PARLIAMENTARIANS’ OVERSEAS STUDY TRAVEL REPORTS

JANUARY TO JUNE 2009

NOVEMBER 2009
PARLIAMENTARIANS’ OVERSEA STUDY TRAVEL REPORTS
1 January to 30 June 2009

Background

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

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

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

Supporting Information

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

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

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THE HON PETER COSTELLO

United States of America
9 – 18 January 2009
20 January 2009

Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Special Minister of State
Cabinet Secretary
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006-18 I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey.

i. The purpose of my visit was to attend and participate in the Australian American West Coast Leadership Dialogue at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. I did not draw down on entitlement for flights from Australia to San Francisco and return but only in relation to the costs for transport, sustenance and accommodation inside the United States. I arrived at Palo Alto on 13 January 2009 and left, at the conclusion of the Dialogue on 16 January 2009.

ii. The Australian American Dialogue has been operating for more than a decade and the West Coast Leadership Dialogue has now been operating for around three years. The Dialogue brings together people from Government, Opposition, the private sector and academia from both the United States and Australia. It aims to develop understanding between the two countries and strengthen the bilateral relationship. This event was bipartisan and was attended by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, as well as Shadow Ministers from the Liberal Party.

Private sector participants from the American side included the CEO of eBay, John Donahoe, the CEO of Hewlett Packard, Mark Hurd, and representatives of Chevron. The academics from the American side included the Dean of the Graduate School of Harvard, Bob Jose, and directors of the Foreign Policy Graduate School.

Key meetings included Larry Smarr from the Californian Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2) in relation to carbon emissions attributable to digital infrastructure. This involved assessments of the contributions that digital infrastructure will make to carbon emissions both in construction and use and the contribution it can make in reducing carbon emissions. Other key meetings involved discussions on regional architecture in the Asia-Pacific with Donald Emmerson, Dan Sneider and Don Keyser, the
first two being fellows and directors for research in the Asia Pacific Centre at Stanford University and the latter formerly Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific. Discussions in these meetings focussed on the political situation in ASEAN, the North Korea nuclear program, the likely approach of the Obama administration to regional terrorism and trade matters.

Further key meetings concerned the financial instability and economic downturn in the United States and included Darrell Duffie a Director of Moodys, the ratings agency, which has been involved in rating Collaterised Debt Obligations (CDO’s) many of which have subsequently failed and caused enormous loss to financial institutions.

Further key meetings included Bill Perry, Former US Secretary of Defence in relation to nuclear weapons and global policy, the Iranian Nuclear Program and the North Korean Nuclear Program. Meetings also included Chip Blacker, Professor in International Studies at the Freeman Spogli Institute (FSI) at Stanford University. These meetings focussed on foreign policy under the new Obama administration and the challenge of preventing re-Talibanisation in Afghanistan.

In addition there were meetings in relation to water and water policy and the political situation in the United States.

Key outcomes from these meetings included assessments of the likely conduct of US policy under a new administration, comparative policies in relation to water management, Australia’s role in enhanced co-operation throughout the Asia region, and proposals which could be considered by the US to deal with financial instability and the crisis in regulation of bank and investment bank institutions in the United States.

iii. The relevance of participating in and continuing this dialogue is to strengthen our most important security relationship and also to promote trade and economic cooperation with the world’s largest economy. In addition to this by meeting in Silicon Valley we were able to exchange on the contribution which ICT can make to economic development including opportunities there may be for Australia in this area. The discussion of policy in relation to carbon emissions is obviously of importance given the government’s proposed emissions trading scheme and an assessment of the cost in economic terms and environmental terms. Discussions in relation to the challenges of terrorism and nuclear weapons are also of obvious importance to safety and security of Australians and the wider international community.

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

Yours sincerely

PETER COSTELLO
MR JOHN FORREST MP

Thailand
10 – 18 January 2009
Thursday, 5 February 2009

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

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination No. 14 of 2003, I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey to Northern Thailand from 10 – 18 January, 2009.

Confirmation of Purpose:

The purpose of the study tour was to visit the Akha Training Centre at Mae Suai in Northern Thailand. This Centre is operated by an Australian based NGO known as Children of the Golden Triangle (CGT). This organization was first drawn to my attention whilst researching weather modification following published work by Professor Daniel Rosenfeld of Hebrew University, Jerusalem who reported internationally on the impacts that the smoke from deforestation burning activities is having on precipitation outcomes in SE Asia and other parts of the world. Matters relating to this subject have been separately reported to the Parliament by me in 2002 and 2005. Much of this smoke is generated by so called slash and burn, or Swidden farming, and is becoming more and more discredited around the world for many detrimental environmental outcomes.

This then led me to the hill tribe people of the Mekong region who use this farming practice extensively and, in particular to the Akha people, who are one of the many tribes occupying the mountains of the Mekong region. This then led to the situation of the Stateless Akha people of the Mekong hinterland of South East Asia.

Coincidentally, a group of my home town people of Swan Hill were providing volunteer construction activity in Thailand to CGT. This organization is providing educational and accommodation support to orphans and children of the Akha people in Northern Thailand near the border of Myanmar. CGT has established an Akha Training Centre at Mai Suai with the assistance of Australian philanthropic organizations, service clubs from around the world, and Australian churches.

From these contacts, CGT then sought my assistance with difficulties they were having with the establishment of deductible gift recipient status as an overseas aid agency. This was finally gazetted late last year after assistance from the Hon Bob McMullan,
Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance. CGT is very grateful for his assistance after years of frustration securing that status. It was good then, for me to arrange a visit the Centre in Thailand to help them celebrate this milestone and also for me to confirm their credibility and successes for myself. They receive little Government funding for their work and have sought my assistance to change this circumstance. I also attended with Mr Mike Adamson, a former Swan Hill resident, who has been a visiting volunteer to the Centre on several projects over many years.

I was very impressed with the educational outcomes being achieved by CGT who, with very little formal Government sponsored aid assistance, have achieved more to meeting millennium goals (particularly for the unique Akha People) than any other NGO of which I am aware.

The purpose of the visit was to familiarize myself with the work of CGT with the objective to assist them with liaison with Australian Government aid agencies and to gather background to assist with affirmative publicity in Australia to support their fund raising efforts.

A comprehensive report has been prepared and it is my intention to submit this report to the Parliament at an appropriate opportunity as an aid to greater awareness of the plight of the Akha people. The Title of the report is called Hope for the Hope Less and a copy is enclosed for your information.

**Itinerary:**

A copy of my itinerary is also enclosed from my outlook diary incorporating detailed notes of discussions held with various groups.

**Key Meetings and Findings in Thailand**

Meetings consisted mainly of inspections of the infrastructure at the Akha Training Centre in Northern Thailand including visiting the remote Akha villages near the border with Myanmar. Details of these meetings and inspections are covered in the attached report and outlook diary notes.

Opportunity was also taken en route to visit the work of many compassionate Australian organizations in the slum areas of Bangkok. One of these is an organization called Urban Neighbours of Hope managed in Thailand by Mr Ashley Barker. Ash and his wife are both Australians who feel led to this work. Frankly, they deserve some sort of medal. Ash gave a sobering account of the work of his organization in the slum area. Volunteers actually live in the slums and provide compassionate support for a very depressed way of life. Extremely poor health, drugs, AIDS, and the general misery of poverty in shanty shacks of what ever material is available is the rule of the day. Ash lives there also with his wife and young son and has been doing it now for 7 years. The work is undertaken under the auspice of the National Council of the Churches of Christ.

In this particular slum area there are about 80,000 people living over an area of 2Km². It is one of about 1020 such slums across Bangkok totalling about 1 Million people. It is a real fire hazard and horrific fires are regular. The Land is owned by the Port Authority
and there is a sort of defacto right to occupy. Rats are an issue as a carrier and disease is rife. Health issues include denghi fever, malaria, alcoholism, AIDS, TB, typhoid. Violence and criminal activity also increase the mortality rate. Ash mentioned the Thais have a philosophical approach to death. For example the road toll in Thailand is about 85 people per day and not much is done about it. The conditions were absolutely appalling and it seems not much has been learned since the dark ages about basic drainage, sewerage and water supply. Anyone over the age of 55 is extremely old.

Ash advised much of their work at their centre is focused on literacy and numeracy. All volunteers must speak Thai. They have about 70 -80 students enrolled at their small school. The UN has shown a great interest in the growth of slum areas which are growing dramatically all round the world as people from the rural areas come to the big cities looking for a new opportunity. Urban Neighbours of Hope does similar work in Australian Aboriginal communities at Mt Druitt in western Sydney and with Timorese refugees in Melbourne at Springvale, Noble park, and Dandenong.

Opportunity was also taken on the return journey through Bangkok to follow up with freelance journalist Jim Pollard who has shown a practical interest in the hill people of the Mekong region and the work of Australians in the Bangkok slums. His assistance was sought in order to help raise greater awareness in Australia of the plight of the Akha. Originally, he is from Sydney but worked for a number of Australian newspapers including the Victorian Herald Sun. He’s been in Thailand for 7 years now writing several books and references and freelance writing for British and Bangkok newspapers. He wants to do a comprehensive article on the Akha and will visit Mae Suai shortly for a close look at the work of CGT. He provided a good background on the work of so many Australians through out Thailand including Sister Joan Davies, a Catholic Nun, who has devoted the second half of her life to helping the poor in the Klong Toey slums of Bangkok.

Principally, however, in regard to the main purpose of the study tour was to organize an introductory visit of CGT to the Australian Embassy to discuss support for aid funding. This meeting was conducted on Friday 16 January at the Embassy. Attending were as follows:

Ms Bronte Moules, Deputy Head of Mission  
Mr Sam Beever, Counsellor, Development Co-operation, AusAID  
Mr David Stevenson, Director Children of the Golden Triangle  
Mr Mike Adamson, CEO, Churches of Christ in WA and regular CGT volunteer  
Mr John Forrest, Federal Member for Mallee

A very broad briefing was provided by David Stephenson and Mike Adamson as to the work of CGT. Brochures were provided, and, in particular, a copy of a very good brief on a proposed organic food project for the Akha Training Centre was left with Mr Beever. He provided an overview of Australian aid in the region mentioning an emphasis on disability, maternal and child care as well as the support to refugees coming out of Myanmar. All of these are embraced at the Akha Training Centre.

The meeting was somewhat of a disappointment as to the news conveyed. Ms Moules who advised that AusAid funding can now no longer be available through Thailand as the former Government had withdrawn its bilateral support for aid now claiming it did not need aid as a
developed country. This seemed somewhat of an incongruity given what I had been witnessing in the Bangkok slums and amongst the northern tribes of the Akha people. The officers did discuss the possible opportunity for funding through Laos where the Akha people are spread. The Bangkok Mission has oversight right throughout the Mekong region. They undertook to investigate and provide contact details to the Australian Centre for Agricultural Research (ACIR) and AusAid. Given the refugee nature of the Akha people, they also undertook to approach the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). Subsequent emails have confirmed that this has all been done.

Conclusion

The enclosed parliamentary report sets out my findings more comprehensively but there can be little doubt that the Akha people are one of the most disadvantaged language groups in the world. This is despite much effort being extended over many years with aid projects by NGO’s, Australian and other Government aid, and the King of Thailand. This has included water supply and sewage disposal to the villages, a few unsuccessful agricultural projects, and solar power for lighting only to huts in the villages.

Education provision still is badly lacking for the Akha people. It is my view that the work of CGT in the area of education and childhood development is sadly under recognized and this needs to change. This facility has the capacity to continue to grow and it is my intention to continue to provide every support to the eventual aim of CGT to have Akha trained people providing the education in the villages themselves rather than requiring children to leave their parents for extended periods of time. The CGT Akha Training Centre is now the largest collective group of multilingual Akha speaking people anywhere in the world. The old adage that to change the world one needs to start with the young was never a stronger truism. The Akha people need to be armed with the resources to achieve their own self determination.

Australia could start by funding a proposed organic farm project which has been comprehensively outlined in the report and Australian Government agencies should take a greater interest in the successful work of CGT.

I also note that in accordance with Clause 9.4 of the Remuneration Tribunal determination No.26 of 1998 that a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I would request that any such provision include copies of the attachments which contain additional information. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion and I look forward to any debate this may spark on this very important matter of human rights.

Yours sincerely,

John Forrest MP
Federal Member for Mallee

Enc Detailed itinerary
Parliamentary Report
Study Tour of Akha Hill People  Northern Thailand

9 January 2009
Friday

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Comcar Bkg No 320008 (ph: 131 847) -- 7 River Oaks Drive to Tullamarine
Booked with Paul 5/01/09 (AB)
10 January 2009
Saturday

1:15 AM - 6:15 AM
Depart Thai Airways TG980 -- Terminal 2
Arrive Bangkok time (4 hrs behind AEDST)

6:15 AM - 6:15 AM
Arrive Bangkok
Withdrew 2000 Bart Airport ATM Siam City Bank (exchange rate 24.2B/A$)

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Taxi to Royal Paradise Hotel -- 836/1 Latkrabang Road, Latkarabang, Bangkok
Taxi driver got completely lost. Taxi fare ended up being 900 Bart. Driver provided receipt

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Check in to Hotel -- 836/1 Latkarabang Rd, Latkarabang, Bangkok
Hotel phone No 086 3071536 02 7371997
Allocated room 201 @ rate 990 Bart per day (receipt provided)
Met up with Mike Adamson at Hotel. CEO, Churches of Christ brotherhood WA. Regular volunteer at CGT
Booked in to this Hotel because Convenience Resort Hotel booked out for tonite
Prefer other Hotel because it has an airport courtesy bus
Will move there tomorrow

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Ring Australia
Had a lot of trouble to get nextG to work by voice. SMS OK
Eventually sorted it out

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM
Withdraw 6000 Bart from ATM -- Ruamjai market next to Hotel

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Taxi to Klong Toey slum area of Bangkok City -- To visit the work of Urban Neighbours of Hope
Taxi fare 160 Bart  Driver signed a rough chit

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Meet up with Ashley Barker -- Urban Neighbours of Hope, Phrakanong, Klong Toey, Bangkok
Met up with Ash at Lotus Shopping Centre Next to slums with Mike Adamson. Tea and coffee 265Bart (receipt kept)

Ash and his wife are both Australians who feel led to this work. Frankly, they deserve some sort of medal. Ash gave a sobering account of the work of his organization in the slum area. Volunteers actually live in the slums and provide compassionate support for a very depressed way of life. Extremely poor health, drugs, AIDS, and the general misery of poverty in shanty shacks of what ever material is available is the rule of the day. Ash lives there also with his wife and young son and has been doing it now for 7 years. The work is auspiced by the National Council of the Churches of Christ.

During tour of the slum we met up with his co-worker Rod Sheard who is a 31 yo Mechanical Engineer also living in a shack in the slum. You gotta admire these guys. Doing it this way means there is an enormous amount of respect and trust from the people they are trying help with health and social issues.

In this particular slum area there are about 80,000 people living over an area of 2Km². It is one of about 1020 such slums across Bangkok totalling about 1 Million people. It is a real fire hazard and horrific fires are regular. The Land is owned by the Port Authority and there is a sort of defacto right to occupy. Rats are an issue as a carrier and disease is rife. Health issues include denghi fever, malaria, alcoholism, AIDS, TB, typhoid. Violence and criminal activity also increase the mortality rate. Ash mentioned the Thais have a philosophical approach to death. For example the road toll in Thailand is about 85 people per day and not much is done about it. The conditions were appalling and it seems not much has been learned since the dark ages about basic drainage, sewerage and water supply. Anyone over the age of 55 is extremely old.

Ash advised much of their work at their centre focusing on literacy and numeracy. All volunteers must speak Thai. They have about 70 -80 students enrolled at their small school.

The UN has shown a great interest in the growth of slum areas which are growing dramatically all round the world as people from the rural areas come to the big cities
looking for a new opportunity. Urban Neighbours of Hope does similar work in Australian Aboriginal communities at Mt Druitt in western Sydney and with Timorese refugees in Melbourne at Springvale, Noble park, and Dandenong.

Slum workers are unskilled and earning less the A$4/day. Their cheap labour is an important part of the Thai economy but the only rent they can afford are the slums. This was all a really a depressing story in a country which is allegedly well off.

It was quite a hair raising experience to be taken back to the shopping centre by a motor bike taxi for the cost of 20Bart (less than a dollar).

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM  
Taxi to Central World Plaza Trade Centre -- Downtown Bangkok  
Driver provided rough chit on my business card for 90 Bart

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM  
Lunch at Internet Cafe

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM  
Purchased Map of Bangkok and Thailand -- Asia Books  
Paid 100 Bart receipt provided

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM  
Travel by BTS Sky Train -- Chit Lom Station  
Mike Adamson shouted fares

The Sky Train is a very impressive piece of rail infrastructure eventually to reach all the way to the Suvarnabhumi International Airport. So far, it is only operating to about half way and we were forced to alight at On Nut Station still miles from our Hotel.

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Taxi to Royal Paradise Hotel -- On Nut Station BTS Sky Train  
Taxi fare 147Bart and driver signed a rough chit on my business card

4:30 PM - 5:45 PM  
Retired to room plumb exhausted  
Prepared outlook notes for day

5:45 PM equivalent to 9:45Pm at home and slept without bothering with dinner
### 11 January 2009
#### Sunday

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<td>All Day</td>
<td>Rest day and visit nearby Bangkok zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM - 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Check out Royal paradise Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Check in Convenience resort Hotel -- Lat krabang 38, Bangkok&lt;br&gt;Allocated Room 109&lt;br&gt; Taxi fare 180 Bart&lt;br&gt; Meet up with other members of party Peter and David and Austin</td>
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Study Tour of Akha Hill People Northern Thailand

12 January 2009
Monday

7:00 AM - 7:00 AM
Depart Bangkok for Chiang Rai - Air Asia FD3250

8:20 AM - 8:20 AM
Arrive at Chiang Rai airport -- Northern Thailand
Collected by David Stephenson of CGT

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Travel Mae Saui -- Akha Training Centre
Impressive road system. Dual carriageway originally provided by Americans from days of Vietnam war

Power supply from hydro electric source

 Noticed table grapes from Isreali investment. Rice paddies, mandarins, paw paw and bananas

10:30 AM - 7:00 PM
Inspection of Facilities of Akha Training Centre
Hospitality provided by CGT for whole of stay
Accommodation in volunteer units which, although basic are impressive enough with B/R and ensuite facilities

Water treatment system comprehensive as well as sewage treatment including reuse. The sewerage system has a capacity of 400,000 litres complete with ammonium final product. Water supply has ultra violet bombardment just prior to release taps. I can drink this water. Water consumption per day on the site is about 50,00 litres. David Stephenson is qualified Architect but refers to himself as a civil engineer given what he has to provide at the centre. Total area of the site is about 2.3 Hectares leaving plenty of room for agricultural development.

Buildings include two extensive open air kitchens, laundry facilities (important for the treatment of scabies in bedding washing about 60 sheets per day), medical hygiene room, classrooms, well separated dormitories for female and male residents and accommodation for volunteers. Also includes extensive workshop. My estimate that total investment represented here at lease A$2 million.

Long discussions with David Stephenson about his vision for CGT. Need the education he is providing up in the villages to prevent bringing the children away from their parents. In the meantime Centre is growing at a rate they are unable to cope. Over 400 students now being accommodated. 300 attending primary school which had kept that school open. Had got down to 11 students. 50 students are attending at the nearby secondary school and over 100 attend at the Centre for pre school activities taught by Thai teachers paid by CGT. As a result of all this, CGT has the largest group of multi lingual Akha people anywhere in the world.

CGT started from scratch in a bamboo hut with just he and ASA about 15 years ago. David Stephenson now lives on site with Asa and their children Samuel, Esther and Nathan together with Asa's parents and sister Ampoi.

David believes strongly that there is a bias against the Akha people right throughout the Thai bureaucracy in education health and other relevant Departments. He believes that Thai authorities have kept aid help out. Most of the kids are from extremely poor Akha families who are extremely vulnerable to manipulation. About 67 of the kids are orphans.

There is a problem with prowlers and petty theft at the Centre so the next project is to install security lighting. Peter, David and Austin were on site to prepare a measure up and bill of quantities for security light installation. In the mean time, two Labrador dogs provide prowler deterrent although he advised I'd probably have disturbed sleep because of their constant barking.

Aids has taken a terrible toll on the Thais of nearby Mae Saui community (hence near closer of primary school)

Child morbidity of Akha people at 50% which is amongst the highest in the world. David is convinced this is as a result of poor quality food in Akha diet. This is a result of low protein

Forrest, John (MP)
and poor quality soil.

When the kids return to the centre from the villages, the whole cycle of scabies rehabilitation has to commence all over again.

David suggests he take me to two typical highland villages at Abotho and Phakaluane (phonetically pronounced farkarluwang). We will do this tomorrow.

David’s immediate priority to achieve AusAid accreditation. Of all the millions of $’s of donations only A$10000 has been provided by the Australian Embassy and C$25000 by the Canadian Embassy.

Village activity will be associated with consolidating the December rice harvest. Slash and burn agricultural practices creates respiratory problems, especially with the young children. Restricted lung capacity effects the brain and hence growth rate. Akha people are very small in stature. This is due to absence of protein, and low calcium resulting from the poor soil. CGT wants to get funding to run a good food program and to teach the kids how to grow healthy food. There are many chickens in the villages but these to are scrawny due to poor diet predominantly on poor quality rice.

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Children Arrive Home from School
Very gracious in greeting. Set immediately about their chores

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Dinner catered by the Children
Dinner was cooked and catered for graciously by the children all who appear to have assigned chores to undertake. All appeared to have tasks they were willing to do and without apparent overt direction. Before dinner, the boys were busy pouring concrete surrounds for garden beds. Others were digging over mulch from kitchen waste. All of this in preparation for preparing good organic soil for growing of vegetables.

