with significant disability it is over 20% and for people with profound disability it is over 50%. The NCA is doing research into recent judicial decision making in family law parenting cases which preliminary findings show discrimination against those parties to custody disputes suffering from disability.

Senate Indian Affairs Committee
This meeting was with Staff Director Loretta Tuell from the Office of Senator Daniel Alaka (D-Hawaii). Unlike the House of Representatives (USA) where Native American issues are dealt with at a Subcommittee level, in the US Senate they are dealt with at the Committee level.

The particular focus of this meeting was on Hawaiian Natives and their status and condition. It was reported that they suffer from the same areas of socio-economic disadvantage as others in Alaska and on the mainland. Discussions took place re the current work of the Committee particularly in relation to the preservation of languages, culture and customs, discrimination against indigenous women, youth issues and the gaming self reliance of Native Americans on Reservations.

House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health
This meeting was with Monica Volente the Legislative Director in the Office of Congressman Joe Pitts (R- New Jersey) Chairman of the Subcommittee. The main focus of this meeting was on the ACA and the issue of “individual mandate” in relation to health insurance. The constitutional question the US Supreme Court will have to decide is: “can a person be compelled to take out health insurance?” The Republican Party argues “no”. The Republicans argue for “Health Savings Accounts” and Congressman Pitts is a strong advocate for the same. They would operate as follows: a person would contribute a pre tax minimum amount say $5000. Then when he or she claimed on his or her private health insurance plan the insurer would be required to pay 100% of the claim.

The Congressman supports what is described as “medical liability reform” to limit payouts on personal injury claims and is leading the charge on ending what is described as “ the waste, fraud and abuse” in Medicare and Medicaid which are alleged to be going “bankrupt”.

A separate meeting was held with Rachelle Pierre-Mathieu, MD, MPP, Health Fellow in the Office of Congressman Frank Pallone Jr. (D-New Jersey). This meeting concentrated on the ACA and attempts made by the Obama Administration and the Democrats to fix health in the USA.
Ambassador Kim Beazley

This meeting in the Australian Embassy concerned the Ambassador perspective of where the Americans were at on the issues the purpose of the Overseas Study Trip and ranged across the current state of relations between Australia and the USA and future prospects.

Department of Health and Human Services

Meeting with Peter Kemper, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Disability and Aging, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation and Kirsten Beronio, Acting Division Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services. This meeting involved a detailed discussion on Medicaid, Medicare, aged care, mental health and disability issues in the USA in the context of the ACA and the OAA.

For the first time in US history health insurance coverage must have a “mandated parity” between mental health and physical health matters. Discussion occurred re some of the most successful programmes such as “The Peer Support Programme” which is a personal carer and mentors programme funded jointly by federal and state governments.

Particular emphasis is now being placed on “Participant Directed Services” where a participant in a program “self directs”, ie. he or she becomes their own care manager. They can hire their own personal carer paid by say Medicaid. This is subject to an assessment of need and level of support required and with the safeguard of no conflict of interest in the provision of care. In the USA this is seen as an important “consumer directed” reform.

Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, National Science Foundation.

This meeting was with Dr Joan Maling Program Director for Linguistics focussed on language documentation, preservation and digitization.

Documenting Endangered Languages Grants and Fellowships (DEL) are funded in partnership with the National Endowment for Humanities. One DEL concerns Australian linguistic prehistory.

The challenges in the USA in relation to the preservation of indigenous languages are similar to those in Australia – under funded and largely forgotten until recently. Dr Maling made plain that it should not be a choice between English and an indigenous language but both as in human history bilingualism was common. She explained that it is very important to educate a child in his or her native language until about 7-8 years of age with ESL training also. She said the issue of creole was a controversial one and she offered no firm opinion re preservation and importance.

The University of Arizona and the University of Hawaii are leaders in the field language preservation but few institutions placed much importance on it. She said the preservation of indigenous languages is crucial for ethno botany, for the benefit of indigenous peoples themselves and for society in general.

In the USA there are problems re interpretation because of the paucity of native speakers and the variability of local enthusiasm. She said there are other questions also. Such as: when is it realistic to try and preserve? When is a language too far gone?
Conclusion

The meetings held in New York and Washington highlighted the similarities and contrasts between the two nations in relation to Indigenous language and culture; aged care; disability care; and palliative care.

The meetings helped define for me the benefits of the Federal Labor Government’s overall strategies in these areas and how far along the reform road Australia has reached in comparison with our American friends. Yet there were useful discussions with US Government counterparts, both Democrat and Republican, and some specific programmes developed in the USA which can and would assist Australia if implemented here. Specifically I am interested in the Kognito simulation programs, adolescent mental health screening, the use of “wellness” preventative health and aged care strategies, the NORCs approach and consumer driver support to assist in improved quality of care choices for seniors.
Senator Louise Pratt

Overseas Study Travel Report

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 study travel.

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 the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Louise Pratt
20/12/2011
Purpose of Journey

Pacific Legislatures Hearing on HIV and ICT

This was a special Hearing convened by the Regional Secretariat of the Pacific Legislatures for Population and Governance (PLPG) as part of its work plan for 2011.

The Hearing was conducted with the support of the HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infection Section, Public Health Division as well as the Pacific Information Communications Technology Outreach Programme, Economic Development Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and focuses on two distinct components – The fight against HIV and use of ICT as a key tool for sustainable development. The Hearing brought together parliamentarians who are currently serving or intending to serve as Champions in a) advocacy for the prevention of HIV or b) promoting ICT as a tool for development.