Very impressed with the expertise being demonstrated by these youngsters who seemed so proud of what they were achieving and working together in a team and mixing their own concrete

Children completed day with fellowship time of singing and devotions. I took the opportunity to present them with an Australian flag.

9:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Prepared outlook Notes for day
Retired at 9PM exhausted
Study Tour of Akha Hill People  Northern Thailand

13 January 2009
Tuesday

6:00 AM - 6:30 AM
Breakfast at 6AM
Not a good nights sleep due to constant barking of dogs

6:30 AM - 7:00 PM
Depart for visit to Mountain Villages
Diesel price at village about 20Baht/litre

Extremely badly eroded roads in the mountains. Suffer badly as a result of wet season.

David advised he needs about A$100,000 each to put a school in a mountain village. Noticed garlic being grown in small plots and passionfruit with wild timber trellising.

Stopped and photographed examples of slash and burn activity.

Farmer might be lucky to get one or two crops from this patch before moving on to start the process all over again

Noticed 66,000Kv power line following the road but David explained this stops well before the Akha villages

Observed failed apricot orchard. Heavy dependence on pesticide meant this project was an object failure

In villages there was evidence of various Aid projects coming from the World Bank, NGO’s and governments. Like provision of solar cells for the provision of low voltage lighting. Cooking was still being done with open fire places.

Sureeporn here is very proud of her humble home at Abotho village. The solar panel was
provided by a World Bank project

Estimated by CGT that there are about 200 Akha villages scattered across the Mekong hinterland with between 1 – 2 million Akha speaking people.

The most moving inspection of the day was the inspection of a cemetery at Phakaluang village. In the past 18 months, 30 children and 7 adults have died at this village. No one was able to explain what is was the Akha people died of. I am appalled that authorities do not even care enough to conduct coronary enquiries to determine cause of death on such a significant scale. Such is the level of lack of concern for the Akha people.

A graveyard speaks for itself at the heart break being experienced by the Akha people

Obviously, this level of morbidity must be as a result of enteric or respiratory complaints. I was very saddened and moved by the death of all those little kids.
13 January 2009 Continued

Tuesday

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM  Dinner and in to bed by 9PM after preparing outlook notes
14 January 2009
Wednesday

6:00 AM - 6:30 AM
Breakfast at 6AM

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Assisted with buses to get kids off to school
You wouldn't call these "buses" by western standards but they all manage to get off to school and hang on somehow. The secondary students tend to be ferried in the back of the two 4WD utes which have been donated to the centre

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Spent the day with break for lunch assisting preparation of submission to Australian Embassy
Spent the day assisting David Stephenson prepare a preliminary submission to leave with the AusAid counsellor at the coming interview on Friday in Bangkok.

Tried to keep it brief but ended up at 11 pages Works its way through a brief history of the Akha people. Introduces the work of CGT through Asa's back ground as an Akha person who broke through the sad cycle of poverty, provides a background of Swidden farming and it's deficiencies and ends up outlining a AU$50,000 project needed to introduce organic farming training at the centre.

Phone to Australia. Air and accommodation booking for return via Bangkok made by Melissa Adamson on the internet and booked to my mastercard. Bookings made for David Stephenson, John Forrest, Mike Adamson and Nathaniel Adamson

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Dinner and just mixing with the Kids
There seem to be more girls than boys. Estimate about 65% female students. David says this reflects Akha society plus a more reluctance to release the males to school.

9:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Outlook notes and retired to room
Spent day gathering notes for report and general free day
Spent light day freely talking to residents to determine their attitudes to the tasks they do around the centre. Was left with an overwhelming impression of young people well aware of the opportunity with which they are presented and a determination to rise above the circumstances of their remote villages and to relieve some of the heart ache of their parents. Collected a number of photographs of various children to present as case studies in my report.

Also spent some time with volunteers on site Peter, David and Austin. Assisted them with a site measure up to be used to prepare bill of quantities for electrical wiring for external security lighting. It is proposed for a team of Australian based electricians to come on a volunteer project shortly to install security lighting.

Every night prowlers are evident. The site has two golden Labrador dogs as a deterrent to prowlers. However, barking dogs at all hours is not the best solution and security lights is a better option. David Stephenson has a small amount of donations for this task but, as usual, it will have to be done on a shoestring.

Also walked the 4 Kms in to Mae Suai to get the feel of the community. Mae Suai is very much of the beaten track for tourists but I did not feel any resentment for being a white face. I made sure to wear an Australian tee shirt. To the contrary, I found a very polite people who often took an opportunity to practice their English. In fact, it was a very delightful young female teacher who offered me a ride back all the way to the Training Centre on her tiny little motor bike. That was quite an adventure. She said she wanted to practice her English.

Low octane petrol was about 23Bart per litre (approx 85c/L) in Mae Saui and diesel about 24 Bart. Bit cheaper than Australian bowser price.

Also inspected Akha Womens Refuge operated by Dutch people although no one was home when I called

That evening, the students at the Centre put on a very special reception dressed in traditional costume and presented Mike Adamson and I a delightful Thank You Australia Banner specially made out of an old bed sheet. It was very special.
16 January 2009

Friday

6:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Travel Mae Suai to Chang Rai Airport -- Akha Training Centre
Transport logistics provided by CGT

8:50 AM - 10:10 AM
Fly Chang Rai to Bangkok -- FD3251 Air Asia

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM
Airport to Convenience Resort Hotel -- 9 - 11 Latkrabang 38, Bangkok
Transport to Hotel by courtesy bus from Hotel

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Check in to Hotel and unload luggage -- 9 - 11 Latkrabang 38, Bangkok
Allocated Room 210
Phone calls to Swan Hill and Mildura offices

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Lunch at Hotel

12:00 PM - 1:10 PM
Taxi to Australian Embassy
Taxi fare 250 Bart plus 40 Bart toll (Driver signed rough chit)

1:15 PM - 2:00 PM
Snack at Embassy Cafe

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Meeting at Australian Embassy -- 37 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok PH 23446360

Attending Meeting

Ms Bronte Moules, Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy Bangkok
Mr Sam Beever, Counsellor, Development Co-operation, AusAID, Australian Embassy Bangkok
Mr David Stevenson, Director Children of the Golden Triangle
Mr Mike Adamson, Executive Minister, Churches of Christ in Western Australia and regular CGT volunteer
Mr John Forrest, Federal Member for Mallee (mobile: 0428 864 457)
(Ambassador Paul Grigson and Minister Counsellor Mr Phillippe Allen.-- (apologies owing to commitments in Laos)

A very broad briefing was provided by David Stephenson and Mike Adamson as to the work of CGT. Brochures were provided, and, in particular, a copy of a very good brief on a proposed organic food project for the Akha Training Centre left with Sam Beever.

Sam provided an overview of Australian aid in the region mentioning an emphasis on disability, maternal and child care as well as the support to refugees coming out of Myanmar

The meeting was somewhat of a disappointment as to the news conveyed. Bronte and Sam advised that AusAid funding can now no longer be available through Thailand as the former Government had withdrawn its bilateral support for aid now claiming it did not need aid as a developed country. This seems somewhat of a contradiction given what JF had been witnessing in the Bangkok slums and amongst the northern tribes (particularly the Akha people). They did discuss the opportunity for funding through Laos where the Akha people are spread. The Bangkok Mission has oversight right throughout the Mekong region. Sam would investigate and provide contact details to the Australian Centre for Agricultural Research (ACIR) and AusAid. Given the refugee nature of the Akha people, he also undertook to approach the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

Sam undertook to be a liaison person for CGT (particularly David Stephenson) and undertook to brief the Canberra office of Ausaid about the submission put before them today.

JF felt the meeting was a useful introductory visit and warned the Embassy people that he expected the follow up to be done.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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| 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM | Taxi for Convenience Resort Hotel  
Taxi fare 220 Bart (driver signed rough chit) |
| 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM | Dinner at Hotel  
General discussion with David Stephenson about his vision for the future of CGT  
Not set back by advice from Embassy. Says there may be opportunity to expand their work in to Laos and Vietnam who do qualify for AusAid. Really wants that agricultural project funded. Need to have the kids up to speed before moving in to the expensive project of schools in the villages. Needs those young people to be the teachers. |
| 9:00 PM - 9:30 PM | Early night                                                                       |
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Spent morning collating notes and rough draft of my report -- Convenience Resort Hotel
File stored a Parliamentary Report.doc

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM
Lunch at Hotel

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Meeting with Jim Pollard -- Convenience Resort Hotel

Jim Pollard is a Australian freelance journalist with a practical interest in the hill people of the Mekong region. Met him with David Stephenson. Originally, he is from Sydney but worked for a number of Australian newspapers including the Victorian Herald Sun. He's been in Thailand for 7 years now writing several books and references and freelance writing fro British and Bangkok newspapers. He wants to do a comprehensive article on the Akha and will visit Mae Suai shortly for a close look at the work of CGT. He was an incredibly interesting fellow and he talked with myself and David Stephenson for more than 4 hours including dinner at the hotel.

He explained the background of the Australian journalist in Bangkok prison charge with Lese Majeste. It is a very serious offence in Thailand to insult the King and he believes this bloke has no where to go. The King may well pardon him after he is convicted but he is better to plead guilty and put it down to experience.

He provided a good background of the work so many Australians do through out Thailand including Sister Joan Davies, a Catholic Nun, who has devoted the second half of her life to helping the poor in the Klong Toey slums of Bangkok. He provided a copy of his latest article on Sister Joan.

He was vaguely aware of the work of Ashley Barker for Urban Neighbours of Hope. He will consider doing a story on Ash's work and I gave him the contact details.

He mentioned the massive build up of refugees in Thailand and that Stephen Smith (Foreign Affairs Minister) had visited Mae La near Mae Suk to meet with Helen Wall who has been working in a refugee camp of over 50,000. He advised that Myanmar army persecution was not just confined to Akha people.

He will complete his story on CGT after he has a visit to Mae Suai
Another early night
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:30 AM - 6:30 AM</td>
<td>Bus to Bangkok Airport -- Convenience Resort Hotel courtesy bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM - 7:30 AM</td>
<td>Clear Bookings and Customs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:10 AM - 9:40 PM</td>
<td>Depart Bangkok - Thai Airways TG999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrive Melbourne time 9:40PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40 PM - 9:40 PM</td>
<td>Arrive Thai Airways TG 999 -- Terminal 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20 PM - 10:50 PM</td>
<td>O/Night - Hilton Airport Hotel Bk 3335757396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study Tour of Akha Hill People  Northern Thailand

19 January 2009

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  Comcar bk 320250 Tullamarine to Swan Hill -- Hilton Hotel
Bill paid to Mastercard A$182.

Need to check if entitled to T/A for this stay given lateness of arrival at Tullamarine
SENATOR CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS

Italy
17 – 31 January 2009
from the farm to the wardrobe ...

a snapshot of the Australian wool industry

Study Leave Report

Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

August 2009
from the farm to the wardrobe …

a snapshot of the Australian wool industry

Study Leave Report

Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells
Senator for New South Wales
Australian Senate

August 2009

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Executive Summary

The Australian wool industry, which has historically been very important to the Australian economy, is in crisis. Over the past ten years the industry has been under pressure from decreasing market prices, increasing input costs and competing land uses. As a result, the Australian sheep flock has plunged to record lows below 80 million sheep, not seen for the past 60 years.

In an industry with such a long and colourful history, we must challenge the status quo and look for new opportunities. Unfortunately, this is difficult when many of the 33,000 individual wool producers are experiencing low prices and continued negative media, especially regarding the mulesing issue.

As the average age of wool producers is about 60 years, it is understandable that this generation is not necessarily interested in new and innovative options when they have previously experienced the consistently reliable years of wool through the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. A challenge is to manage the transition of the industry whilst there is still a core base of breeding ewes that can continue to produce the commercial quantities of wool that are required over the next five years to supply Australia’s existing markets, and particularly the Italian market, before we even consider new market opportunities.

With the industry at record low numbers, the concern is what steps are required to manage this industry to maintain its crucial value (approx $2.6 billion) and to continue to provide employment across regional Australia. Also, we need to further strengthen the traditional links that have been built over many decades with international processors of Australian Merino wool.

It has been clearly demonstrated that it is critical to firstly concentrate on delivering quantities of quality wool to the textile industry to ensure all stakeholders have the opportunity to retain their position within the industry and secondly, to improve the image and presentation of the wool industry to allow Australia’s prized Merino wool to fully exploit the opportunities which exist in this ever changing market.

Key stakeholders have displayed their interest in the wool value chain, including Australian companies investing in downstream businesses. This involvement in the value chain must be further developed to allow clear information flow in both directions to further develop relationships in the changing industry.

When I first commenced my enquiries, I found a publication called the Wool Pages 2008, A Directory of the Australian Sheep and Wool Directory. This is a lengthy publication which is published annually to provide information along the wool supply chain. One only has to look at the diversity of its contents to understand the wide spectrum of activities that are affected by the demand for wool.

If demand for wool is the criteria for determining livelihood, then much rests on the shoulders of those charged with the most important task, namely that of increasing consumer demand for wool. Wool Pages reflect many lives and livelihoods.

In my discussions with various people who have been in the industry for a long time, they have relayed to me that the history of the wool industry has seen the emergence of splinter organisations as disputes have arisen.
What is clear to me is that there is no one cohesive group which brings together all the interests of the wool industry. There is no "go to" body for wool – a body that can make decisions that can be enforced throughout the industry. If division is death, then the wool industry is well on the road to heart failure!

Whilst this fragmentation may have been sustainable in good times, when the industry is in such decline, this fragmentation may end up exacerbating the decline even more.

In the face of continued volatility of prices, continued contradictions in market information and industry infighting, the wool industry desperately requires some clear messages in these challenging times. These messages need to be clear and consistent, both domestically and internationally. This may mean that the industry must face some truths it may rather ignore. However, for the industry to continue to produce the world’s leading wool clip, messages from both processors and consumers, must be clearly disseminated to grower organisations to allow for a clear path to be planned moving forward.

The large amounts of time and money invested in research in on-farm production and off-farm processing in the past have resulted in some innovations that offer improvements in both the production and performance of Australian wools. Overall however, there has been an inability to commercial wool research and development over many years. Stakeholders are looking for signs of a solid future for the industry before they invest in new systems within their business.

Australia has developed world leading reporting through the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX) and wool testing through the Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) which is the preferred testing authority in the global wool industry. This strengthens the message that Australia is the premier country within the global wool industry. With continued exporting to all key markets by established companies, Australian wool is well placed to consistently supply markets that offer acceptable prices.

Continued business with Italy, wool’s flagship manufacturer and brand leader, remains the leading opportunity to continue wool’s presence in the premium apparel market. By working closely with the Italian industry, Australia’s specialty wool producers can continue to supply wools that meet the high standards of this market.

It is important to clarify that the first step in a quality wool product is to produce quality raw wool and quality wool tops. Australia has a demonstrated history in producing the world’s best wool; an opportunity exists in specialty wool growers developing a professional relationship with the Italian market to take the steps needed under Mike Guerin’s advice below to ask ‘What do our customers want’, and then set in place an action plan to move forward.

In times of continued economic pressures and environmentally aware consumers, wool is well placed to re-establish its position within the textile market. However, to fully exploit this opportunity the wool industry as a whole must base this on a winning strategy, work together and always be vigilant.

Mike Guerin, Managing Director Elders Rural Services summarises the key issues in moving forward:

"In the history of wool, we have never started with the customer and worked back", he says.

"If there's one thing I would say to woolgrowers, and it's just my opinion, it is that we have singularly failed as an industry, ever, to start with a clear view of the needs of the customer and the properties of the product and worked back and produced that. We have always been a production-oriented business. And that's
served us well for many years, but that's simply not the way of the world these days.

The success of all stakeholders in the wool industry is intertwined; growers must become more informed of the downstream requirements of its markets, especially, its flagship Italian market.

I would like my report to be seen as a realistic snapshot of the wool industry including the positives and the negatives. My conclusions and recommendations are intended to be thought provoking. Established entrenched views will likely be critical. Others will view them as being in the best interests of the wool industry.

We must remember that if things are done in the wool industry in the same way as they were before, under the same structures as before and using the same systems as before, then the only outcome is the same result as before.

August 2009
SENATOR ANNE McEWEN

Ireland and the United Kingdom
24 January – 8 February 2009
4 March 2009

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

Dear Minister

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

(i) (a) Confirmation of purpose

The purpose of the study journey was:

- To attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) UK Branch International Migration & Human Trafficking Conference in London, 2 - 7 February 2009.

- To investigate migration issues in the United Kingdom and Ireland with a view to comparison with Australian migration issues and initiatives, including such matters as settlement services for refugees and asylum seekers, trends in legal and illegal migration, labour migration programs, detention policies and policy/legislative developments.

- To investigate the impact of the economic downturn on the programs, exhibitions, acquisitions and operation of major, government funded cultural institutions and to discuss what actions such institutions in the countries visited are taking to address predicted, or actual, impacts of the global economic downturn.

Please note that reference to the Republic of Ireland in item (1) above and item (3) are additional to the original purpose of the journey as outlined in my letter to you of 4 December 2008.
(i) (b) Itinerary

Saturday, January 24, 2009
Flight Qantas Airways Limited QF81
Departs Adelaide
Arrives Singapore

Saturday, January 24, 2009
Flight Qantas Airways Limited QF5
Departs Singapore
Arrives Frankfurt

Sunday, January 25, 2009
Flight Deutsche Lufthansa A.G. LH4980
Departs Frankfurt
Arrives Dublin

Wednesday, January 28, 2009
Flight Aer Lingus EI222
Departs Dublin
Arrives Glasgow

Thursday, January 29, 2009
Train Glasgow / Edinburgh / Glasgow

Saturday, January 31, 2009
Flight BMI BD 005
Departs Glasgow
Arrives Heathrow London

Friday, February 06, 2009
Flight Qantas Airways Limited QF2
Departs Heathrow London
Arrives Sydney

Sunday, February 08, 2009
Flight Qantas Airways Limited QF787
Departs Sydney
Arrives Canberra

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings

Monday 26 January 2009

- Meeting with Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Ms Anne Plunkett, Australian Embassy, Dublin
Outcomes/findings

My meeting with the Ambassador included updates about the relationship between Ireland and Australia. The following matters were discussed in some detail:

Ireland is looking to Australia's immigration system for examples of border controls and visa systems for non EU migrants.

The Australian Embassy in Dublin has experienced a big increase in the number of Irish young people seeking working holidaymaker scheme visas. The importance of the scheme to Australia and the likely impact of the global financial crisis (GFC) on this type of migration.

Comparison of Australian and Irish response to the GFC and rapid response by Ireland to legislating bank guarantees.

The likelihood of Irish support, and other EU countries' support, for Australia's bid for a position on the United Nations Security Council.

- Meeting with Mr Pat Folan, Direction General of the Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service

Outcomes/findings

Discussion commenced with comparison of how the global financial crisis (GFC) could impact on migration programs in both countries, and whether legislative initiatives in both countries are adequately cognisant of how the economic situation may affect migration. Immigration systems and targets may need to be revised in light of economic downturn, especially labour migration programs.

A comparison was made of how both countries have attempted to deal with abuses of labour migration programs. The Irish view is that with finite resources, government agencies will not have adequate resources to deal with all suspected breaches so the preferred strategy is to properly research suspected and reported breaches before then determining which areas/industries to target for prosecution and use prosecuted examples to deter others from abusing the system.

There was discussion about implementation of the new Irish Border Information System (IBIS), and comparison of the new Irish Immigration, Residence and Protection legislation with Australia's immigration legislation. The use of “citizenship test” in Australia's system and our 'points based' migration system were also discussed. Ireland takes a keen interest in how Australia manages all forms of migration and in the reasons for the Australian Government's new values for immigration and how these values are being implemented.

There was some discussion about both the Australian and Irish government responses to requests from the United States of America to accept Guantanamo Bay inmates for resettlement. Member countries of the EU are preparing a response that will be of interest to Australia.

- Meeting with Ms Theodora Suter (Chief of Mission) and Ms Siobhain Hegarty (Senior Programme Manager), International Organisation for Migration, Dublin

Outcomes/findings
As well as meeting Government officials and members of Parliament I wanted to meet with some NGOs (civil society) organisations that deal directly with migrants and especially “irregular” migrants and asylum seekers and refugees. In my work on the Joint Committee on Migration and with my constituency, it has been the interaction with these groups that has been very instructive in terms of determining appropriate government responses to migration issues.

The IOM reported that “irregular” migrants - those who have no papers or status or have expired visas - are extremely disadvantaged because of lack of access to welfare services, housing and health care. These migrants are now the biggest users of the IOM services in Ireland. Even though the global financial crisis (GFC) was in its relatively early stages while I was in Ireland, the IOM had already seen a massive increase in the number of these migrants now out of work, living precariously or homeless and attempting to return to country of origin. Single men who have been working in relatively unskilled occupations (eg meat processing, construction industry) were the majority of these migrants. A similar situation may be found with visa overstayers in Australia if the economic downturn causes unemployment in the sectors where such persons are working.

The IOM works mainly with persons being repatriated and, as stated above, who are “irregular” or without documents. Ireland does not have detention centres, persons are occasionally detained in prison and there was some discussion of plans to include detention facilities at a new jail near Dublin, but most persons regardless of their migration status live in the community with various levels of support from their communities and NGOs.

As in Australia, a number of irregular migrants, including asylum seekers and refugees, challenge decisions made about their status. There was discussion about the pros and cons of access to judicial review, merits review and other avenues of appeal for asylum seekers appealing decisions.

Labour migration programs have been used in Ireland to bring in large numbers of IT workers and health care workers especially from India, Philippines and South Africa. This is similar to Australia’s experience. There was, as yet, no evidence that the GFC had caused immediate changes to Ireland’s labour migration programs although the IOM was monitoring developments.

Ireland accepts small numbers of UNHCR refugees - most recently Burmese from Thailand and Congolese from Tanzania. It is not expected to increase numbers of refugees in the near future. Throughout the study tour both NGOs and government representatives were very surprised to hear about Australia’s relatively large intake of UNHCR refugees per annum. How Australia processes and settles those refugees was of much interest.

A topic of discussion with both the IOM and others was the attitude of governments and migrants to labour migration programs as a precursor to citizenship and how migration ‘agents’ entice persons to these programs with the promise of easier access to citizenship.

Tuesday 27 January 2009

- Meeting with members of the Parliament of Ireland Joint Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence & Women’s Rights,
  Mr Brendan Kenneally TD, Chair
  Mr Sean Connick TD
  Mr Pat Rabbitte TD
  Mr Charlie Flanagan TD
  Mr Denis Naughten TD

Senator Anne McEwen Overseas Study Journey Report, 24/1/09 – 8/2/09
Mr Ronan Lenihan, Committee Secretary  
Accompanied by Ambassador Ms Anne Plunkett

Outcomes/findings

This meeting was an opportunity to meet members of the committee most comparable to the Australian Parliament’s Joint Committee on Migration. Members of the Committee were from all the major parties and all were very interested in developments in Australia’s immigration legislation and migration systems.

The Irish Parliament’s Immigration, Residence & Protection Bill had the longest committee stage of any Bill in the Dáil and 700 amendments moved. I discussed with the Committee key aspects of the Bill, as well as how it fits with the EU immigration legislation and the impact of the Dublin II Regulation.

Other topics of discussion included why, and how, Ireland has achieved a reduction in the number of applications for asylum (from 11,634 applications in 2002 to 3866 in 2008).

There was an exchange of ideas about potential for developed nations to accommodate “climate change refugees”. The importance of working holiday maker visas to Australia’s horticulture and hospitality industries was again discussed.

Members of the Irish Parliament noted that expectations of Irish immigrants to Australia are often not met because expectations about cost of living, employment opportunities etc. are unrealistic.

Comparison of Irish and Australian responses to the global financial crisis, effects on labour migration programs, anticipation of ‘economic’ migration increase. At the time Irish MPs were negotiating an economic stimuli package in the context of the economic/social pact between government/business and unions, similar to Australia’s 1980’s Accord.

Wednesday 28 January 2009

• Meeting with Mr Mark O’Neill, Head of Arts & Museums, Culture & Sport, Glasgow City Council

Followed by tour with Mr O’Neill to inspect the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

Outcomes/findings

This was a very useful meeting with the Director of one of Scotland’s most important, and well loved, cultural institutions which has recently undergone a major refurbishment.

Effects of the global economic downturn were not yet felt but there was an expectation of some downturn in overseas visitor numbers and some UK tourist numbers to cultural institutions. In 2006/7 there were 3million visitors to the Kelvingrove site, 10% from overseas. Kelvingrove strategy has always been to be accessible and have galleries that ‘have something for everyone’ and are ‘family friendly’ (e.g. every gallery has some component for children, all artwork is hung lower than usual so it is easier to view, and ‘sleepovers’ for children were being considered by the Gallery.)

Of particular interest was the success of, and community support for, the UK National Heritage lottery which was used to fund the recently completed £27.9m refurbishment of Kelvingrove and provides ongoing funding. Little funding is received from the private sector.
Thursday 29 January 2009

- Meeting with members of Theatre Workshop, Edinburgh. Mr Robert Rae (Artistic Director), Ms Anne Fleming (Producer), Ms Kirsty Tough (Communications Director), Mr Waseem Uboaklain (Actor/Refugee Advocate) and others.

Outcomes/findings

Theatre Workshop has been in existence for 40 years and has a history of innovative performance with a strong social justice imperative. Mainly funded by Government, the Workshop recently completed an award winning film entitled “Trouble Sleeping” which is about a small group of asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland. The film was made with some professional actors and non-professional actors from the asylum seeker/refugee community in Edinburgh. It was extremely useful to see how performance can be successfully used not only to educate the broader community about the actual hardships faced by migrants, but as a project that enabled the group of migrants it featured to participate in the community, learn new skills and develop networks and contacts through the film making process to assist them with settlement.

Making of a similar film is an idea that could be of benefit in the context of refugee and asylum seeker settlement in Australia. The Theatre Workshop representatives were keen to share their experiences with interested Australian organisations.

- Meeting with Dr Gordon Rintoul, Director, National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh

Outcomes/findings

Discussion at this meeting centred on how a national cultural institution has been able to increase non-Government funding.

The Museum is 90% Government funded but has successfully increased its private sector funding to approximately 10% of budget in the last decade. Visitor numbers to this Museum have increased by 25% in the past 5 years, partly because of an emphasis on special events. It has a significant outreach program as well as a working farm museum. The Victorian building was undergoing a major refurbishment (£46.4m) of which one third was provided by the National Heritage Lottery, one third by Government and one third by private donations. Again, a strongly community supported lottery is an initiative worth consideration in Australia.

General discussion ensued about the economic downturn and the likely effect on international arts festivals, including the Adelaide Arts Festival and the Edinburgh Arts Festival (and Fringe festivals in both cases).

Friday 30 January 2009

- Round table with representatives of the Scottish Refugee Council, Glasgow. Ms Janine Hunt (Director of Operations), Mr Graeme Corbett and others. Followed by tour of SRC offices, client facilities and services.
Outcomes/findings

This was a very valuable opportunity to discuss in depth how refugee and asylum seekers are treated in a country comparable to Australia.

The SRC is a charity that provides practical support to refugees and asylum seekers. It has more than 30,000 client contacts per year.

Participants at the round tabled compared Australian and UK government targets for processing of asylum seekers and services provided by NGOs (with and without Government funding) for persons seeking asylum including housing, language tuition, and access to welfare benefits. As in Australia, inadequate access to language education and to intensive support packages (especially employment support) hinder successful and swift settlement.

Asylum seekers in Scotland are housed in the community and monitored in different ways during their application for asylum.

Asylum seekers and irregular migrants living in the community were often living ‘hand to mouth’. Major problems were caused whenever government welfare benefits were not paid on time, and this appears to happen regularly. While living in the community is clearly preferable to institutional detention, if the support services are not adequate and timely asylum seekers can face major problems just securing basic needs such as food and income for rent.

A comparison of Australian and Scottish community attitudes to asylum seekers and migrants, especially in the context of economic downturn, was useful. At the time, Britain was experiencing protests about jobs in the UK being taken up by non-British EU nationals.

A very useful comparison of the “no children in detention” policies of both countries was also made. As in Australia, some children in Scotland are held in secure accommodation (not usually called a “detention” centre) when they are removal-pending or in transit.

Monday 2 February 2009

- Meetings with Government representatives and NGOs scheduled for this day were cancelled at the suggestion of Australian High Commission because of very inclement weather in London on the day.

Attended the CPA UK Branch Welcome Reception and had general discussions with members and conference attendees about the global financial crisis, immigration and other matters. As I was the only Australian MP at the Conference I was invited to comment on Australia’s response to the GFC in particular as well as migration issues in general.

Tuesday 3 February - Friday 6 February 2009


The Conference gave me the opportunity to work with Parliamentarians from other Commonwealth countries and with NGOs, UN representatives, academics and others on Parliamentary responses to managing migration and addressing human trafficking. The objectives of the Conference were to

- address the breadth of contemporary migration issues for origin and destination countries
• explore linkages between migration and development
• review current migration management approaches and their implications for different categories of migrants
• explore the links between climate change and migration
• consider strategies to curb human trafficking and encourage migration that is beneficial to all

Program: A copy of the full Conference Program is appended.

Outcomes/findings

A copy of the Conference Communiqué is attached.

A copy of the Conference Toolkit for Parliamentarians is attached and can be accessed at http://www.cpaunikbranch.org/2009/02/06/international-conference-on-international-migration-and-human-trafficking/

(iii) Conclusion

The CPA Conference on Migration and Human Trafficking and the other meetings I organised and attended in both the UK and Ireland were directly relevant to my parliamentary responsibilities. The Conference enabled me to meet parliamentarians from a broad range of other countries who were also focussed on migration trends and who were working on policy and legislative responses to all forms of migration.

In addition to being able to compare the impact of, and government responses to, the global financial crisis that was discussed in all meetings, the study tour had particular relevance to my constituency and to my Parliamentary Committee responsibilities.

My Electorate Office works with many migrant communities and refugee and asylum seeker support groups located in South Australia and it was very useful to gain a broader understanding of migration issues from a range of stakeholder groups so that I can work with other parliamentarians on Australia’s policy and legislative response.

In particular, as a Member of the Joint Committee on Migration the opportunity to discuss trends and developments in migration with parliamentarians, public servants and NGOs from other nations was invaluable and timely.

As Chair of the Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee, the study program enabled me in particular to consider innovative ways arts institutions can increase visitor numbers, withstand government funding movements and increase funding sources and respond to the global financial crisis. The importance of the National Heritage Lottery in the UK to the economic wellbeing of arts institutions was particularly interesting and a model that could be considered in Australia.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence & Trade Committee the study program was particularly relevant in the areas of the migration and international security, and how the GFC would affect migration movements and the consequences of that for developing nations that benefit from migration remittances. The importance of foreign policy in addressing human trafficking was also an important area of discussion.
I note that in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Member or Senator. I also note that this statement may be tabled in Parliament at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Senator Anne McEwen
MR BERNIE RIPOLL MP

China
13 – 17 February 2009
Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 61  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

12 March 2009

Dear Minister

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

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

I confirm that the purpose of the trip is to receive briefings from a number of organisations in relation to the Global Financial Crisis and in relation to my work as Chair of the Corporations and Financial Services Committee.

I also attended in Beijing on the invitation by the China Australia Chamber of Commerce as a representative of government in conjunction with events being held by the Chamber of Commerce in its annual fundraising efforts by Australians in China to assist disadvantaged children.

I also visited the Australian Embassy to receive a briefing on the current Global Financial Crisis amongst other things and its impact in China and Australia.

(b) Itinerary:

I will be departing Australia on Friday 13 February 2009 and returning on Monday 16 February 2009. I intend on visiting the Australian Embassy for a briefing on current issues in the relationship between Australia and China. I will also be meeting with representatives from the China Australia Cooperation Society in relation to a school for girls from impoverished areas of rural China.

I will be departing Australia on Friday 13 February 2009 and returning on Monday 16 February 2009.

**Friday 13 February**
Arrive Beijing late evening

**Saturday 14 February**
Meeting with a representative of the China Australia Cooperation Society.
Meeting with a representative of AustCham Beijing.
Attendance at the AustCham Love Australia Ball.
Sunday 15 February
No appointments confirmed at this time.

Monday 16 February
Meeting with a representative of the World Bank.
Meeting with a representative of Credit Suisse.
Meeting with the Australian Embassy.
Visit to the China-Australia Cooperation Society School.
Depart Beijing for Australia

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings:

My meetings with the China Australia Cooperation Society focused on visiting their office and meeting with teachers and students being sponsored into further education and training and speaking with them about their experiences and expectations that gaining an education will mean for their future and that of their respective families. In other meetings we discussed the importance and cultural significance of traditional Chinese medicine and the possibility of its slow disappearance from practice in China due to the influence of western medical systems.

The China Australia Cooperation Society is also in discussions with the Chinese Government on hosting an international forum on this subject with links to Chinese-Australians working in this field and attracting experts from across the globe to participate. This forum will be held in April of this year to which I have been invited to attend.

My meeting with Country Director and Chief of Mission David Dollar of the World Bank focused on World Bank programs in China, their experiences in other countries and the impact they are having on reducing poverty and assisting local authorities with community development programs. We also discussed the impact of global financial stress on liquidity, assistance programs and the capacity for change in specific program areas.

My meeting with Chief Executive Officer Neil Ge of Credit Suisse Founder Securities focused in their operations in China and Beijing and the impact the financial crisis is having on confidence in markets, liquidity and their capacity to operate in various international markets including Australia. We also discussed the long term strategies employed by Credit Suisse to survive in the Chinese Market and the skills needed to not only compete with local institutions but with other global organisations.

We also discussed the link between their success in China and the people and skills developed in Australia. We also spoke of the regulatory environment and changes currently being undertaken by the Government on the impact this will have on future changes in financial markets in China.

My meeting with the Australian Embassy Deputy Head of Mission Graeme Meeham and Political Counsellor Robert Ferguson involved some general discussions about issues being faced by Australians and Australian organisations based in Beijing. I also took the opportunity to introduce the Head of the China Australia Cooperation Society Deborah Lei and her
objectives and aims of the organisation including the prospects of assistance and support from officials from Austrade, the Australian Embassy and working with other organisations both in China and in Australia.

(iii) **Conclusion:**
While this was a visit of short duration it provided me with the opportunity to speak with a number of important people and key organisations in regards to financial services and the impact of the global financial crisis in both China and Australia. It also gave me the opportunity while in attendance at the AusCham function to speak with representatives of Australian companies and organisations and agencies working in China as well as Australian officials based in Beijing.

It also provided me with an opportunity to see the work being done by the China Australia Cooperation Society of which I am the Honorary President in the areas of education for young people in rural China and work in the areas of preserving the cultural traditions and understanding of traditional Chinese medicine.

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

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

BERNIE RIPOLL
MR MICHAEL DANBY MP

Israel
15 – 17 February 2009
Dear Minister

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

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

*Purpose of visit to Israel was to meet with top Israeli and Middle East diplomats and parliamentarians as well as Journalists and Academics, in the aftermath of the Gaza conflict earlier in the year. The trip was aimed at gathering information on the situation on the ground and the overall feeling of the people and groups involved.*

(b) **Itinerary:**

- **Arrived on Sunday 15 February in Jerusalem**
  - 7.30pm-Dinner with Professor Mordchai Kedar
  - 'Bris' Function of Australian expatriate Mr Harry Looper

- **Monday 16th February**
  - Morning breakfast with 'The Australian Middle East correspondent John Lyons and Professor Fania OzSulzberger- Jerusalem
  - 9-1pm-Meetings in the Knesset with Israeli Minister for Infrastructure Binyamin Ben Eliezer
  - Afternoon meeting with Dr Ephraim Sneh

- **Tuesday 17 February**
  - Meeting with Israeli Minister for Welfare Issac Herzog in Tel Aviv

- **Wednesday 18 February**
  - Breakfast and lift back to the airport with Aussie victim of terror attacks Arnold Roth (Keren Malki). Flight 8.30a,
(ii) **Key meetings and outcomes/findings:**

Key meetings with Minister’s post the Israeli elections and ‘The Australian’ newspaper. This enabled me to get the perspective from Journalists on the situation in Israel particularly with regards to the formation of possible coalitions within the Government.

The second key meeting was with Professor Mordche Kedar an expert on the conflict and a man who has had 25 years experience in the IDF. He gave insights into the military aspect of the conflict and as an expert on Arab political discourse and mass media was valuable in learning about the political realities within Gaza.

Final key meetings occurred with the Israeli Minister for Infrastructure and Israeli Minister for Welfare, whom were both helpful in giving me an analysis of the Israeli elections that had occurred.

(iii) **Conclusion:**

The trip was invaluable as I gained a more thorough understanding of the realities on the ground in the Middle East after conflict broke out there in early January. Insight into the Israeli elections that occurred earlier in the year. Overview of the possible coalitions that may be formed in the Israeli Government. Also received information regarding what the reception would be like for the mission of the Australia Deputy PM and others participating in July as part of the Australia-Israel Leadership Forum.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six-monthly tabling of travel costs for Senators and Members.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Michael Danby MP
Federal Member for Melbourne Ports
10/6/09
Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Parliament House  
CANBERA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I refer to previous correspondence concerning overseas study travel to New Zealand. I confirm the purpose of the study trip and that I was not accompanied by any person.

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination No 14 of 2003, I submit the following statement on the visit.

February 27
Arrive Auckland late evening

February 28
Meeting with Alastair Carruthers, Chief Executive of Chapman Tripp, Lawyers and Chairman of Creative New Zealand Arts Council. Matters discussed included harmonisation of trans Tasman laws, a common border policy, single Australasian currency and a closer union.

March 1
Meeting with James Wallace of the James Wallace Arts Trust. Discussed procedures aiming to foster local artists and how to maintain and grow a valuable arts collection using the vehicle of an arts trust. This information will assist a local arts collector and philanthropist who is looking to set up an arts trust to benefit the community in Queensland.

March 1
Meeting with the Rt Hon Jonathan Hunt, ONZ (former Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives and recently retired New Zealand High Commissioner to the United Kingdom), who I have previously met in Australia. Matters discussed include closer cross Tasman relations, harmonisation of laws, bilateral relationships, differing parliamentary procedures and political trends in Australia, Queensland and New Zealand.
March 2

Meeting with the Hon Judith Tizard (former Minister) discussing relevant parliamentary issues.

March 3

Meeting with Michael Crawford, Australian Consul-General and Senior Trade Commissioner and Glenn Paterson, Consul (Immigration) Principal Migration Officer to discuss trade, trans Tasman co-operation, bilateral and harmonisation issues including the benefits of a common border policy.

Meeting with Simon Lambourne, Public Affairs Manager for The New Zealand Automobile Association Inc to discuss road safety issues and harmonisation of traffic laws.

It had been intended to meet with the Attorney General of New Zealand during my visit but he had to travel to Wellington.

Return to Brisbane.

My understanding of the subjects studied has been substantially enhanced and will assist in my effectiveness as Member for Fisher and my ability to make a positive contribution.

I note 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.

Would you please acknowledge receipt of this letter in due course.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

PETER SLIPPER

5/3/09
MR ANDREW LAMING MP

United States of America, France, Russia, Latvia and Thailand
20 March – 24 May 2009
30th June 2009

Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig
Cabinet Secretary
Special Minister of State
Manager of Government Business in the Senate

Dear Minister

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

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose(s)
I travelled overseas to investigate causes, solutions and facts surrounding the global financial crisis and identify and study various recession management schemes and stimulus packages in countries of economic note. I met with economic experts and public sector officials to discuss measures taken to avoid recession and address the crisis and to gauge their opinions in terms of effectiveness of fiscal stimuli.

(b) Itinerary
The itinerary is attachment A. It was prepared with assistance from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and, through DFAT, a number of Embassies and High Commissions. A range of meetings was also arranged through personal communication with colleagues and contacts within the respective economies.

(ii) Key Meetings
Refer to Itinerary (Attachment A)

(iii) Conclusion
Negotiating a nation’s economy through a global correction is an unenviable task. Governments are vested with minimising the damage to their own economies, but also acting within international norms and agreements. Nor is it easy to assess the performance of governments in managing the correction. For one, economies start from different levels of resilience. That includes the strength of banking, finance and transparency arrangements, terms of trade, fiscal reserves and productivity. Second, the counterfactual, or ‘do nothing’ scenario is not available and it is impossible to perform controlled studies on what would happen to economies if policies were different. Last, the policy actions of administrations spill over to affect neighbouring economies, so direct cause and effect relationships are even harder to identify in a world of open markets.
Despite these challenges, Australia has more to gain from this comparative analysis than many other economies. The world’s largest five economies vary greatly in size, politics and economics, making comparison difficult. But Australia, a medium sized open economy, ranked 15th by GDP and the world’s largest extractive exporter, has a number of comparator economies. Economic profiles and policy responses can be examined to better understand the impact on productivity and standards of living.

By the second quarter of 2009, it was obvious that Australia had not experienced the economic contraction of other economies, nor even the contraction that many predicted. As the global effects trickled towards Australia, many referred to the ‘late in, late out’ scenario or more optimistically, ‘late in early out.’

This research finds the approximately equal contribution (around one percentage point of GDP) for each of the three characteristics above, leading to Australia consistently delivering GDP figures around 3% better than the rest of the OECD. It underlines the value of controlling government debt, the importance of tough decisions around banking reform and the surprising result that GDP is holding up best in resource-based economies with smaller manufacturing sectors. Many of the economies which have implemented workplace law reform appear to have suffered increased unemployment but preserved their GDP.

By implementing such a large stimulus, Australia now risks crowding out investment and potential overheating of the economy as fiscal spending comes on line in the economy’s recovery phase. This pro-cyclical expenditure increases inflationary pressure and is a well known risk for economies desperate to escape recession.

But by far the most significant concern for Australia is massive debt repayment schedules out to 2020 for an economy which desperately needs to address productivity bottlenecks rather than face tightening fiscal constraints in the medium term.

This research finds that a more modest stimulus package could have achieved a similar impact if the public works component had been more rapidly disbursing and the cash payments had been targeted more effectively to vulnerable sectors and industries.

On the positive, the Government acted in a timely manner and had Australia not had the robust banking sector, such a large stimulus may have been more justifiable. Australia’s response to the global correction has been an expensive over-reaction. A more prudent approach, with timely stimulus in December followed by re-evaluation and focused stimulus in vulnerable sectors may have achieved comparable results at a fraction of the cost.

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

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Laming MP
Federal Member for Bowman
Attachment A – Itinerary

Flight Qantas Airways Limited QF15
Booking Class: Economy Class (L)
Departs Brisbane 11:05
Departs Terminal International
Arrives Los Angeles 07:00
Arrives Terminal 4

Meeting: LA Urban planning
Meeting: UCSD Dept of Economics

American Airlines AA1915
Booking Class: Economy Class (L)
Departs Los Angeles 12:25 Confirmed
Departs Terminal 4 Non-Stop
Arrives Las Vegas 13:40 Journey Time
Arrives Terminal 1 1hr 15mins

Meetings: Real estate crisis: Condominium sales
Real estate crisis: Residential property sales

Flight United Airlines UA193
Booking Class: Economy Class (H)
Departs Las Vegas 13:26 Confirmed
Departs Terminal 1 Non-Stop
Arrives San Francisco 15:05 Journey Time

Meetings: Dinner meeting: San Francisco banking sector
California administration (cancelled)

American Airlines AA16
Booking Class: Economy Class (L)
Departs San Francisco 11:55 Confirmed
Departs Terminal 3 Non-Stop
Arrives John F Kennedy Intl New York 20:30 Journey Time

Meetings: Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Macquarie Bank
Morgan Stanley

Thursday April 9
Meetings: Harvard, Boston University,
Monday April 13

Monday, April 20, 2009 Flight American Airlines AA44
Booking Class: Economy Class (L)
Departs John F Kennedy Intl New York 17:45
Departs Terminal 8
Arrives Charles De Gaulle Intl Paris 07:25

Meetings: DFAT meeting program; CAP, CEA, bankers, legal firms.