The Australian Parliament was invited to send one delegate and lead the panel discussion on “Taking Action against HIV & AIDS: What can Parliamentarians Do?”

As a member of the Parliamentary Group for Population and Development and the Chair of the Parliamentary Group for HIV/AIDS Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmitted Infections the invitation was passed on to me. I also sit on the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmitted Infections.

While the Secretariat covered costs for Pacific nations, Australian and New Zealand Parliaments were expected to meet their own costs, hence the application for funds under the parliamentary travel entitlement.
### Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<td>Flight</td>
<td>Sydney to Auckland Air New Zealand Flight 102</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 December 2011</td>
<td><strong>Event</strong></td>
<td>Pacific Legislatures Hearing on HIV</td>
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<td><strong>Welcome:</strong> Hon. Tutai Tura, Chair</td>
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<td><strong>Overview:</strong> Tangata Vainerere, PLPG</td>
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<td><strong>The Basic Facts on HIV</strong></td>
<td>- Dr Sophaganine Ty Ali (Nin), STI and Counselling Adviser, SPC HIV/STI Section</td>
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<td><strong>International &amp; Regional Obligations &amp; Commitments</strong></td>
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<td>• Pacific Parliamentarians Framework for Action on HIV</td>
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<td><strong>Taking Action against HIV &amp; AIDS: What can Parliamentarians Do? Panelists:</strong> NZ and Australia Delegates</td>
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<td><strong>Taking Action against HIV &amp; AIDS - Opportunities for Action at National/Local Level (contd)</strong></td>
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14 December 2011

Event
Prayer

Welcome: Hon. Tutai Tura, Chair
Overview: Siaosi Sovaleni, SPC
Launch of PLPG Website: PLPG Chair

EU ACP Project for Pacific ACP Parliaments
- Background & Update
  - Siaosi Sovaleni, SPC
- Reflections + Open Questions and Answers

ICT in Parliament
- Siaosi Sovaleni, SPC
Reflections + Open Questions and Answers
Morning Tea

Internet
- Keith Davidson, Internet NZ
- Reflections + Open Questions and Answers

Cyber Safety and Security
- Martin Cocker, NetSafe Inc
- Reflections + Open Questions and Answers
Lunch

Accessible ICT – Access for People with Disability
- Gunela Astbrink, ISOC Australia
- Reflections + Open Questions and Answers

ICT for Development
- Siaosi Sovaleni, SPC
- Reflections + Open Questions and Answers
Afternoon Tea

Capacity Building
- Tanielu Aiafi, SPC
- Reflections + Open Questions and Answers

Emerging Issues
1. Social Networking
2. Cyber Legislation
   - Reflections + Open Questions and Answers
   - Siaosi Sovaleni, SPC
- Closing Cocktail
- Debrief + Farewell
Closing Statement by the Chair

15 December 2011

Event
Prayer

Welcome: Hon. Tutai Tura, Chair
Recap: Tangata Vainerere & Siaosi Sovaleni
Presentations + Discussions:
• HIV Champions Advocacy Work Plan for 2012-13
• ICT Framework for Parliamentarians
  Morning Tea
Presentation and Discussion:
  1. Outcomes Statement
Adoption of Outcomes Document
Close.
Lunch
Shooting of HIV Champions TV Ad

15 December 2011

Flight

Auckland to Sydney
Air New Zealand
Flight 105
Sydney to Perth
QF583

Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

The hearing discussed and exchanged ideas on how Pacific legislators can lay a leadership role in addressing HIV.

It also examined ICT access issues and means of engaging, empowering and supporting Pacific legislators in successful ICT-related interventions and key ICT legislative issues. There are significant development issues for Pacific nations – who need to better harness the opportunities that ICT brings.

The results of the three day Hearings included:

- the adoption of a Work Plan for Pacific Legislators on advocacy for effective response to STIs and the HIV epidemic in for the period 2012/2013;

- the adoption of a Framework of Action for Pacific legislators on ICT-related interventions;

- and a 30-seconds Television Advertisement for Pacific legislators on HIV prevention – which I participated in filming.
Conclusion

Australia has a well developed response to HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections – Australian Parliamentarians have, for a long period of time, had the opportunity to engage in these issues and be part of providing leadership for an effective response.

Pacific Legislators are often challenged in their ability to tackle these issues by virtue of a lack of knowledge about STIs and HIV and the stigma associated with the public and community discussion of these issues.

As Chair of the Parliamentary Group for HIV/AIDS, BBVs and STIs I was honoured to a panel discussion and play a leadership role at the hearing demonstrating to Parliamentarians from the region what action can be taken at a parliamentary level to help address BBVs and STIs in the community.

I was able to assist the hearing in bringing together a plan of action for Pacific Legislators.

The plan includes:

- A campaign to improve the knowledge on STI/HIV by providing training to the target groups.

- A Parliamentary consultation with Civil Society Organisations, Faith Based Organisation, health and other work force on STI/HIV implement activities in Pacific countries

- Support for a targeted campaign to prevent gender based violence and sexual violence inviting all Pacific Parliamentarians and community leaders to swear the white ribbon day oath.

Through the Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and the Parliamentary Liaison Group on HIV/AIDS Blood Borne Viruses and STIs I look forward to following up with the Regional Secretariat of the Pacific Legislatures for Population and Governance on the implementation of this plan and undertaking further work with Pacific Parliamentary colleagues to address STIs in the region.

I also look forward to reporting back to the Australian Parliamentary Group for Population and Development.