Thursday April 30: Amsterdam
Meetings: Banking services: Liquidity

Einhoven → Pisa

Saturday May 2: Milan
Meetings: Senior financiers, EU domestic banking and liquidity

Sunday May 3: Brescia
Meetings: Italian academics

Saturday, May 09, 2009
Milan → Riga FR4714 Depart BGY at 07:20 and arrive RIX at 11:15

Flight s BT424
Booking Class: Economy Class (L)
Departs Riga
Arrives Sheremetyevo Arpt Moscow

Tuesday, May 12, 2009
Seats booked: 1
13:00 Confirmed
Non-Stop
15:35 Journey Time
1hr 35mins

Meetings: DFAT program. Ministries, Assembly, Rockefeller Foundation, academic advisors, Goldman Sachs.

Flight s BT425 Sunday, May 17, 2009
Booking Class: Economy Class (L)
Departs Sheremetyevo Arpt Moscow
Arrives Riga

Seats booked: 1
16:35 Confirmed

17:20 Journey Time

Riga Meetings: DFAT program: Latvian administration

Thursday, May 21, 2009: Return via Stansted and Bangkok
THE HON PETER LINDSAY MP

South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, United Kingdom, Malta, Lebanon, Hungary,
Trinidad and Tobago, Panama and the United States of America
21 March – 1 May 2009
INTRODUCTION

I undertook a major study trip in March/April of 2009. It was designed to meet with the leadership of other countries to discuss policy and to bring back new ideas to benefit Australia.

The major themes that were of interest to me included defence, security, social policy and crime. However there were other specific issues that I studied in individual countries.

Some people have questioned my choice of countries which at first glance may not seem relevant to Australia. After all, most members of Parliament only ever visit our major alliances, countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, India, Japan, New Zealand and China.

For my part, I purposely added a number of “off the beaten track” countries and unsafe countries as well. I find that you can take away so much more from countries with different social policies and outlooks to ours here in Australia.

I’ve had fascinating meetings with police commissioners, finance ministers, female ministers, academics and senior defence staff.

It was a gruelling trip involving great meetings and hours of waiting in airport terminals but it resulted in a report containing 87 recommendations, conclusions and observations.

As much as the world is different we face many of the same problems. Just as crime is a significant problem within the Townsville community it is in other parts of the world. I returned with a firm view on the most effective ways to fight crime and to keep our homes safer.

I also found that Australia is not alone in trying to deal with the problem of unauthorised boat arrivals. Many other countries are wrestling with the same problem and there is a clear message for Australia that we should maintain the integrity of our borders and that we should not just allow people to arrive and expect to be admitted to our country. The consequences of doing so are being felt now by other countries that have had a lax border protection policy.

I’ve come back with a renewed view that our Australian Defence Force is so very highly regarded in the rest of the world. It’s professionalism and training shows wherever our troops are deployed overseas.

I have already released this report to the electorate through to the Townsville Sun and the electronic media. The full report is also available on my website.

In the course of my travel I met many Australians who are serving in our foreign service. From our ambassadors and high commissioners right down to locally engaged staff, our country is served so well by these outstanding people.

I also want to thank the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and in particular Monica Hart, for doing so much to make my trip the success that it was.
RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Conclusion:

Corruption, nepotism and poor governance standards, so widespread in third world countries, are alive and well in South Africa, and consequently the current term for the ANC may well be its last. Australia should back a world wide push to address these problems.

Conclusion:

Australia must understand the ever spreading influence of China, what that might mean in the future particularly in our own region and respond accordingly.

Conclusion:

Australia’s indigenous leaders should use the South African model to inspire their people to achieve better outcomes through their own actions.

Conclusion:

The Affordable Housing program is working successfully in South Africa. Australia should embrace the South African principles and partnerships to enable everyone to have their own home irrespective of income. Some owners may have to accept a lower standard, but this is preferable to no home at all.

Conclusion:

The program of taking South African Police Officers into our AFP Management Leadership Program is highly successful. Australia should continue this program and should look at inviting other Nations in our region to take part. Apart from all else, there should be an emphasis on Police integrity in the fight against corruption.

Conclusions:

Unless Government’s address the underlying causes of crime, the Police will not cope. Rising crime must be addressed in a whole of Government approach.

Unemployment is a major underlying cause of resort to criminal behaviour and family dysfunction. It may well be time for Australia to put “having a job” as a higher priority than “your rights at work”.

Business and the Churches should be more closely engaged with the Police in the fight against crime.

Conclusion:

The ADF Reserve should examine the benefits of South Africa’s innovative Airforce Reserve policy that uses private aircraft for transport tasks.

Conclusion:

Affirmative action based on race is never a workable policy option.
Conclusion:

The Queensland Police Service should expand their Police Beat model to incorporate the Sector Policing community programs used effectively by the SAPS.

Observation:

I am surprised that the issue of unauthorized arrivals was not discussed. This is a huge issue for Africans arriving in Europe and the Americas.

Recommendation:

Australia should consider striking a reserve Forces badge to recognize Reserve service.

Conclusions:

Residential development adjacent to an operating port is not compatible. Although the Port predates the V&A precinct, Port users are going to have to move because of complaints coming from residential uses. My visit to the Port of Cape Town has confirmed that the decision to oppose residential development adjacent to the Port of Townsville is the right decision.

Ports should be used by the government as a mechanism to stimulate employment and growth in the economy.

Conclusion:

With the challenges of global emissions, it is more than ever important to maintain the world wide chain of atmospheric monitoring stations.

Conclusion:

The ADF should run a program of open days on major Defence bases across Australia. In particular Lavarack Barracks should be open to the Townsville public annually.

Observation:

The rate of AIDS infections is falling. If Robert Mugabe ever did anything right, it was to recognise the potential HIV disaster much earlier than other African countries and to take preventative action. This was forward thinking.

Observation:

International Aid Agencies continue to work very effectively feeding and caring for the poor in Zimbabwe and doing what the Government should be doing.

Conclusion:

Zimbabwe is currently a lost opportunity for Australian junior explorers. Our mining industry should be positioning itself now for the recovery that is coming.
Conclusion:

Australian Aid is very effective and should be continued. Support for the MDC is vital and law and order needs to return to the country.

Conclusion:

Australia needs to strongly support the MDC Ministers who are driving change in the face of great danger. If the MDC achieve meaningful change, the people will see it and the power of Zanu-PF will be lost.

Conclusion:

There is a new hope in Zimbabwe. The success of the transitional government will depend on the amount of international assistance that can be raised and support given. The rule of law must prevail and the land ownership issues must be resolved.

Recommendations:

This forward thinking Minister should be invited to Australia to share her vision with the Government and Women’s groups.

“Communities of Faith” should be better used to address and manage Domestic Violence matters.

Australian law should be amended to give Grandparents the right of access to their grandchildren following a family separation.

The State and Federal Governments should support the introduction of the Mauritian furniture re-cycling program and the book re-cycling program.

Recommendations:

Australian business should adopt the Mauritian business policy of subsidising their employees to install solar hot water panels in their homes.

The Australian government should investigate the Deputy Prime Ministers interest in having young Mauritians come to remote parts of our country to work and learn.

Conclusion:

There are further and emerging opportunities for Australian education institutions to partner with training providers in Mauritius. Australia’s has a reputation for high quality courses and our degrees are very well regarded and respected.

Conclusion:

Australian education institutes should look at the unique Mauritian model of having their boards comprised of key private enterprise firms.
Recommendation:

The Townsville Marine Science Community should follow up the private sector initiative available to establish an Oceanographic Institute in Mauritius based on the pristine St. Brandon island group.

Conclusions:

The sharing of Australian intelligence with the Mauritian police is much appreciated.

The Police would like to be invited take part in our AFP Management Leadership Program. This would be very beneficial to them.

Conclusions:

The Australian economy could be further stimulated through individual and corporate investment in our country. We should look at the Mauritian permit system rules which make it easy for non-residents to invest, work and live in the country.

Mauritius is yet another country where the Chinese are extending their influence.

Conclusion:

Interested Australian companies should now be proactive in securing investment opportunities ahead of other world competition. They should use the professional assistance and services available from the Senior Trade commissioner based in Tripoli.

Recommendation:

Australia should pursue the placement of Libyan students in Australian tertiary institutions.

Conclusion:

The transition of MaltaPost from Government ownership to private ownership has been very successful. Services have improved and staff are happier. If Australia ever contemplates the privatisation of Australia Post, then the Malta model will provide an ideal case study.

Recommendations:

The Government should implement an acquisition policy where funding is withdrawn from the ADF if the capability is not delivered on time.

Australia should give the ADF the same powers as the police and customs in limited circumstances similar to the Malta model. These powers would be very useful in remote Australia and in border protection issues.

For noting:

The cemetery is maintained in excellent condition by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
Recommendation:

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral matters should examine the Maltese Constitution in relation to the philosophy that the Party that wins the most number of votes should form the Government.

Conclusions;

Hezbollah is not the radical group that some think it is. Properly engaged, it can be a force for good in the Middle East.

The new government of Israel needs to be much less heavy handed and far better engaged in the diplomacy of the region.

Conclusions:

The EU has little credibility in the Middle East

Most States have hope that the US under Obama will be a power for good in the region.

Lebanon is expected to be quite stable for some time now.

No one should underestimate the power of a Saudi/Syria relationship in getting the Iranians to be more sensible.

Iraq is now relatively stable but it is expected that the country may divide into Sunni, Shia and Kurdish States.

Conclusions:

It is important for world leaders to disengage terrorism from religion.

It is the duty of all Muslims to fight terrorism

It is impossible to think about a unified Islam. Rather, Sunni and Shia should embark on a course of respecting each other.

Conclusions:

Lebanese passionately want to live in peace with Israel

Palestine is the ‘cause’ that unites Islam throughout the world. Fixing this single problem will take away much of the angst in the Islamic community.

Conclusion:

Australian Military Observers in UNTSO are highly regarded for their professionalism, training and ability.

Conclusion:

The Australian Military Observers in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt perform a valuable and worthwhile role and OP Paladin should continue to be supported.
Conclusion:

Women are very welcome in the Omayad Mosque, the third most important in the world. This is in great contrast to the hard line views in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Observations:

The Czech Defence Force was able to successfully reduce its civilian staff by 60% without affecting capability. The ADF should take note.

The community always opposes the closing of local defence bases.

It is important that the Nation and the Defence Force understands why we are in Afghanistan.

Conclusions:

Governments must have the political will to address poorly targeted social support measures. This is particularly important in times of big budget deficits.

The best way to achieve change is to have all the pain in one go through a single comprehensive reform package.

The 15% single rate of personal tax is working well and lower income taxpayers are compensated through higher social security payments.

Recommendation:

The world should be concentrating on the re-building of the world’s carbon sink as the most effective response to greenhouse gas production.

Conclusions:

Private care agencies will always deliver better outcomes than governments and should be funded accordingly.

The Australian Government should implement the Trinidad program that retrains females so they can return to the workforce.

Poor young people are assisted to learn a trade through income support and private placement with an employer. This program works well.

Unauthorised arrivals in Trinidad demonstrate that this is a world wide problem. Trinidad struggles to deal with the issue.

The world community should act in unison on policies to deal with suspected illegal entry vessels.

Recommendations:

All Australians should be provided with a National Identity Card.
Our country should establish a National DNA database for all citizens.

Recommendation:

A Youthbuild program is an effective way of addressing the disempowerment felt by today’s youth. Australia would benefit from such a program.

Conclusion:

Even Trinidad has a better Affordable Housing program than Australia. We need to lift our game in this area.

Recommendation:

Tough and crime and zero tolerance programmes often announced by governments are never effective because they do not address the fundamental underlying causes of crime.

Australia should implement a long term whole of government that aims for zero tolerance of unemployment, poverty, poor parenting, poor education and inappropriate cultures.

Conclusion:

In relation to youth crime, interventions are successful where the responses have been an integrated plan including social workers, psychologists, and employment opportunities. Young people should be given an economic opportunity that they can connect to.

Conclusion:

The ADF must immediately address the current $8 billion liability for defence base maintenance.

Recommendation:

Hijacking can occur anywhere and at any time. Australia is not immune. In the light of the lessons learnt from this event, Australia should review our airport security procedures to ensure that our systems are robust enough to prevent a “Montego Bay” style hijack.

Recommendation:

Australia should examine this US program with a view to monitoring the activities of our near neighbours where corruption is rife and should take action where the proceeds of corruption end up in this country.

Conclusions:

The Canal upgrade will be finished on schedule.

Trends pointing to a rebound in shipping suggest a recovery of trade at the end of 2009 or early 2010.
The canal Authority is taking action to address deforestation and misuse of the watershed. These issues threaten the Canal's future.

Conclusion:
There is a strong Australian business presence in Houston
James Cook University in Townsville has the opportunity of establishing a joint MBA Programme with the University of St Thomas, Houston.

Recommendations:
For a small investment, Australia should take up the opportunity to become a partner in NASA's international program to return to the moon and ultimately the mission to Mars. There would be enormous benefits to our country.
Australia should re-open and upgrade Woomera to take advantage of the international demand for vehicle testing and launches.

Recommendation:
Townsville should be the site of a Magnet High School for Health Professionals. The school should be a partnership between Education Queensland, James Cook University and Queensland health and should be built at the current health precinct.

Recommendation:
A comprehensive Parliamentary Inquiry should be held to examine what accountability mechanisms should be adopted to ensure that consumers are presented with factual and balanced reporting.
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SENATOR BOB BROWN

United Kingdom and Belgium
22 March – 1 April 2009
Dear Mr. Faure,

I am pleased to report the success of my overseas study trip, which I paid for in the main, myself.

I addressed the second Congress of the European Greens in Brussels, where I discussed the European Parliament's role in building and outlined the value of establishing a global green secretariat in Canberra. At its subsequent meeting, the European Greens decided to consider this proposal at their June meeting.

I met representatives of green parties from more than twenty European countries, as well as from Canada, Venezuela and Brazil.
I was able to acquaint all delegates, in the run to the next global conference tackling climate change, in Copenhagen next December, with Australia's poor record as one of the world's worst per capita emitters of greenhouse gases, as a prodigious logger of the rich carbon banks provided by native forests and woodlands, and as the world's outstanding exporter of coal.

The most informative session was on climate change in which (Rebecca Hasms) commented that “The EU enthusiasm for green action is melting like the ice!”

Professor Schmidt-Bleek, an outstanding economist, pointed to human extravagance by observing that “On the way to the market, we lose 95% of the natural capital required to sell the product: for example, a melon fetches. He predicted that the way we are using resources is leading to disaster “absolutely.” He advised
that we (European nations) need to remove carbon taxes and transfer taxation to resources. “If we are not prepared to change the price structure in the market, we cannot reach sustainability. Sustainability can be achieved though getting there is very complicated. It requires an “eco-innovation” agency which rivals the world’s banks.

Other speakers observed that the Bundestag Report on climate change in 1989 warned of “severe consequences” and declared an “extraordinary need for action.” It is now 2009. Even he agreed, in 1996, to limit greenhouse gas emissions to prevent global warming exceeding 2°. Everyone agreed that there will be no agreement at Copenhagen in 2009 unless rich countries offer much greater support to developing countries.
It was also reported that the Centre for American Studies estimate that one hundred billion (US) dollars spent on sustainable energy worldwide would produce 2.2 million jobs whereas the same amount ploughed into oil and gas will produce 0.5 million jobs. Some (US)$240-300 billion for annum is given in subsidies to fossil fuels.

Mr Claude Jones pointed out that President Roosevelt set the level of income tax on high earners at 80% (1932).

Green bonds (as proposed by the Australian Greens most recently in 2004) received strong backing. But this was an intellectual rather than political seminar.

From London I took the train to Oxford. At the British Museum's ornithological collection here, I never able to see the only two extant carcasses of Tasmanian emus which were shot and rounded to extinction in the 19th century, well before the Thylacine.
The collection also has 3 Tasmanian emu eggs. There is another egg for sale in Hobart pro tem, and I hope it will both secure DNA testing to prove its authenticity and be bought by a public collection. The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery has 2 or 3 Tasmanian emu eggs but none are on display.

There are 8 skins of Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagles (plus one tiny chick) at Zing. As this species is threatened by the current widespread logging of Tasmanian native forests under the auspices of several national governments in Canberra, one wonders if a future ornithological sympathiser might have to go to Zing to see what is left of the bird.

In London I met with Mr Martin Wyper, a remarkably fine painter who left...
Tasmania a year or two ago through disillusionment with the cleaving of native forests and consequent human health hazards. With Mr Wynen and his daughter Sophie, I visited Parliament Square and spoke with two people who have been camped there for some years. One is from Melbourne. They oppose the war in Iraq but, under the shadow of Big Ben, some more years yet must elapse before it is recognized that they were better judges of the matter than Prime Minister Tony Blair who had never been to see them.

I travelled between London and Brussels on the Eurostar train at 200 to 300 k.p.h. It beats air travel wheels down though the views were not always clear. It is high time Australia considered (again) the advantages of very fast train travel between major centres of population.

I thank all staff who assisted in making this trip possible.
27 April, 2009

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

Dear Minister,

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

Confirmation of Purpose:

The purpose of my journey is to further my knowledge in relation to the impact of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) on the Chinese economy and the role of Workplace Relations regulation in China. This relates to my work on the Senate Employment, Education and Workplace relations (EEWR) Committee and the Senate Finance and Public Administration (FPA) Committee.

In addition to having a direct impact on the Australian economy, the GFC is also having an impact on our major trading partners, including China. China has enjoyed several decades of rapid growth which has been supported by and in turn encourages major social changes such as urbanisation and higher rates of savings and investment. I was interested to explore how the GFC is affecting developing economies such as the Chinese economy and in particular, how the GFC is affecting urbanisation, unemployment and underemployment, national savings rates and government finances. I was also interested to explore how the GFC is affecting the trade relationship between China and Australia. The FPA Committee recently considered the Australian Government’s response to the GFC. The impact of the GFC on the economies of Australia’s major trading partners, including China, is an important consideration in developing an appropriate response.

The regulation of Workplace Relations differs widely between countries, particularly between developed and developing countries. I was interested to examine the regulation of workplace relations and training in China, particularly in light of the GFC and changing trade patterns. I was also interested to explore the relationship between universities and industry in China.

There were no changes to the original purpose of my overseas study journey to China except that I was encouraged to explore a sister city relationship between Melbourne and Xi’an. The official program was extended to include cultural activities and discussions to this end.
Itinerary:

Sunday 5th April, 2009

Depart Sydney, Australia arriving in Shanghai, China (evening) – no arrangements.

Monday 6th April, 2009

Public Holiday - private arrangements - Day trip to Zhujiajiao water village and tour of Shanghai city

Tuesday 7th April, 2009

-Visit Australian Consulate and attend briefing with Consul General Mr Tom Connor

-Meeting with Professor Xu Mingqi, Deputy Director - Institute of World Economy Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Executive Director - Shanghai Research Centre for International Finance, Deputy Secretary General – Chinese Society of World Economy Studies, Secretary General – Shanghai Society of World Economy Studies

Participants: (China) – Professor Xu Mingqi, (Australia) – Senator Collins and Ms Diana Shi, Vice Consul

-Meeting with Mr Yang Weiren, Chief of International Exchange Division, Shanghai Municipal Education Commission

Participants: (China) – Mr Yang Weiren (Australia) – Senator Collins and Ms Jianwen Xu, Senior Manager, DEEWR

-Meeting with Shanghai Municipal Labour and Social Security Bureau

Participants: (China) – Guo Lei, Deputy Director – International Cooperation Department, Employment Administration Office for Foreigners, Employment Administration Office for Personnels from Hongkong, Macau and Taiwan, Fan Minchan, International Cooperation Department (Australia) – Senator Collins and Ms Jianwen Xu, Senior Manager, DEEWR

Wednesday 8th April, 2009

-Meeting with Dr Gao Weiyu, Chief Economic Analyst, Shanghai Municipal People’s Government Development & Research Centre

Participants: (China) – Dr Gao Weiyu, (Australia) – Senator Collins, Mr Dene Yeaman, Deputy Consul General and Ms Dorothy Li, Consul General Senior Executive Assistant

-Meeting with Mr Mao Ronghua, Vice Chairman (responsible for legal affairs), Shanghai Branch of the All China Federation of Trade Unions

Participants: (China) – Mr Mao Ronghua, Shen Xiongde, Director International Liaison Department (Australia) – Senator Collins and Ms Dorothy Li, Consul General Senior Executive Assistant
-Lunch with Shanghai based foreign economic reporters and Australian business persons

Attendees: Senator Collins, Mr Tom Connor (Consul General), Mr Dene Yeaman (Deputy Consul General), Ms Dorothy Li (Consul General Senior Executive Assistant), Mr Nigel Papi (Senior Partner, Allens Arthur Robinson), Ms Vivienne Yu (General Manager, Commonwealth Bank), Mr Stephen White (Managing Director, Faction & Chair, AustCham), Mr John Habgood (Head of Relationship Management, Westpac

-Meeting with Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce

Participants: (China) – Tian Zhong Fa, Director/Arbitrator/Senior Economist, Jiang Xue Gen, Vice Director/Senior Engineer, Zhao Kangmei, Vice Chairman (Australia) – Senator Collins and Mr Dene Yeaman, Deputy Consul General

Thursday 9th April, 2009

-Meeting with Shanghai Institutes of International Studies

Participants: (China) – Chen Dongxiao, Vice President for Studies, Zha Xiagang, Department of World Economy Studies (Australia) – Senator Collins and Ms Diana Shi, Vice Consul

-Tour of Shanghai Urban Planning Museum

Comments:

China's economic development over the last two decades has been phenomenal. Shanghai is a world class city. Its population rivals that of all of Australia. Our trade relationship is regarded positively but concerns were expressed during several visits about the climate for foreign investment in Australia, in particular discrimination against Chinese investment. Assurance was provided by the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce that Chinese investors are counselled to promote good employment practices and activities within the Law in their business practices in Australia.

The effect of the economic slowdown has been greater on the east coast, particularly in southern areas such as Guangdong. The build up to the World Expo 2010 has assisted in maintaining economic activity in Shanghai, as has its shift towards service industries. Shanghai was recently recognised as a centre for financial services. Future tourism, with Shanghai as a gateway to mainland China, seems to have potential.

Friday 10th April, 2009

-Depart Shanghai and arrival in Xi'an

-Meeting with Xi'an Thermal Power Research Institute

Participants: (China) – Xu Yue, Director/Scientist, Xiao Ping, Director/Scientist, Zhao Yi, Vice President, Chen Hong, Project Manager, Gao Shiwang Deputy director/Senior Engineer (Australia) – Senator Collins and Mr Gary Guo, Business Development Manager, Austrade Xi'an Office
-Meeting with and dinner hosted by Xi’an Municipal Council

Participants: (China) – Mr Zhang Hui-bin, Vice Director of Xi’an Municipal Council, Mr Lei Xijing, Secretary of Xi’an Municipal Council, Mr Wang Xiao-zhen, Vice Director of Xi’an Foreign Affairs Office (Australia) – Senator Collins and Mr Gary Guo, Business Development Manager, Austrade Xi’an Office.

Saturday 11th April, 2009

-Visit to BP Solar Factory

Participants: (China) – Louis Liu, General Manager, Cynthia Cui, Key Account Manager, Jack Yang, Sales & Marketing Manager (Australia) – Senator Collins and Mr Gary Guo, Business Development Manager, Austrade Xi’an Office

-Lunch meeting with Professor Feng Zongxian, Director JinHe Centre for Economic Research, Xi’an Jiaotong University

Participants: (China) – Professor Feng Zongxian, (Australia) – Senator Collins and Mr Gary Guo, Business Development Manager, Austrade Xi’an Office

-Visit to Xi’an City Wall

Participants: Senator Collins and Mr Gary Guo, Business Development Manager, Austrade Xi’an Office

-Visit to Shaanxi Historical Museum

Participants: Senator Collins and Mr Gary Guo, Business Development Manager, Austrade Xi’an Office

-Tour, Cultural Performance and meeting with dinner at the Tang Dynasty Cultural Park

Participants: (China) – Mr Zhaoyi Guan, Director of International Office, Daming Palace National Heritage Park, Mr Youqun Wang, Special Consultant, Daming Palace Academy (Australia) – Senator Collins and Mr Gary Guo, Business Development Manager, Austrade Xi’an Office

Sunday 12th April, 2009

-Visit to Banpo Museum

-Visit to Terracotta Warriors

-Visit to Huaxing Hot Springs

-Depart Xi’an and Arrival in Beijing

Comments:

Xi’an is an impressive city central to the future development of western China. The potential of this region for the future development of Australia’s trade relationship into central mainland China is significant. The region has not been greatly affected by the global financial crisis as its industry is mostly focused on domestic demand. There is great interest in future cultural, educational and research projects.
Monday 13th April, 2009

-Private arrangements – visit to Great Wall

Tuesday 14th April, 2009

-Meeting with Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security

Participants: (China) – Bi Xue’rong, Director-General, Department of Human Resources and Marketing, Yu Xing’an, Deputy Director-General, Department of Human Resources and Marketing, Yang Junmei, Director of Market Supervision Division, Department of Human Resources and Marketing, (Australia) – Senator Collins, Ms Sarah Noble, Second Secretary (Political), Australian Embassy in Beijing and Ms Liao Hongjing, Research and Visits Liaison Officer, Australian Embassy in Beijing (interpreting)

-Visit to the Peking University Stem Cell Research Centre, National Centre for International Research Australia-China Centre for Excellence in Stem Cell Sciences

Participants: (China) – Mr Wang Taiping, Executive Director, Professor Lingsong Li, Director of Peking University Stem Cell Research Centre and Co-Director of China-Australia Centre of Excellence for Stem Cell Sciences, Jinhua Wen, Associate Professor of Peking University Stem Cell Research Centre, Department of Cell Biology/Peking University Health Science Centre (Australia) – Senator Collins, Ms Catherine Dai, Business Development Manager, Austrade Beijing and Ms Wang Chan, Research and Visits Liaison Officer, Australian Embassy Beijing

Wednesday 15th April, 2009

-Meeting with Ms Zuo Xiaolei, Managing Director & Chief Economist, China Galaxy Securities Company Limited

Participants: (China) – Ms Zuo Xiaolei, (Australia) – Senator Collins and Ms Sarah Noble, Second Secretary (Political), Australian Embassy in Beijing

-Morning tea with Dr Geoff Raby, Australian Ambassador to China

Attendees: Senator Collins, Dr Geoff Raby, Australian Ambassador to China, Mr Ian Watt, Minister-Counselor (Education), Australian Embassy in Beijing and Ms Sarah Noble, Second Secretary (Political), Australian Embassy in Beijing

-Lunch with Australian Business People

Attendees: Senator Collins, Mr Kent Matla (Chief Executive Officer, GNS China, Deputy Chairman of AusCham Beijing), Mr Graeme Lahman (President, ABT Creative), Mr Christian Buttrose (Managing Director China, Lloyd Morgan), Ms Maria Liu (ANZ General Manager of Beijing Branch), Ms Marcia Ward (Senior Foreign Lawyer, Blake Dawson International Lawyers), Mr David Dukes (Trade Commissioner, Austrade Beijing), Ms Shen Xiuqin (Business Development Manager, Austrade) and Ms Sarah Noble, Second Secretary (Political), Australian Embassy in Beijing
Thursday 16th April, 2009

-Meeting with Dr Wang Xiaolu, Senior Research Fellow, National Economic Research Institute, China Reform Foundation

Participants: (China) – Dr Wang Xiaolu, (Australia) – Senator Collins and Ms Sarah Noble, Second Secretary (Political), Australian Embassy in Beijing

-Meeting with Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Participants: (China) – Ms Gao Haichong, Researcher, Institute of World Economics and Politics, (Australia) – Senator Collins and Ms Sarah Noble, Second Secretary (Political), Australian Embassy in Beijing

Friday 17th April, 2009

-Campus tour led by Peking University students

Participants: (Australia) – Senator Collins Mr Quentin Stevenson-Perks, Counsellor (Education), Australian Embassy in Beijing and Mr Nick Purcell, Second Secretary (Political), Australian Embassy in Beijing

-Meeting with Mr Xia Hongwei, Executive Deputy Head of International Cooperation Department, Peking University

Participants: (China) – Mr Xia Hongwei, Ms Luo Ling, Liaison Officer, International Cooperation Department (Australia) – Senator Collins, Mr Quentin Stevenson-Perks, Counsellor (Education), Australian Embassy in Beijing and Mr Nick Purcell, Second Secretary (Political), Australian Embassy in Beijing

-Meeting with Peking University Youth Association of Foreign Affairs

Participants: (China) - Ms Zhao Yingzhen (Sissi), Director General, Peking University Youth Association of Foreign Affairs, Peking University Youth Association of Foreign Affairs Students, Peking University Representatives from Student Associations related to volunteer work, sport and the arts (Australia) – Senator Collins, Mr Quentin Stevenson-Perks, Counsellor (Education), Australian Embassy in Beijing and Mr Nick Purcell, Second Secretary (Political), Australian Embassy in Beijing

-Depart Beijing by overnight train to Shanghai

Comments:

China maintains an optimistic target of around 8% GDP growth for 2009. Despite suffering a major slowdown, China’s economy continues to grow as the developed world contracts. Recent indicators suggest that China is moving out of its slump and will lead the region in recovery. Its significant economic stimulus package is regarded as having constructive effect, combined with other regional programs. Concerns were raised about the potential for a production surplus. The need to target rural/regional infrastructure spending, such as extending the supply of electricity, was highlighted in order to promote future development.

China also continues to develop health services, labour and health and safety standards, employment services and recently released its action plan for human rights.
Saturday 18th April, 2009

- Arrive Shanghai

- Depart Shanghai to Australia

Sunday 19th April, 2009

- Arrive in Sydney/Melbourne, Australia

CONCLUSION

Australia’s trade relationship with China is critical to our future economic growth. China is now our second largest export market. Exports to China make up 3% of GDP. Our recent export boom, principally to China, has increased Australian employment by around 2% or 200,000 jobs.

The potential impact of campaigns against Australia’s trade relationship with China should not be underestimated. There is a high level of interest in Australia amongst Chinese. China’s economic growth is to be welcomed, with investment from China playing an important role in our economic partnership.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six-monthly tabling of travel costs for Senators and Members.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

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

Dear Minister,

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

(i)  **Confirmation of Purpose:**

I confirm the purpose of my journey as previously advised in my correspondence to you. I am very interested in relations between Australia and South American countries and how these can be improved.

In particular I am interested in differing political systems, environmental concerns, trade opportunities, agriculture and opportunities for Australia to attract South American tourists.

There has not been any change to the original purpose. I was accompanied by my spouse Inge-Jane Hall.

(b) **Itinerary**

2009

April 6

Depart Australia on QF17 arrive Buenos Aires

April 6

Depart Buenos Aires on LAN 1446 arrive Santiago
April 6/7/8
Santiago
April 8
Santiago to Valparaiso return
April 9
depart Santiago arrive Santa Cruz
April 9/10/11
Santa Cruz
April 12
Santa Cruz to Vina del Mar
April 12/13/14
Vina del Mar
April 15
Depart Vina del Mar arrive Santiago
April 15
Depart Santiago on LA154 arrive Calama/San Pedro De Atacama
April 15/16/17
San Pedro De Atacama
April 17
Depart San Pedro De Atacama/Calama on LA155 arrive Santiago
April 17/18/19
Santiago
April 21
Depart Santiago on LAN 445 arrive Buenos Aires
April 21/22/23
Buenos Aires
April 24
Depart Buenos Aires on AR2894 arrive Ushuaia
April 24/25/26/27
Ushuaia
April 28
Depart Ushuaia on AR2886 arrive Buenos Aires
April 28
Depart Buenos Aires by Buquebus ferry arrive Montevideo
April 28/29
Montevideo
April 30
Depart Montevideo arrive Colonia
April 30
Colonia
May 1
Depart Colonia by Buquebus Ferry arrive Buenos Aires
May 1
Buenos Aires
May 2
Depart Buenos Aires on QF18
May 3
Arrive Australia

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings:

An excellent programme of meetings was arranged partly by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian missions in Santiago and Buenos Aires and the Honorary Australian Consul in Montevideo.

These meetings included the following:

Santiago

His Excellency, Mr Crispin Conroy, Australian Ambassador to Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru. Discussion of Australia’s relationship with Chile and other countries in the region and opportunities for both countries. He provided an overview
of Chile’s economy and political history. He advised in relation to the political system, the environment, trade opportunities, agriculture and two way tourism opportunities. He mentioned that Australia would open an embassy in Peru this year. Discussion ensued on Chile’s interest in the Pacific and the importance of the Free Trade Agreement between Chile and Australia. Business is thriving between Chile and Australia in the areas of mining, education, agriculture and animal genetics. Chile is a good base for companies wishing to do business in Peru, Colombia or Brazil. We also discussed the level of Australia’s diplomatic representation.

Valparaiso

Meeting with people associated with the Parliament (National Congress) and discussion with officials on the Chilean system of government.

Meeting with His Excellency Mr Jorge Tarud MP, Chairman of the Australian Chile Friendship Group and former Chilean Ambassador to Australia.

Meeting with Soledad Ferreiro, Director National Congress Library which is located at the Congress in Valparaiso and other officers. As part of the FTA between Chile and Australia, scholarships have been offered to Chilean students to study at Australian universities.

The website of the library is responsible for delivering information on these scholarships to the general public. Apparently hits for this section doubled from 30,000 per month to 60,000 per month when the Australian university scholarships were posted on the website. The Library website is used to get information out to the general public. Forty percent of the Chilean population have access to computers. Internet is the best way to disburse information over a large country. The Library is becoming bookless and 19,000 people are using the website per day. The Library provides a legal database it is free and no advice is given. The Le Facile law database; puts law into basic terms for everyday people. The Library creates podcasts.

Santiago

Meeting with Alvano Sapag, Executive Director of the National Commission for the Environment. Chile has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol but does have important views on climate change. It is currently trying to establish an energy network that could present Chile with some challenges in the short term. Chile is seeking to move from gas to coal. It has a four year Action Plan and is doing research on mitigating "greenhouse gases". Main sources of gases are from transport, electric generation, manufacturing, construction and mining. Chile is dealing with the issue of a shortage of water.

Natural gas is imported from Argentina. Oil is imported and turned into diesel to generate electricity. Diesel for Santiago requires a better, more refined fuel than elsewhere. Debate on energy has not started in Chile, but an election is looming so it should start soon. Every type of energy source is on the table. Alternatives seen as a method of supporting renewable energy include solar and tidal.

No subsidies for renewable energy currently. The current President, Michelle Bachelet, will not make a decision of nuclear energy one way or the other but preparatory work for nuclear power is under way.
Meeting with Chile’s National Service of Tourism (Sernatur). Airfares to and from Chile are very expensive for Australians. This situation needs to improve in order to encourage business.

Significant numbers of Chilean students are travelling to Australia to study, this being a joint initiative of the Australian and Chilean Governments resulting in approximately 2000 students studying in Australia. There is a shortage of post-graduate positions in Chile. Chile has a US$61 arrival fee that must be paid upon entry to the country rather than as the cost of a visa (no visa is required). This does not make Australians feel very welcome it is inconvenient if arriving without any United States or Chilean currency. New Zealanders do not have to pay. The fee is a direct response to Australia requiring Chileans to pay the exact same fee as the price of a visa. Chilean Tourism has tried to address this issue with its Finance Ministry but no progress as yet. It was suggested that Chile should consider promoting itself more in Australia. Effectively only one airline is operating in Chile (LAN) and there is no “open sky” policy. High demand keeps a high loading and new airlines in Chile do not last.

Three years ago a law was passed controlling smoking in public places including restaurants.

Meeting with Oceana - International NGO. Oceana is currently operating several campaigns to secure new regulations and as such is constantly lobbying government and Chilean politicians.

1. Bottom Trawling
   - trying to stop this completely. Bottom trawling is destroying the sea bed.
   - The "sea mountains" also require protecting... some of which are outside the 200 kilometre Chilean zone.
   - in Chile some fishing areas are being permanently closed and some are already closed
   - Fishing Industry is very strong and has a strong lobby group

2. Carbon Emissions - seeking to reduce them.

3. Aquaculture - With respect to salmon farming, attempts are being made to try to stop the use of antibiotic chemicals in farming. There are 4000 concessions for salmon farming. Management and regulation need to be improved in this area.

4. Deep Sea Corals - the fishing industry is strongly supporting new laws against bottom trawling.

Meeting with Nigel Warren, Senior Trade Commissioner Latin America - Austrade and others. Regional office representing all of South America. Seeks to be customer based.

Mining in the north has seen huge investments. Chile has advanced protection laws. The institutions are strong, stable and transparent. Australia is the fifth largest investor in Chile. Economic policies have remained in place for the last 20 years indicating stability, Colombia is enjoying increased growth and greater stability. With respect to Venezuela, investment is not happening due to the political state in which the country finds itself. President Chavez is nationalising industries such as oil.
Wine Industry - Australia not made any investments in vineyards. De Bortoli however has done a deal to assist with distribution.

Soft Sectors - mining projects have stopped and no new mines are currently coming on stream. Large construction projects are having difficulty finding finance. There is anxiousness in the retail sector. Some overseas banks operate in Chile including American/Canadian/British/Spanish banks. Mining contributes to 15% of GDP and over half of all exports with energy demands growing at 6 to 7%. There is also an opportunity for Australian Fund Managers to manage Chilean Pension Funds. Currently, American or Canadian companies are managing these funds. Government Procurement is a possible new market particularly within the defence industry.

Santa Cruz

Meeting with Professor Claudio Dib on general Chilean issues including politics, economy and education. Discussions took place on the prognosis for the next Chilean elections.

Discussion with Ms Suzanne Schwellinger on ethnic issues and multiculturalism in Chile.

Meeting with local tourism operators. Discussions concerning wine tourism and how to market product.

Vina del Mar

Discussions with Mr Paul Lamarre on the airline industry and challenges concerning the global economic crisis. Discussions on development issues particularly on the coastline and high-rise construction on the beachfront areas. Discussions on property prices/title.

Discussions with Ms Myriam Ortega on the political situation and economy of Chile.

Discussion with local business people on the economic policies of the government.

San Pedro De Atacama

Meeting with local tourist operations and environmentalists. Discussion on impact of increased tourism numbers on the pristine environment. Discussion on the challenge increased development pressures places on the local environment.

Meeting with local tourism operators on virtual LAN monopoly and the impact an open sky policy would have.

Discussions with local business people on the relationship between Bolivia and Chile and the history of this relationship. Discussions on political situation of indigenous people and their quality of life. Discussions concerning the copper industry.
Buenos Aires

Discussions with Chargé d’Affairs Mr Nicholas McCaffrey on general matters concerning the political situation and the relationship both political and economic. Further briefing on the bilateral relationship with Argentina and Uruguay by Mr McCaffrey and Austrade Post Manager, Santiago Rubio.

Roundtable meeting with Mariano Jenik of Honeymax and Carlos Dodd of Baker McKenzie Lawyer. There are opportunities to invest in Argentina particularly in agricultural areas such as cropping and cattle. Banks do not lend money in Argentina to purchase property with a lot of very wealthy people investing in real estate. In order to buy real estate one have to come up with the money to purchase property. As a result, young people find it very difficult to get into real estate. Honeymax export honey all over the world and has a strategic joint venture with Capilano in Brisbane. They deal in pure honey only. Argentina’s institutions and democracy are strong, but politics is what ruins Argentina. They would like to see a move away from the current presidential system of election to something maybe similar to Australia’s system.

Meeting with Mr Michael Casey, Dow Jones Bureau Chief (Australian journalist and author) and Chargé d’Affaires Nicholas McCaffrey. Discussion on a wide range of economic and South American issues.

Meeting with Australia-Argentina Parliamentary Friendship Group. Dip. Julian Obiglio, Lower House MP and other members of the Friendship group accompanied by Third Secretary, Claire Rochecouste, and Senior Political Adviser, Fernando Perez-Tain. Discussion of bilateral issues, domestic Argentinean issues and prognosis for the coming election. Meeting with Argentine Tourism Secretariat (Alejandro Garcia, Director International Relations) accompanied by Third Secretary Claire Rochecouste and Senior Political Adviser, Fernando Perez-Tain. Discussion on tourism and other bilateral issues.

Meeting with Ambassador Nestor Stancanelli, Director International Economic Relations, Foreign Ministry. Ambassador Stancanelli has responsibility for WTO issues and was Argentine Ambassador in Canberra for seven years. Ministro Horacio Salvador (TBC) Director of Asia Oceania Division, Foreign Ministry accompanied by Chargé d’Affaires, Nicholas McCaffrey. Discussion on domestic Argentinian and bilateral issues.

Meeting on Environmental Development in Buenos Aires with Mr Ezequiel Gaspes Coordinator, Sustainable Procurement, Environmental Protection Agency Buenos Aires City Government and Dr Adriana Freysselinard, Director General of Planning. Discussion on issues currently confronting Buenos Aires.

Attendance at Queens Birthday Reception at British Embassy. Discussion with a range of people including business people foreign diplomats and Anglo-Argentineans on United Kingdom/Argentinean relations and the future of the Falklands Islands.
Ushuaia

Meetings with tourism operators and local business on issues of growth and development. Discussions concerning border issues between Chile and Argentina particularly affecting travel and tourism. Inspection of tourism infrastructure and wildlife.

Discussions with local business people on the prognosis for the next election in Argentina and implications for the economy.

Montevideo

Meeting with Diego Paysse' Australian Honorary Consul. Discussed the existence and significance of Mercosur an agreement among Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay. - Associated members to Mercosur are Chile and Bolivia. The relationship between Uruguay and Australia is not a dynamic one. New Zealand is more actively engaging Uruguay than Australia. New Zealand has an investment fund of US $190 million which they are using to buy dairy farms in Uruguay. Australian companies that have invested in Uruguay are involved with minerals and Hoyts has invested in cinemas. Uruguay has transparency and institutions - there is no "peronismo" like in Argentina. Uruguay has elections this year (2009). Moderate left wing government currently in power, but could possibly go further left after the next election. Banco Republica is the only Uruguayan government bank. All other banks are private. Australians visiting Uruguay are mainly backpackers and people are stopping off whilst on a cruise- 12,000 Australians visited Uruguay last year.

Meeting with Ambassador Jose Luis Remedi, Director of Regional African, Asia y Oceania of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Australia and Uruguay have a good relationship as far as the Ambassador is concerned and a good track record. It is recognised that Australia opened its doors to the Uruguayan people when Uruguay was going through difficult times.

Australia has assisted in getting democracy back and the Ambassador says this is appreciated by Uruguayans. Australia has one of the largest Uruguayan populations outside of Uruguay. There are now three or four generations of Uruguayans living in Australia and many do not speak Spanish. The Uruguayan/Australian Club began last October in Australia. Uruguay is a melting pot, mostly of people from Spanish and Italian and some other European background.

2. Important issues to be further discussed between our two countries - Visas and Social Security/Pensions. On visas the Ambassador posed the question as to how open one can be in the current world political climate? Uruguay is not tightening its visa
requirements- it is looking at the situation case by case with services doing checks on individuals coming to Uruguay.

Uruguayans have to go to Buenos Aires embassy for tourist visas to Australia; this is costly and time consuming. They also have to pay a deposit and there are lots of requirements. I will be discussing this with the office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Uruguayans also need transit visas to transit Sydney airport on way to further destinations such as Taiwan. With respect to Social Security/Pensions a proposal has been submitted to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to sign an agreement to establish a mechanism for Uruguayans who work in Australia for a period of time to be recognised for pensions. The Ambassador would like to know if there are any obstacles and how can they be overcome. I am to discuss this with the Uruguayan Ambassador in Australia.

Uruguay is keen to establish a mechanism of an annual meeting of the two Foreign ministries to discuss common issues (bilateral/multilateral). Uruguay would like to have an exchange between the Uruguayan Diplomatic Academy and DFAT. The Ambassador explained that to be Uruguayan, one only had to have a Uruguayan mother or father and that consequently one was automatically Uruguayan.

Bilateral trade between Australia and Uruguay. Uruguayan exports consist of agriculture, meat and minerals. They export the same products as Australia, hence trade between the two countries not growing. Uruguay has no oil and they are dependent upon imports. Excellent conditions for foreign investment- Montevideo acts as a gateway for South America - it is a good distribution point- Uruguay only has a population of 3 million, a small, but stable country working every day to improve its situation.

Meeting with Dr Antonio Carambula Sagasti, Director General of the Tourism Ministry. The difficulty for Uruguay are connections with areas outside of Mercosur countries. Flights between Australia and Uruguay are difficult. Tourism has a small budget to work with Uruguay is developing its wine industry and farm stays and distances are not far for tourists to really enjoy a stay in this country.

Colonia

Discussions with local business people on likely election outcomes and ramifications for the economy. Inspection of tourism infrastructure and heritage building preservation.
There were also other relevant meetings held where discussions took place during the study trip with persons who did not want to be identified as expressing certain views.

(iii) Conclusion

The study tour was relevant to my duties as Member for Fisher and will assist me in the discharge of my responsibilities.

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

Yours sincerely

PETER SLIPPER

2 June 2009
MR PETRO GEORGIOU MP

France, Belgium, Netherlands, United Kingdom and Italy
9 April – 8 May 2009
Senator the Hon. John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG61  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

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

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose:  
I confirm, as originally stated, that the purpose of my study trip was to examine country’s policies towards integration, asylum seekers, immigration detention, citizenship, human rights and the review of implementation of anti-terrorism laws.

(b) Itinerary  
The itinerary followed, including arrival and departure dates is detailed in pages 2 – 10 of this report.

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes  
The key meetings attended and the findings from those meetings are contained in pages 11 - 17 of this report.

(iii) Conclusion  
Concluding remarks are contained in pages 18 – 21 of this report.

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

Yours sincerely

Petro Georgiou MP  
Federal Member for Kooyong

June 7th 2009

Petro Georgiou, MP, Federal Member for Kooyong, 695 Burke Road, Camberwell, Victoria 3124  
Telephone: (03) 9882 3677  Facsimile: (03) 9882 3773  Email: P.Georgiou.MP@aph.gov.au
STUDY TRIP

PROGRAMME OF VISITS

FRANCE, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS,
UNITED KINGDOM, ITALY

MR PETRO GEORGIOU MP

14 APRIL 2009 TO 5 MAY 2009
FRANCE

14 TO 15 APRIL 2009

Tuesday 14 April

**OECD**

Mr Stefano Scarpetta, Head of Division for Employment Analysis and Policy of the OECD

Mr Jean-Christophe Dumont, Principal Administrator, International Migration of the OECD

Ms Monika Quesser, Head of Social Policy Division of the OECD

**UNESCO**

Ms Katerina Stenou, Director of the Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue at UNESCO

**French High Authority Against Discrimination and for Equality (HALDE)**

Ms Nepheli Yatropoulos, Advisor on European and International Affairs, HALDE

**Secretariat of State for Urban Policy**

Ms Dominique Bonnot-Limodin, Special Advisor to Ms Fadela Amara, Secretary of State for Urban Policy,

Wednesday 15 April

**Asylum Service Office (of the Ministry of Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Mutually Supportive Development)**

Ms Odile Cluzel, Deputy Head of the Asylum Service Division, French Ministry of Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Mutually Supportive Development
Discrimination Division Office (of the French Ministry of Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Mutually Supportive Development)

Ms Sylvie Moreau, Head of Service and Deputy Director of the Welcoming, Integration and Prevention of Discrimination Division, French Ministry of Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Mutually Supportive Development

Australian Embassy in France

HE Mr David Ritchie, Australian Ambassador to France

UNESCO

Mr Pierre Sané, Assistant Director General for Social and Human Science at the UNESCO
BELGIUM

16 TO 17 APRIL 2009

Thursday 16 April 2009

European Commission - Immigration & Integration

Mrs Diane Schmitt, Head of Unit B1 - Immigration & Integration – European Commission

(Detention Vulnerable Asylum Seekers (DEVAS))

Mr Stefan Kessler, Senior Policy & Advocacy Officer, Jesuit Refugee Service Europe, DEVAS (Detention Vulnerable Asylum Seekers)

Australian Embassy in Belgium

HE Mr Alan Thomas, Australian Ambassador to Belgium

Friday 17 April 2009

Federal Public Service Interior Affairs, Foreigners Office

Mr Freddy Roosemont, Director General, Foreigners Office, Federal Public Service Interior Affairs

European Commission - Directorate Security, DG Justice, Freedom & Security

Ms Marie-Ange Balbinot, Head of Sector Unit F1 “Fight against Terrorism”, European Commission, Directorate Security, DG Justice, Freedom & Security

European Council for Refugees & Exiles (ECRE)

Ms Anne Peeters, Advocacy Officer, European Council for Refugees & Exiles (ECRE)
NETHERLANDS

20 TO 21 APRIL 2009

Monday 20 April 2009

Immigration and Naturalisation Service (Ministry of Justice)

Mrs Astrid Onotafe-Nederveen (Citizenship Testing); Mrs Yeunyee Wong, Senior Policy Adviser IND and Mrs Mieke Zijverden (Immigration Policy), Immigration and Naturalisation Service (part of the Ministry of Justice)

Citizenship and Integration (Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment)

Ms Arina Kruithof, Deputy Director Citizenship and Integration, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment

Directorate Human Rights (Ministry of Justice)

Professor Martin Kuijer, Senior Advisor, Directorate Human Rights, Ministry of Justice

Criminal and Sanction Legislation, Directorate Legislation (Terrorism Legislation), (Ministry of Justice)

Pieter Verrest, Sub-Directorate Criminal and Sanction Legislation, Directorate Legislation (Terrorism Legislation), Ministry of Justice

Tuesday 21 April 2009

Australian Embassy in the Netherlands

H E Ms Lydia Morton, Australian Ambassador to the Netherlands

Parliament - Parliamentary Committee for Justice

Ms M van Toorenburg MP CDA (Christian Democrats) (centre-right)

Note: Mr Paul de Krom MP (VVD) Party for Freedom and Democracy (centre-right) liberals and Jeroen Dijsselbloem (PvdA) Labour Party (centre-left) cancelled as had to attend a parliamentary (written) vote.
**UNITED KINGDOM**

22 TO 29 APRIL 2009

**Thursday 23 April 2009**

*Refugee Council*

Mr Jonathan Ellis, Director of Policy and Development, Refugee Council

*Parliament - Shadow Minister Community Cohesion and for Social Action - Conservative Party*

Baroness Warsi, Shadow Minister Community Cohesion and for Social Action

*Parliament - All Party Groups on Refugees*

Mr Neil Gerrard MP, Chair of All Party Groups on Refugees

*Parliament – Liberal Democrats*

Mr Chris Huhne MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary

**Friday 24 April 2009**

*Amnesty International*

Ms Judit Arenas Licea, Head of Office of the Secretary-General and Mr Javieir Zuniga, Senior Adviser to Regional Programs, Amnesty International

*UK Border Agency (and former Chair of the Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration)*

Mary Coussey, Consultant to the UK Border Agency and former Chair of the Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration

*(Visit to) Citizenship Testing*
Visit to A4e Test Centre (Citizenship Testing), met by Mr Matthew White

**Equality and Human Rights Commission**

Mr Chris Myant, Programme Head for Good Relations, Mr Peter Reading, Senior Professional, Legal Policy Team, Equality and Human Rights Commission and Ms Maria Neophytou, Head of European and International Policy

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**Saturday 25 April 2009**

ANZAC Day Wreath Laying at The Shrine

ANZAC Day Service at Westminster Abbey

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**Monday 27 April 2009**

**Association of Visitors to Immigration Detention (AVID)**

Programme organised by Ms Sally Tarshish, Association of Visitors to Immigration Detention (AVID)

**Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group**

Mr Nic Eadie, Coordinator for Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, Tinsley House and Brooke House Immigration Removal Centres (IRC)

**Oxford University**

Dr Mary Bosworth, Research Criminologist, Oxford University

**Australian High Commission (Australian Defence Force)**

ANZAC Day Reception, Australia House
Tuesday 28 April 2009

*Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID)*

Ms Amanda Shah, Assistant Director – Policy, BID, Bail for Immigration Detainees

*Citizens for Sanctuary*

Mr Jonathan Cox, Lead Organiser and Director of Citizens for Sanctuary

*Islamic Human Rights Commission*

Mr Massoud Shadjareh, Chair, Islamic Human Rights Commission

*Immigration Law Practitioner’s Association*

Ms Alison Harvey, General Secretary, Immigration Law Practitioner’s Association (discussions to have particular focus on the questions of detention and the life in the UK test)

Wednesday 29 April 2009

*Parliament – Independent Reviewer of Terrorism*

Lord (Alex) Carlile of Berriew QC, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Mental Health and Disability (+ Independent Reviewer of Terrorism)
ITALY

30 APRIL TO 5 MAY 2009

Thursday 30 April 2009

Parliament

Hon Marco Fedi, Member of Italian Parliament, Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Senator Nino Randazzo, Member of the Italian Senate, Secretary of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fishing, Member of the Permanent Parliamentary Delegation to Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Member of the Committee on Policies for Italians Abroad

Italian Refugee Council

Dr Christopher Hein, Director, Italian Refugee Council

Monday 4 May 2009

Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration (Ministry of the Interior)

Preftto Giuseppe Forlani, Direttore Centrale – Direzione Centrale dei Servizi Civili per l’Immigrazione e l’Asilo, Dipartimento per Liberta Civile e Immigrazione

Judiciary

Justice Elisabetta Rosi, Judge and Legal Assistant, Constitutional Court

Tuesday 5 May 2009

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Mr Peter Schatzer, President of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Director, Regional Office for the Mediterranean and Chief of Mission for Italy and Malta and Natale Losi PhD, Head, Psychosocial & Cultural Integration Unit

Directorate General Italians Abroad and Immigration Policies (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Couns. Marco Matacotta, Director, Office for Immigration Policies and Asylum, Directorate General Italians Abroad and Immigration Policies
(ii) Key Meetings – Main points
France – April 14th – 15th

Meeting with Mr Stefano Scarpetta – Head of Division for Employment Analysis and Policy of the OECD and Mr Jean-Christophe Dumont – Principal Administrator of International Migration of the OECD
- European nations are now recognising that they are countries of immigration.
- Strong view that immigration is basic to effective economic development and that labour market protectionism could interfere with this.
- Integration being emphasised because it is now recognised that immigrants are not transient but a permanent fixture.
- World recession is impacting disproportionately on employment areas of high migrant labour concentration.

Meeting with Ms Monika Quesser – Head of Social Policy Division of the OECD
- Discussion of implications of new assertive emphasis on integration and tests.

Meeting with Ms Katrina Stenou – Director of the Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue at UNESCO
- General discussion of the role of UNESCO.

Meeting with Ms Nepheli Yatropoulos – Adviser on European and International Affairs, High Authority Against Discrimination and for Equality (HALDE)
- Functions of HALDE, created under E.U. directives.
- Investigatory, community education and advice in court cases, no judicial function.
- HALDE’S heightened profile leading to increased complaint caseload.
- Problems of fighting discrimination when data is not collected on ethnic and racial demographics. HALDE supports this.
- Difficult to fight against discrimination if one ignores its systemic outcomes.

Meeting with Ms Dominique Bonnot-Limodin – Special Adviser to Ms Fadela Amara, Secretary of State for Urban Policy
- France is very committed to integration and anti-discrimination, within the context of "egalite", understood as not permitting the responses to systemic discrimination on grounds of ethnicity etc.
- An attempt to respond to systemic discrimination would be the creation of division within an egalitarian French state.
- Elaboration was made on the regressive attitudes towards women by some segments of French society.
Meeting with Ms Odile Cluzel – Deputy Head of the Asylum Service Division of the Ministry of Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Mutually Supportive Development

- Outline of French responses to asylum seekers, its administration and support.
- Compliance with E.U. directives noted.
- There is no mandatory detention of asylum seekers in France.
- Issues relating to the Dublin convention.

Meeting with Ms Sylvie Moreau - Deputy Director of the Welcoming, Integration and Prevention of Discrimination Division of the Ministry of Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Mutually Supportive Development

- Integration contracts.
- Commitment to equality but essentially a need for assimilation.

Mr Pierre Sané, Assistant Director General for Social and Human Science at the UNESCO

- Discussion of diversity.
- Ignoring ethnic diversity discussed.

Belgium – April 16th – 17th

Meeting with Mr Stefan Kessler – Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, Jesuit Refugee Service Europe, DEVAS (Detention Vulnerable Asylum Seekers)

- There is concern about increasing xenophobia.
- The current state of integration in Europe was discussed.
- Studies of detention in Europe was discussed.
- Discussed the changes in Australia on asylum seekers, including the ending of temporary protection visas.

Meeting with Mr Freddy Roosemont – Director General, Foreigners Office, Federal Public Service Interior Affairs

- Tour de Horizon of Belgian immigration and asylum seeker issues.

Meeting with Ms Marie Ange Balbinot – Head of Sector Unit F1 “Fight Against Terrorism”, European Commission, Directorate DG Justice, Freedom and Security

- Resume of anti-terrorist actions and analysis by the E.U.

Meeting with Ms Anne Peeters – Advocacy Officer, European Council for Refugees and Exiles

- Immigration and naturalisation services.
- The Dutch citizenship test and integration programmes.
- Discussion of issues relating to the need to endorse nudity and homosexuality as part of acceptance for integration.
• There is a conformist thrust of integration policies internationally.
• There is a greater emphasis on detention in Europe by governments.
• There is concern with the effectiveness of the Dublin convention, particularly with regard to the return to Greece as the country of first asylum and Greece’s treatment of asylum seekers.
• The environment in Italy regarding asylum seekers.
• Developments in Australia.

The Netherlands – April 20th – 21st

Meeting with Professor Martin Kuijer – Senior Advisor, Directorate Human Rights, Ministry of Justice
• Impact of terrorism on civil liberties
• Consequences of an accumulation of anti-terrorist laws, a significant concern.
• Attempts to scrutinise anti-terrorist laws for consistency with human rights instruments.
• The issue of status of exemptions for some nationalities from the operation of Dutch integration laws.

Meeting with Mr Pieter Verrest – Sub-Directorate Criminal and Sanction Legislation, Ministry of Justice
• The Netherlands anti-terrorist laws and actions.
• The Netherlands are compliant with E.U. directives.
• Discussed issues of coordination.

Meeting with Ms M. Van Toorenburg MP, Member of Parliament for the CDA – Christian Democrats
• Netherlands had believed that immigrants were not a permanent fixture.
• Dutch multiculturalism premised on this.
• When recognised that immigrants were here to stay, a strong integration policy was required.
• Integration tests were required because it was important that the problems of first immigrants not be revisited.

United Kingdom – April 22nd – 29th

Meeting with Mr Jonathan Ellis, Director of Policy and Development, Refugee Council.
• Refugee issues not as contentious as it was in 2000/2001.
• The major problems with settlement of refugees remain a lack of quality housing, a lack of investment in legal support and no work rights.
• At the moment in the UK, however, the media is focusing more on economic migrants.
Meeting with Baroness Warsi, Shadow Minister for Community Cohesion and for Social Action.
- Discussed the provision of government funding for ethnic-specific services.
- A contentious issue in the UK as many believe it does not encourage integration into mainstream society.

Meeting with Mr Neil Gerrard MP, Labour, Chair of All Party Groups on Refugees.
- The issue of refugees is not as fraught as it was a few years ago.
- Local authorities were much more active in integrating refugees into the local community than central governments.

Meeting with Mr Chris Huhne MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary.
- The government’s response to the atmosphere conditioned by terrorist fears was to implement legislation, which has limited civil liberties.
- The Liberal Democrats have introduced a ‘Freedom bill’ to repeal 18 pieces of legislation.
- Mr Huhne also commented that the introduction of the Human Rights Act was positive.

Meeting with Ms Judit Arenas Licea, Head Office of the Secretary-General and Mr Javier Zuniga, Special Adviser to Regional Programs, Amnesty International.
- Amnesty International is not positive about the direction Europe is heading regarding refugees.
- There is growing hostility and countries are challenging the European Convention for Refugees.

Meeting with Ms Mary Coussey, Consultant to the UK Border Agency and former Chair of the Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration.
- The Life in the UK test as an integration-based test and not an immigration-based test.
- The idea of earned citizenship is gaining increased credibility in the UK, as it is felt that this will make migrants active within the community.

Meeting with Matthew White, Test Operations, Citizenship testing centre.
- The test comprises 24 questions and applicants have 45 minutes to complete the test.
- The pass rate is 68% for people applying for citizenship and about 76-77% for those applying for settlement.
- There are approximately 2,000 people sitting the test per month and data on the characteristics of those failing the test is limited.

Meeting with Mr Peter Reading, Senior Professional, Legal Policy Team and Ms Maria Neophytou, Head of European and International Policy, Equality and Human Rights Commission.
- The Government has just released a Green Paper on a Bill of Rights for the UK.
- There is a focus in the Green Paper on responsibilities, as a criticism of the Human Rights Act is that it focuses too much on rights and not responsibilities.
- The Human Rights Commission is also in the early stages of investigations into government integration policies.
Meetings with Ms Sally Tarshish, Association of Visitors to Immigration Detention (AVID, Mr Nic Eadie, Coordinator for Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group; Dr Mary Bosworth, Reader in Criminology, Oxford University and Dr Emma Plugge, Director, MSc Global Health Science, Oxford University.

- In the UK, detention is for those who fall on the wrong side of immigration.
- There is no robust evidence with regard to the physical and mental health of those held in immigration detention.
- The UK policy is that children should only be held as a last resort, but this is not the practice.
- Some children are held for over three months and the lengths of detention are increasing.
- The role of the UNHCR has diminished in the UK over the last ten years, although it had been doing lots of uninvited/unannounced visits, this has ceased.

Meeting with Ms Amanda Shah, Assistant Director Policy, Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID).

- The 1971 Immigration Act contains provisions for detainees to apply for bail but not the automatic right to a bail hearing.
- Detainees have the right to apply for bail within 28 days and then every 28 days subsequently, although detainees have to instigate proceedings themselves.
- 30,000 people a year pass through immigration detention, including about 2000 children.
- 22% of all applicants are granted bail and BID does a lot of work with children and families.
- 40% of asylum seekers go on to be released but for many, they will be detained again in the future.

Meeting with Jonathan Cox, Lead Organiser, Citizens for Sanctuary.

- Citizens for Sanctuary are currently campaigning to get the status of people who have been living in the UK for many years regularised and this issue has widespread support.
- The term ‘asylum seeker’ is poison in the UK, as it is associated with mental illness.
- By changing the label, studies prove that people are much more positive about asylum seekers - 85% of people in the UK are receptive to the term/idea of sanctuary.
- Citizens for Sanctuary are very interested in alternatives to detention and feel that detention should only be used as a last resort.

Meeting with Massoud Shadjareh, Chair, Islamic Human Rights Commission.

- The Islamic Human Rights Commission has existed for eleven years in the UK.
- They are very concerned about erosions to civil liberties and feel that the Muslim community is being unfairly targeted in issues relating to citizenship.
- Multiculturalism has been rejected by the UK government.
- Muslim people are feeling not only that they do not belong in the UK but that there is no future for them here.

Meeting with Ms Alison Harvey, General Secretary, Immigration Law Practitioners’ Association (ILPA).

- There are profound problems with citizenship laws in the UK.
- All parties accept in principle the notion of earned citizenship but people are denied access to public services before they gain citizenship or until they gain it.
- Another appeal for governments is the idea that making it harder to become a British citizen deters people from coming here.
• There is a lack of research into the impacts of the Life in the UK test. There is no clear purpose for the test, is it motivated by wanting to stop immigration, stop terrorism or promote Britishness?

Meeting with Lord Carlile – Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Laws
• Total independence in his role is fundamentally important.
• Such a role operates more effectively if conducted as an individual entity, as opposed to a panel of reviewers.
• In terms of resources, the office of an independent reviewer was either a simple operation or a substantially staffed operation.
• The preference is for a simple operation with a reviewer and one full time, highly security cleared assistant.
• The utilisation of research consultants, which he uses, was important.

Italy – April 30th – May 5th

Meeting with Prefecto Guiseppe Forlani – Ministero dell Interno
• There is significant concern about the increasing number of undocumented arrivals.
• Arrivals are put into reception centres upon arrival for their claims to be processed; it was emphasised that there is no mandatory detention.
• There was an indication that Italy may move towards testing for citizenship.
• It is recognised that Italy is now becoming a country that receives immigrants rather than being an exporter.

Meeting with Hon. Marco Fedi and Senator Nino Randazzo
• Italian politics.
• Australian politics.
• Berlusconi.

Meeting with Dr Christopher Hein – Italian Refugee Council
• Italy is now on the frontline of refugee/asylum seeker movements, with 31,000 refugees arriving in the last year.
• The regime is that everyone is issued a deportation certificate which leads to detention unless a refugee status is claimed.
• 55% of claims are accepted.
• In terms of integration, refugees can apply for citizenship within five years and on recognition can get family reunion rights.
• Concern about direction of European integration policies.

Meeting with Justice Elisabetta Rosi, Judge and Legal Assistant, Constitutional Court
• Discussed Italy and refugees.
• Discussed the impact of the E. U. and its directives.
Meeting with Counsellor Marco Matacotta, Director Office for Immigration Policies and Asylum, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- There is no sense of crisis about asylum seekers.
- Emphasis on Italy’s commitment to EU laws.
- There was real concern, however, about illegal immigrants and in particular, Romanian members of the EU.

Meeting with Mr Peter Schatzer – President of the International Organisation for Migration, Rome

- While there has been an increase in refugee applications, this needed to be placed in a historical context.
- Asylum seekers are comparatively well looked after in terms of housing support and other services.
- Once people achieve refugee status, they “defaulted” to being treated like Italian citizens in a society where safety nets are limited.
- The focus on illegal immigration and asylum seekers was distracting from the tasks of integration.
- Child protection of unaccompanied minors is strong in Italy and is possibly leading to the increase in arrival of unaccompanied minors.
- Belief in the crisis distracts attention from integration issues facing immigrants.
- In policy terms, people don’t know what to do.
(iii) Conclusion

INTEGRATION AND MULTICULTURALISM

The issues of integration and social cohesion have become prominent in Europe, with the focus being on ethnic and immigrant communities. Regardless of whether past policies towards these groups have been archetypically multicultural as in the Netherlands, strongly assimilationist as in France, or falling between these two poles as in the U.K., Belgium and Italy, the demand for greater compliance with "national" norms, values, and language acquisition has become very marked.

Two major reasons were given for the strengthened demands for integration. The first was that for a considerable period of time there was a perception that migrants were only going to stay for a limited period and would in time return to their countries of origin. Consequently strong integration policies were not a priority. The recognition that this would not occur, and that immigrant and ethnic groups with distinctive values would be enduring, and so for some, an uncomfortable part of the national landscape increased demands for conformity. This explanation for the responses to ethnically based diversity as being moulded by a belief in the transience of immigrant groups being succeeded by an appreciation that they were not going to go away. This undoubtedly simplifies a more complex reality, but it does illustrate the basic assumptions underlying policy in this area.

The second reason for the strengthened demands was the impact of the September 11 terrorist attacks, concerns about violent manifestations of Islamic fundamentalism, specific acts of violence associated with criticisms of Islam such as the murders of Pym Fortun, Theo van Gogh, the widespread urban riots in France in 2007, and the terrorist attacks on London.

The concern about immigrants and ethnic groups and particularly Islamic faith in Europe compounded by the post-September 11 surge in fears of terrorism created a sea change in policies towards ethnically based cultural diversity and a new assertiveness in demands for integration. A centrepiece of this demand for compliance is the imposition of integration tests for citizenship and residence.

1. France has introduced integration contracts for immigrants to attend civic training and language courses, which once entered into, are mandatory with non-compliance potentially affecting long term residence permit. Citizenship is granted on assimilation into the French community and knowledge of French language.
2. The Netherlands requires that intending immigrants pass a language and culture test prior to being granted a visa to gain permanent residence and citizenship applicants have to pass an hour integration examination of spoken and written Dutch and knowledge of Dutch society.
3. The U.K. requires people applying for citizenship or permanent residence to pass a "Life in the U.K. Test" of English language proficiency and knowledge of British history and society.
4. Belgium has mandatory participation for immigrants in language and social orientation programmes in its Flemish part and voluntary participation in its French speaking parts.
5. Italy is proposing that immigrants applying for permanent residence should pass a language test.

The panoply of tests introduced were usually strongly defended on the grounds that they would assist the integration process and benefit both the immigrant and the society. With regard to the Australian test, my view was that it was contrary to our traditions and would result in the exclusion of people who had made a substantial contribution over the years from becoming full members of the
Australian community. The understanding gained from the countries visited has not changed my views and indeed has strengthened them. It is time that a thorough empirical evaluation of the impact of the Australian test be undertaken, and it is worthwhile quoting a rare empirical evaluation of such tests. Speaking of the Netherlands test by van Oers, “empirical research...has shown that the test clearly disadvantages weaker groups in society (the elderly, illiterate people or those with limited or no education) as opposed to groups who have few problems in integrating into the nation, thereby creating new inequalities”.

Regarding “multiculturalism” the view was expressed on a number of occasions that “misguided multiculturalism” lay at the roots of concerns about social cohesion resulting in the need for aggressive integrationist policies. This is however difficult to sustain. To make just two points – the similar issues faced by France and the Netherlands emerged from two fundamentally different attitudes to cultural diversity – assimilation in France and multiculturalism in the Netherlands. And indeed if we look at the Netherlands it seems that the fundamental premise underlying that society’s multicultural phase was a belief that immigrants would go home, and the support of ethnic diversity flowed from that belief and was unaccompanied by an emphasis on core values.

I am personally doubtful that the aggressive enforcement of conformity will work, and that some of the key measures to enforce this, such as tests of “Britishness” or “Dutchness” will work, but will militate against cohesion from excluding immigrants from citizenship or deterring them from seeking it. Reflecting on the experience of multicultural policy and an inclusive citizenship in Australia, it seems to me that we have done remarkably well thorough a process of respecting ethnic and cultural diversity within a framework shared values including a commitment to our democratic beliefs and institutions and the rule of law. The erosion of government commitment to multiculturalism in recent years and the aping of the Europeans by imposing citizenship tests will not, I believe, serve our country well.

**TERRORISM**

Counter-terrorist legislation has been a major pre-occupation of both the European Commission and all the counties visited. The E.U Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism of June 13 2002 has been followed by passage of national laws including imposing heavier penalties where existing criminals were involved in a terrorist offence, criminalisation of membership of terrorist organizations and recruiting people for jihad.

At the same time there has been considerable experience in all these countries of significant terrorist activity long proceeding September 11. The U.K. has had a long history of counter-terrorist activity against the I.R.A. Italy against the Red Brigades, Germany with the Red Army faction and France and Spain against Basque separatists. The threat of Islamic fundamental extremism is thus a new focus of anti-terrorist lawmaking, and action to counter radicalisation has been initiated, which is a rather more diffuse notion than terrorism. The salience of the new terrorist threat has not however obscured the fact that it is separatist extremist threats that most affect E.U. nations, particularly Basque separatist terrorism in France and Spain and Corsican separatist terrorism in France.

The plethora of new antiterrorist laws has created growing countrends, with questioning of the need for the laws, their effectiveness, and their accumulated weight. Increasingly voiced is a concern that the response to terrorism is eroding the character of the democratic societies that the response is designed to protect. It is always possible that new terrorist outrages will moderate expression of
these concerns. At the present time however they are becoming more prominent, and not just in terms of the mantra of maintaining a balance between security and civil liberties. There was general recognition amongst some politicians and advisers that accumulation was a matter of concern. Professor Martin Kuijer Senior Advisor Directorate of Human Rights, Directorate Legislation (Terrorism Legislation) Netherlands Ministry of Justice, took the view that the accumulative effect of a number of anti-terrorist measures is a matter of growing concern. Too often new legislative measures are proposed without properly answering fundamental questions. These questions include:

“Demonstrating the real nature and extent of the phenomenon which the measure is intended to target, the manner in which the new measure will be effective ...and why new measures are necessary on top of existing measures”

On a political level, the Liberal Democrats in the U.K. have sought to highlight the “salami slicing” of civil liberties by an accumulation of apparently small measures. Individually, apparently justified by terrorist threats, taken cumulatively they amount to a severe derogation of fundamental liberties. To show what they regard as the extent of loss they have published a so called “Freedom Bill” of the intrusions they intend to push back. At the time of speaking with Chris Huhne, their shadow Home Secretary, the Liberal Democrats’ potential ability to act with significant extent seemed limited. Since then, the U.K. M.P.’s rorts affair has changed the political landscape a little.

It is clear that the need for an ongoing monitoring of counter-terrorist laws is needed. The meeting with the U.K. Reviewer, Lord Carlile was instructive. The idea of a panel of reviewers, which has been raised both in Australia and the U.K. did not get a great deal of support. I tend to agree because at the end of the day someone needs to be responsible, and that means individually responsible, so in a miasma of agencies a single individual has to have to put their thing on the block. What seems to be fundamental is the independence of the Reviewer and access to agencies and intelligence. The U.K. reviewer is essentially part time, and I do not believe that this would be acceptable in Australia. The private member’s bill seems to me to be fine in the specifics of the role. The issue is essentially one of responsibility and reporting. Two alternative models were put forward in terms of resourcing.

1. The first is the current minimalist resources available to the U.K. reviewer, enhanced essentially with augmented consultancy assistance and a full time secretary with appropriate security clearances.
2. Alternatively there would have to be a jump to a significant organization of around 60.

There are tradeoffs between the two – slimness and flexibility or resources and cumbersoness (and possibly also security concerns). There is no way of deciding this in the abstract. An idiosyncratic office of this sort depends on the judgement that the person believed to be doing the task believes it is necessary. It would seem the best way of proceeding with the resourcing issue, is to select a person who could do the job, give him/her six months to survey the terrain and report to the Prime Minister about the structure and resources that would enable the role to be discharged. The reason for going to the Prime Minister is that it would give the space for a coordination agency to evaluate whether or not it would work. Leaving it to line departments has, in my experience rarely had an effective or efficient outcome.
REFUGEES AND DETENTION

The temperature regarding refugee issues seems to have generally fallen in the countries visited. In the UK, which still receives approximately 20,000 claims for asylum each year, negative media attention on refugees and asylum seekers is reported to have dropped and community sentiment has become more positive. Italy, by contrast, which has had in the order of 30,000 applicants for asylum, is the scene of a significant focus on the threat of asylum seekers. In The Netherlands, France and Belgium, the issue has a lower profile and official attitudes are comparatively low key.

One key issue emerging from research done by Citizens for Sanctuary in the UK is the negative connotation of the word ‘asylum’ which is, for many, closely associated with negative images of mental illness, not people fleeing from persecution. The research shows that by changing the terms of debate from ‘asylum’ to ‘sanctuary’ evokes more positive attitudes towards people seeking sanctuary and the obligation to give them assistance. This has important implications for the course of debate in Australia. One of the problems in the debate in Australia has been the difficulty of breaking away from the demonising designations of “queue jumpers”, “economic refugees” and so on. Asylum seekers seemed to be an appropriate alternative designation. Intuitively however, the research does ring and it would be worthwhile doing some research to see whether it holds in Australia.

Significant concerns were raised about the impact of the Dublin convention, particularly with respect to Greece, the arrangements between Italy and Libya to prevent flows of asylum seekers to Italy, and the reception centre on Lampedusa and the Italian government’s tough rhetoric on refugees.

None of the countries had a mandatory detention policy, but there was a concern amongst refugee organisations that governments were moving towards a stronger emphasis on detention.

Concern was also manifested about the fast tracking of apparently “straightforward cases”. In particular, there are questions about the high rate of refusals of applications and the ability of traumatised people to present properly in a short period of time.

All the countries used a wide variety of alternatives to detention. It is worth noting in the UK that those held in immigration detention have the right to apply for bail within 28 days of their detention and every 28 days thereafter, however, there is no automatic review and it is left to the detained person to initiate their own bail application. Groups such as Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) empower those who don’t know or understand the system so they do not get left behind. Many of BID’s clients repeatedly apply for bail if they are held in detention long-term as the Home Office is required to produce a monthly detention review and a bail summary stipulating why detention remains lawful. Bail applicants also have the right to legal representation but again this is not an automatic right. Twenty-two per cent of applicants are granted bail.

The implications for Australia of the various country experiences is that the resort to detention can always be extended, even where there is no history of mandatory detention. The utilisation of administrative detention in these countries underscores the fact that without independent judicial supervision, the risk of not meeting our obligations to those entitled to sanctuary in our nation is high.
MR MICHAEL JOHNSON MP

Republic of Korea and China
9 – 17 April 2009
Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig  
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 journey:

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

To visit Pyongyang, North Korea, via Beijing, to see and witness for myself the precise state of society in North Korea – perhaps one of the darkest places on the face of the planet.

Very few Australians, including only a handful of Australian Members of Parliament, have ever been to North Korea, and as such, I consider it a unique and special opportunity for me to make a trip there to absorb for myself the condition of the society and its people, to judge for myself the global media perception of North Korea, and to engage in dialogue and conversation with any North Korean official or citizen, if possible.

In the current Parliament, only the Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, and myself have been to Pyongyang. The Prime Minister visited North Korea in 1999 during his time as a backbencher. Therefore, in his role now as Prime Minister, I would anticipate he would be curious as to the impressions I formed and policy direction Australia might adopt in relation to North Korea.

(b) Itinerary:

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<th>Friday, 10 April 2009 (Brisbane-Hong Kong; Hong Kong – Beijing)</th>
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Picked up NK vise this afternoon – NK Embassy - No. 11, Ri Tan Bei Lu, Jian Guo Men Wei, Chaoyang District
| ACCOMMODATION: The Peninsula Hotel, Beijing, 8 Goldfish Lane, Wangfujing, Beijing. Tel: (86-10) 8516 2888, Fax: (86-10) 8510 6311 Confirmation #: 9434428 |
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**Saturday, 11 April 2009 (Beijing)**

**ACCOMMODATION: The Peninsula Hotel, Beijing, 8 Goldfish Lane, Wangfujing, Beijing. Tel: (86-10) 8516 2888, Fax: (86-10) 8510 6311 Confirmation #: 9434428**

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**Sunday, 12 April 2009 Beijing**

**ACCOMMODATION: The Peninsula Hotel, Beijing, 8 Goldfish Lane, Wangfujing, Beijing. Tel: (86-10) 8516 2888, Fax: (86-10) 8510 6311 Confirmation #: 9434428**

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**Monday, 13 April 2009 (Beijing – Pyongyang)**

| 1340 – 1620 | CA121 Departs Beijing - Arrives Pyongyang |
| 1620  | Check-in to Koryo Hotel |
| 1830  | Dinner with Ambassador H.E Mr S. Khurelbastar, Mongolia’s Ambassador to the DPRK |

**ACCOMMODATION: Koryo Hotel, Pyongyang**

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**Tuesday, 14 April 2009 (Pyongyang)**

| 0900  | Visit to Secretary Mr. of Kim Il Song Socialist Youth League |
| 1000  | Visit to Foreign Vice Minister H.E. Kim Young Il |
| 1100  | Visit UN Resident co-ordinator and WFP Representative Mr. Torben Peter Due |
| 1400  | Meeting with Ambassador H.E.Mr. Peter John Hughes of United Kingdom to DPRK |
| 1500  | Meeting with Mr. Pak Young Sung Vice-director of Asian Department of the Committee for Cultural Relations with the Foreign Countries, Secretary of Association for Co-operation between DPRK and Asian Pacific countries |
| 1630  | Reception hosted by Ambassador H.E.Mr. S.Khurelbastar |

**ACCOMMODATION: Koryo Hotel, Pyongyang**

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**Wednesday, 15 April 2009 (Pyongyang – Beijing)**

| 0900  | Visit to Kumsusan Memorial Palace |
| 1000  | Juche Tower |
| 1330  | Lunch at Kabansan guest house |
| 1720 – 1805  | CA 122 Departs Pyongyang – Arrives Beijing |

**ACCOMMODATION: The Peninsula Hotel, Beijing, 8 Goldfish Lane, Wangfujing, Beijing. Tel: (86-10) 8516 2888, Fax: (86-10) 8510 6311 Confirmation #: 9434429**
(ii) Key Meetings and Outcomes/Findings:

The key outcome of my overall meetings in Pyongyang, North Korea, was the introduction to some general and some specific relationships with individuals and organisations that occupy key roles in North Korea. These include the British Ambassador to North Korea, HE Peter John Hughes, who has been the architect of British policy towards North Korea. These include the Country Head of the World Food Program (WFP), Mr Torben Pater Due, who has been a strong advocate for the world to increase its food contribution quota to North Korea. A third brief, but key meeting was with the North Korean Vice-Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, HE Kim Young Il.

These meetings and relationships have now put me in the position where I am better placed to return to North Korea in the future with a broader and wider Australian Delegation. This is certainly my vision - that one day soon, I can take to Pyongyang a delegation of young Australians, whether they be students, sports players, musicians, or academics.

The most significant development is that I might have placed myself in a position of trust where I am given support to actually take a major delegation of musicians or sporting team. Indeed I am very keen to try and take either the Queensland Symphony Orchestra (QSO) or a Queensland football club (Roar or Galaxy) to North Korea in 2010! This would be something of global exposure, of international significance and in my view, a major step forward in the fundamental re-engagement between Australia and North Korea. This would be a form of third track diplomacy that could reignite the bilateral ties and see Australia begin a diplomatic process of connecting with key stakeholders in the North Korean regime – especially those who might be future leaders of North Korea.
Clearly security and stability in the Korean Peninsula is absolutely essential to Australia’s own future. In terms of Australia’s direct interests, it goes without saying that any conflict or hostility in the future would have enormous implications for Australia’s foreign policy and defence posture. Not only would there be profound regional consequences, but the repercussions for global geo-politics would be unimaginable in terms of the very livelihoods of certainly tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions. Our historical links, our very location in the Southern hemisphere, and our ties with the United States, not to mention our place as a middle power and regionally respected nation, would absolutely demand our active engagement. Therefore, Australia would be drawn into the issue and torn between several courses of action depending on the gravity of the crisis. The examples of Iraq and Afghanistan prove that very long distances or unnatural and unfamiliar geographical regions do not have any bearing whatsoever on the deployment of Australian defence personnel. Indeed the test is not distance nor region - the test is cause and values. The test is: “what is in the national Australian interest and we all know that is defined by the elected Government of the day. The pull and push factors surrounding Australia’s contribution to Iraq and Afghanistan – from the personal views and policy compass of the sitting Prime Minister and moral acquiescence, if not moral endorsement of the nation to the undoubted pull factors of satisfying a pivotal international alliance and personal bonds with foreign leaders, also undoubtly come into play.

Therefore, on these threshold questions, it would be inconceivable that should some kind of conflict and crisis arise on the Korean Peninsula, the sitting Prime Minister and his government of the day would remain aloof or disengaged from the theatre of conflict. Therefore, it is my strong and unshakeable assessment that it is in Australia’s fundamental security, political and economic interests to do all it can at to influence the region’s politics positively and to push the two Koreas towards reciprocal security agreements and ultimately, unification. It is my strong and unshakeable assessment that Australia must do all within its diplomatic and political influence to minimise the prospects of misunderstandings and miscalculations that contributes to a poisonous and hostile international environment. Part of such formula must be to increase and promote the visits of Members and Senators of Parliament. Part of that strategy must be to develop and maintain relationships with key stakeholders in the North Korean military, political and party elite. Part of that plan must be to foster the exchange of Australians and North Koreans in the world of sport, academia, music, culture and young people.

These initiatives simply do not happen overnight and in a vacuum. They happen against a background of contact and dialogue. They happen within a framework of existing relationships and contacts between officials or politicians. My visit must be seen in that context. My visit must be viewed as a bridge into the leadership elite of North Korea. My visit can be a powerful and persuasive platform to bringing some dialogue and some trust between Australia the people and North Korea – for now at least, the regime and the Korean Workers Party. Such visits must be frequent. Such visits by the same political figures must be regular and consistently
framed. To build friendships and to promote harmony. To develop networks and facilitate exposure between two different peoples in two different places within the Asia-Pacific region, and within the international community. This is the intangible and compelling parliamentary relevance of my visit to Pyongyang, North Korea, in April, this year. In the national interest - it is priceless.

(iii) Conclusion:

As a Member of the Australian Parliament who has a commitment and indeed a passion for strengthening this nation’s broad political, economic, social, and cultural ties with Asia, my visit to North Korea was of broad importance and significance. I also sit on the Federal Opposition’s Foreign Affairs Committee and take a deep interest in the shape, tone and direction of the Federal Opposition’s foreign policy.

Since my return from North Korea, I have appeared on global television through my interview on CNN from its Hong Kong studios; I have appeared on Australian national television through my interview on Sky News; and I have given radio interviews through 4BC in Brisbane. I have also accepted invitations to speak to the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AiIA) as well as delivered an invitational lecture to the international relations class at the University of Queensland. Given the University of Queensland is located at St Lucia, in the Ryan Electorate, the relevance of my trip to North Korea speaks for itself. I was able to deliver a two hour lecture with credibility and to speak from direct personal experience which no academic could replicate from a mere textbook! As the local Federal Member, with a passion for foreign affairs, the synergy was compelling. It is my bold and optimistic view that there will be a re-unification of the two Koreas in the next quarter century! Sometime before 2035! Should this eventuate, it is my fervent hope that Australia will have been front and centre in the diplomatic statecraft that produced this re-alignment in the global geo-political landscape. Perhaps it is only if Australia has played a role will this vision for a lasting peace have been achieved?

We live in turbulent, unpredictable, and unchartered times. Equally however, we also live in the kind of exciting and historical times that should be seen as a platform to leave a global legacy for the ages. All over the world, democracies and dictatorships alike fight for permanence. All over the world new technology battles ancient habits in the empowerment of people and communities. Thus in North Asia, there is no starker contrast than the enlightening democratic South of Seoul and the brutal dictatorial North of Pyongyang. In this context, Australia has an incredible opportunity to be part of the solution to the current challenges of the Korean Peninsula. Indeed Australia has the unique ability to play a constructive role in the re-calibration and re-building of the two Koreas. This is especially so
given our historical and security ties directly on the Korean Peninsula, and our
defence of South Korea.

If we have the leadership, Australia can occupy a front row seat in the decisions
and deliberations that see progress, security and stability. If we have the vision,
Australia can secure its reputation as a force for peace in the Korean Peninsula
and indeed the wider Asian region in the 21st century – a place all the more
profoundly important to occupy as our 21st century sees the uncontested re-
emergence of China as the superpower of the region, the uncontested re-
emergence of Russia as a global power, and the uncontested rise of India as the
democratic inspiration of all of Asia.

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

Yours sincerely

Michael Johnson MP
Federal Member for Ryan & Opposition Whip

October, 2009

Ms jac
SENATOR THE HON ALAN FERGUSON

United States of America, Bermuda and the United Kingdom
9 April – 3 May 2009
Dear Minister

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

1. (a) **Confirmation of Purpose:**
   I travelled to New York, departing Australia Thursday 09 April 2009 – QF107, then proceeded on to Bermuda to attend a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Executive Meeting held in Bermuda from 12 – 18 April 2009. Following the conference I flew to the United Kingdom and remained until 03 May 2009 during which time I had a series of meetings with various parties and visited the parliaments of the Isle of Man and Scotland.

(b) **Itinerary:**
   - 09APR09  Adel – SYD [QF730]
   - 12APR09  Syd – New York/JFK Airport [QF107]
   - 12APR09  Dept JFK New York [AA1444]
   - 13-18APR09 Arr Bermuda
   - Attend Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting, *Fairmont Hamilton Princess Hotel*
   - 19APR09  Dept Bermuda [BA2232]
   - 20APR09  Arr United Kingdom/Gatwick Apt – pick up hire car and travel to Isle of Man
   - 20APR09 - Various Meetings and commitments in the United Kingdom
   - 02May09
   - 03MAY09  London/Heathrow – SYD - ADEL [QF32/Q741]

2. **Key meetings and outcomes/findings:**
   - 10 April  * Dr Dick Tedford – I drove to New Jersey to spend the afternoon and evening with Dr Tedford, former Director and now Honorary Curator of the New York Museum of Natural History and Sciences.
Dr Tedford is a highly regarded paleontologist who has visited South Australia on some 15 occasions, in conjunction with the South Australian Museum and the Adelaide University, in relation to prehistoric findings in the North of South Australia. The discussions were very valuable in relation to a proposed visit to South Australia, although Dr Tedford is now a very active 80 years old.

We were also able to discuss the effectiveness of his past discoveries and implications for any future research in South Australia.

As it was the Easter Weekend I was unable to arrange an intended meeting with the Australian Ambassador to the United Nations, the Honourable Robert Hill.

12-18 April  I attended the Executive Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association [CPA] in Bermuda, and will not be claiming any expenses during this period.

19-20 April  Flew to London arriving 20 April. Hired a car to travel North to catch the Tuesday ferry to the Isle of Man, where a programme had been arranged for me by the Isle of Man Parliament and its Members.

21-22 April  Meetings:
* Hon Noel Cringle, President of the Tynwald and Legislative Council
* Hon Stephen Charles Rodan, Speaker of the House of Keys
* Hon Anne Craine, Minister of Education
* Mrs Claire Christian, former Minister for Health and Social Security and Executive Member of the CPA.

Attended an official luncheon and addressed members of the CPA.

Discussions on the Isle of Man covered a wide range of topics including the Isle of Man's place in the Commonwealth; the difficulties of a small parliament with small numbers; the unbroken one thousand years of democratic government; the difficulties placed on a small island community in the areas of education, health and welfare – which are similar to those facing some small rural and remote communities in Australia.

23-24 April  Returned on ferry and drove to Aberdeenshire, stopping overnight in Stirling, Scotland.

24-26 April  * Mr John Farquharson - Discussions with Farquharson Farms over wide-ranging issues to do with the current state of agriculture and European agriculture policy and its effect on Scottish farmers and implications for world trade. Of a particular interest were proposals to erect wind turbines
as a commercial venture, as an adjunct to farming and primary production, and the possibility of the same applications supplementing incomes for primary producers in Australia.

27 April

* Ms Alison Presley – drove to Edinburgh and met Ms Presley, a Senior Solicitor in the Public Law and Parliamentary Procedure Unit of Legal firm Anderson and Strathern. Ms Presley is responsible for advising clients on all aspects of parliamentary procedure, including both public and private legislation processes. She has particular experience of the private bill procedure in the Scottish Parliament, having been involved in a number of large transport infrastructure projects.

28 April

* The Hon Alex Fergusson, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament
* Jamie Stone MSP, Liberal Democrat Member for Caithness.
Had discussions about a number of issues in relation to the independent movement, but particularly discussed moves by the government to legislate a base price for the sale of alcohol, which was defeated in the Scottish Parliament. This was a particularly informative discussion because of the current debate in Australia in relation to the taxation of alcohol.

29 April – 01 May

Spent privately with all accommodation and meal expenses at personal cost.

02 May

Drove to London and overnighted at Heathrow prior to departure for Australia on 3 May 09.

3. **Conclusion:**

In conclusion the discussions I held in both the United States of America and the United Kingdom were particularly relevant to many issues that have arisen in my role as the only rural based Senator in South Australia.

I have a particular interest in the problems arising from remote education, job opportunities, maintaining the viability of small rural towns and any opportunities to value-add to primary production, or complement primary producer's income for any of our nations struggling primary producers.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six-monthly tabling of travel costs for Senators and Members.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Ferguson

[Alan Ferguson]

12th May 2009
THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP

United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom
15 – 26 April 2009
May 25, 2009

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

Dear Minister John,

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

(i) (a) Confirmation of the Purpose of the journey:

To investigate leading policies, best practice regulation and the role of government and incentives to improve the performance, productivity and sustainability of major cities and to seek to identify opportunities for policy innovation and political leadership in the Australian context.

(b) Actual Itinerary:

The actual itinerary very closely followed the foreshadowed travel plan submitted in support of my request for your approval of this overseas study journey with a departure date of Wednesday, April 15, 2009 and a return date of Sunday, April 26, 2009. The detailed itinerary is enclosed as attachment A and details scheduled briefings, meetings and inspections in San Francisco, Sacramento, Toronto, Ottawa, Washington D.C. and London.

I travelled alone for the purposes of this overseas study program as advised in my March 20, 2009 letter of request.

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings:

Included as attachment B is a report on specific meetings that were held, key interlocutors and the discussions, outcomes and findings from these meetings.

(iii) Conclusions:

A number of specific themes/topics were identified to provide focus for my study, namely:

- Sustainable urban settlement/land-use patterns;
• Integrated transport/mobility planning including mass transit incentives, modal complementarity, encouragement of active transport and pricing models;
• Regulation and incentives to optimise energy efficiency and provision/uptake of renewable energy and use of smart technology;
• Water efficiency, harvesting, reuse and recycling including community-level action to capture stormwater, sewer mine and reuse;
• Incorporating eco-efficiency principles into new buildings, housing (public & private), household appliances and commercial plant and equipment;
• Encouragement for existing built environment renovation/renewal to optimise the environmental performance/climate-sensitivity of existing buildings/precincts and enhance their liveability;
• Activating practical individual action and community initiatives/ awareness around more sustainable lifestyles in urban settings;
• Coordinated activation of policy concepts and initiatives to achieve a better built environment and more sustainable cities/urban centres; and
• Methods/approaches to measuring/monitoring/comparatively assessing the sustainability of cities/urban centres

It became clear that the complementary jurisdictional arrangements and inter-government/agency collaboration were key success factors in making gains in terms of more sustainable development, improved urban performance and embracing ecologically sustainable growth principles in strategic plans and decision-making.

The ‘silos’ of government bureaucracy and narrow functional/regulatory responsibilities were often cited as key impediments to pursuing sustainable development objectives. Strong political and executive leadership, and the momentum is provided, were recurring features of ‘successful’ cases studies I examined as part of the program.

Understanding and overcoming jurisdictional barriers is an essential pre-condition to transporting successful models to Australia. Stakeholder engagement is crucial as repeated examples illustrated how important a shared vision was for pursuing sustainable development, articulating this vision in terms of the specific ambitions, challenges and resources of communities and implementation.

It was notable how important the process of nurturing a shared purpose becomes to successful activation of a sustainability vision, making the endeavour as much about change management as it is about integrated strategic planning and management.

Ongoing communication was important to mobilizing stakeholders and transparent measurement and public reporting ensure the decision makers knew the progress was taken seriously.

Many dichotomies emerged between the jurisdictions visited: top-down and bottom-up drivers for sustainability; conviction driver action and evidence-based agendas; totem initiatives and embedded reform agendas; political leadership and bureaucratic mobilizers; community-wide engagement and ‘expert’ led action; event-by-event adjustment and transformational change; strategic reform and
incremental adjustment; incentive driven through to prescriptive regulatory impositions; stimulus/windfall/bond monies used as a catalyst for change or a 'splash'.

The study program insights made it clear that concerted effort was required to secure a more sustainable future for Australia and improving the performance of our cities and built environment requires a 3-step approach:

- a focus on pursuing incremental and gradual gains where opportunities present;
- sustainability objectives firmly embedded in all activities of Government and aligned with policy goals across all portfolios wherever possible; and
- the use of infrastructure funds as a catalyst to leverage transformational ‘leaps forward’ in improving productivity, sustainability and living standards

I look forward to utilising the insights and contacts that arose as a result of this study journey to my electorate, parliamentary and shadow Ministerial responsibilities.

It is noted that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six-monthly tabling of travel costs from Senator and Members.

Yours sincerely,

BRUCE BILLSON MP
Federal Member for Dunkley

Attachment 1 – Actual Itinerary
2 – Report on Key meetings and outcomes/findings
HON BRUCE BILLSON MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR DUNKLEY (VICTORIA)
SHADOW MINISTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CITIES

Overseas Visit

San Francisco
15 April 2009

Sacramento
16-17 April 2009

Toronto
18-19 April 2009

Ottawa
20 April 2009

Washington DC
21-22 April 2009

London
23-24 April 2009
# PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Time</th>
<th>Canberra</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 15 April 2009</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1030</td>
<td><em>QF 424 Melbourne to Sydney</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1355</td>
<td><em>QF 73 Sydney to San Francisco</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1015</td>
<td>Arrive San Francisco International Terminal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cab to Hotel Union Square, 114Powell Street, San Francisco CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400</td>
<td>Met by <strong>David Lawson</strong>, Trade Commissioner &amp; Consul-General</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Briefed on Consulate activity and trade focus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travel to San Francisco Wharf</td>
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<tr>
<td>1430</td>
<td>Meeting with Adventure Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Participants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David de Rothschild, Founder</td>
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<tr>
<td>1630</td>
<td>Met by David Lawson, Travel to SFEEnvironment Offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700</td>
<td>Meeting with City and County of San Francisco</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Department of Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Participants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jared Blumenfeld, Director Environment Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>Return to Hotel</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Time</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 16 April 2009</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0830</td>
<td>Cab from Hotel to San Francisco Airport Terminal 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100</td>
<td><em>UA6208 San Francisco to Sacramento</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1144</td>
<td>Arrive Sacramento International Airport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cab to Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza,</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
300J Street Sacramento CA

1300 Depart on foot for The State Capitol

1400 Meeting with Republican Leader
West Side Capitol Building Room 305

Participants
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth
Bob Giovati, Chief of Staff

1445 Travel on foot to 1215 K Street

1500 Meeting with Lobbyists/former Governor’s advisers

Participants
Richard Costigan, Senior Director, Mannatt Phelps & Phillips
Dennis Albana, Founder, California Advocates Inc

1550 Travel on foot with Mr Costigan to The Capitol
Building Room 2068

1600 Meeting with Legislature Energy Expert
Senator David Cox

1645 Travel on foot with Mr Costigan to Cal EPA
Building, 1001 I Street

1700 Meeting with Linda Adams, Secretary for
Environment Protection

Participants
Patty Zwarts, Deputy Secretary
Andrew Altevogt, Climate Change Program Manager
Jessica Kelly, Executive Fellow

1830 Travel on foot to return to Hotel

Friday 17 April 2009

0845 Depart on foot for The State Capitol Room 4035

0930 Meeting with policy adviser Senator Fran Pavley

Participants
Adrienne Alvord, Environment Policy Director
1015  Depart on foot for California Natural Resource Agency, 1416 9th Street Sacramento CA

1030  Meeting with Tony Brunello  
      Deputy Secretary for Climate Change and Energy

1100  Meeting with Mike Chrisman  
      Secretary for Natural Resources

1230  Travel on foot to The Capitol Building

1300  Meeting with the Office of Governor Schwarzenegger

  Participants  
  Tracey Arnold  
  Director, Jobs and Economic Growth

1400  The Capitol Building Tour

1545  Travel on foot to Cal EPA Building, 1001 I Street

1630  Meeting with Mary Nichols  
      Chairman, California Air Resources Board

  Participants  
  Kurt Karperos, Chief  
  Chief, Air Quality and Transportation Planning

1800  Travel on foot to return to Hotel

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**Saturday 18 April 2009**

0830  Depart Hotel for Sacramento International

1045  *UA 6291 Sacramento to San Francisco (delayed)*

   *AC 756 San Francisco to Toronto (flight missed due to flight delay – alternative arrangements made)*

1101  *UA 708 Sacramento to Denver*

1552  *UA 708 Denver to Toronto*  
      Attend United Baggage Service for delayed luggage

2200  Arrive Bond Place Hotel  
      65 Dundas Street, Toronto ON CA
1630 Met by David Lawson,
Travel to SFEnvironment Offices

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**Sunday 19 April 2009**

**0845**
*Depart Bond Place Hotel for the Australian Consulate-General via taxi*

**Location**
Suite 1100 South Tower
175 Bloor Street, East

**Participants**
Stefan Trofimovs,
Consul General & Senior Trade Commissioner
Cathy Frederickson, Consul

**0900**
Meeting with City of Toronto Green Development Standard

**Participants**
Jane Welsh: Project Manager – Environment, Policy and Research
Lisa King – Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

**1000**
Meeting with World Green Building Council

**Participants**
Andrew Bowerbank, Executive Director

**1100**
Meeting with Corporate Knights Magazine

**Participants**
Toby Heaps, President
Melissa Shen, Managing Editor

**1215**
Lunch Meeting with Toronto City Summit Alliance

**Participants**
Julia Deans, CEO – Toronto City Summit Alliance
Michael Sherman: Managing Director – Greening Greater Toronto

**1500**
*Arrive at Union Station for travel to Ottawa via taxi*

**Location**
65 Front Street West
1530  Depart Toronto for Ottawa on Via Rail

1957  Arrive in Ottawa – Taxi from station to Hotel
      Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau Street

**Monday 20 April**

0800  Depart Chateau Laurier for Natural Step Canada via taxi
      Location
      355 Waverley Street

0815  Meeting with Natural Step Canada
      Participants
      Sarah Brooks: Senior Sustainability Advisor

0915  Depart for Ottawa City Hall via taxi
      Location
      111 Lisgar Street

0930  Meeting with City of Ottawa
      Participants
      Michael Muir, Manager – Strategic Initiatives/Building Planning
      Anna Hercz, Strategic Planner
      Felice Petti, Manager – Environmental Programs and Technical Support
      Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Co-Project Manager
      Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region

1130  Depart for Luncheon meeting

1200  Lunch Meeting with Conference Board of Canada
      Participants
      Mario Lefebvre: Director of Municipal Studies
      H.E. Justin Brown: Australian High Commissioner to Canada

1340  Depart for National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy via taxi
      Location
      344 Slater Street, Suite 200
1400  Meeting with NRTE

Participants

1430  Depart for House of Commons via taxi
Location
Centre Block – Government House (Peace Tower)

1500  Meeting with Brian Jean, MP

Participants
Brian Jean: Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Melissa Sullivan, Special Assistant
Office of Brian Jean
Emil Stojanovski: Third Secretary – Australian High Commission

1600  Depart for House of Commons to return to Hotel
Travel via taxi from Hotel to Ottawa Airport

1720  UA 8330 Ottawa to Washington Dulles International

2052  Arrive Washington DC
Travel via taxi to Hilton Washington
Location
1919 Connecticut Ave NW
WASHINGTON DC 20009

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**Tuesday 21 April 2009**

0840  Depart hotel for Embassy of Australia via taxi

0900  Meeting at Embassy of Australia

Participants:
HE Dennis Richardson, Ambassador

0940  Travel via Cab with Elizabeth Willis, Congressional Liaison Officer
to Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St, SW Washington, DC

1000  Department of Housing and Urban Development
Participants
Mr John Geraghty, Deputy Director, International Affairs
Ms Jean Lin Pao, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research
Mr Michael Freedberg, Director, Office of Affordable Housing Research and Technology, Office of Policy Development and Research
Mr Charles Bien, Senior Urban Planner, Environmental Review, Office of Community Planning and Development
Mr James Potter, Senior Planner, Environmental Planning, Office of Community Planning & Development
Luke Tate, Political Adviser to the Secretary for Housing and Urban Development
Elizabeth Willis, Congressional Liaison Officer

1045 Travel via Cab to Congressional Offices

Location
11519 Longworth House Office Building
WASHINGTON DC 20009

1100 Meet with Congressman John Boozman (R-Arkansas) Ranking Member, Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

1145 Travel via Cab to Environmental and Energy Study Institute

Location
1112 16th St, NW Suite 300
Washington, DC

1200 Meeting with EESI Participants
Ms Carol Werner, Executive Director EESI
Elizabeth Willis, Congressional Liaison Officer

1330 Travel via Cab to Hotel

1530 Travel via Cab to National Governors Association

Location
444 N. Capitol St Suite 267
Washington, DC
Met by Jane Hardy, Counsellor (Congressional Liaison), Embassy of Australia
1600  Meeting with National Governor Association
       Participants
       Ms Sue Gander, Director, Energy, Environment and
       Natural Resources Division, The Center for Best
       Practices
       Mr Greg Dierker, Senior Policy Analyst, Energy and
       Transportation
       Ms Michelle Nellenbach, Director, Natural Resources
       Committee
       Mr David Parkhurst, Director, Economic
       Development and Commerce Committee
       Jane Hardy, Counsellor (Congressional Liaison)

1700  Travel via Cab to Hotel

1830  Travel via Cab to Embassy of Australia

               Attend Photographic Exhibition Launch for National

2000  Travel via Cab to Hotel

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**Wednesday 22 April 2009**

0830  Depart hotel for The Heritage Foundation via
       Embassy car and driver
       Location:
       214 Massachusetts Ave, NE Washington, DC

0900  Meeting with The Heritage Foundation

       Participants:
       Dr Ronald Utt, Herbert and Joyce Morgan Senior
       Research Fellow
       Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies
       The Heritage Foundation

1000  Depart for the US Green Building Council
       Location:
       2101 L St, NW Suite 500 Washington, DC

1030  Meeting with US Green Building Council
       Participants
       Mr Tom Hicks, Vice President, International
       Policy and Programs (outgoing)
Mr Tim McEnery, Vice President, International Policy and Programs (incoming)
Ms Sabrina Morrelli, Manager, International Programs
Elizabeth Willis, Congressional Liaison Officer

1330  Travel to Congessional Offices
   Location
   2182 Rayburn House Office Building
   WASHINGTON DC 20009

1400  Meet with Congressman Vernon Ehlers
   (R-Michigan) Co-Chair, House Renewable Energy
   and Energy Efficiency Caucus

1445  Travel to The Brookings Institution
   Location
   1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
   Washington, DC

1500  Meeting with The Brooking Institution
   Participants
   Amy Liu, Deputy Director, Metropolitan Policy Program
   Mark Muro, Policy Director, Metropolitan Policy Program
   Elizabeth Willis, Congressional Liaison Officer

1600  Return to hotel to collect luggage and depart for
   Washington Dulles International Airport

1715  Arrive Washington Dulles International Airport

1905  Depart for overnight flight to London
   BA 216 Washington Dulles to Heathrow

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**Thursday 23 April 2009**

0700  Arrive Heathrow London

Met by Ms Emma Williams, Visits Officer, Australian High Commission

Transfer to Rydges Kensington Plaza,
61 Gloucester Road, Kensington SW7

0945  Travel by taxi to Westminster
Location:
Portcullis House, Victoria Embankment, London

1030 Discussions with Mr Richard Benyon MP,
Shadow Minister for Environment, food and Rural Affairs

11.30 Discussions with Mr Gregory Barker MP,
Shadow Minister for Climate Change

1230 Travel by taxi to Greater London Authority
Location:
City Hall, The Queen’s Walk, More London,
London SE1

14.00 Discussions with Mr Tony Arbour JP
Assemblyman for Hounslow, Kingston & Richmond (S W London), GLA

1530 Travel by taxi to Westminster
Location:
Portcullis House, Victoria Embankment, London

1730 Discussions with Mr Robert (Bob) Neil MP,
Shadow Minister for Local Government, Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party

1900 Travel by taxi to Hotel

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**Friday 24 April 2009**

0715 Leave hotel by tube for Euston

0754 Train departs London Euston for Watford Junction

0810 Arrive Watford Junction

Take taxi from station to Building Research Establishment Global Limited,
Location:
Bucknalls Lane, Garston, Watford WD25 9XX

0830 Discussions with BRE
Participants:
Richard Hardy, Director of Sustainability
Justin Halewood, Technical Consultant on the Code for Sustainable Homes &
BREEAM Communities
Graham Hardcastle, Innovation Park Site Liaison Officer

Tour of the BRE Innovation Park - their very own development site for the
demonstration of innovative construction methods and technologies

1200
Depart BRE via Taxi to Watford Junction station

Travel by tube to Australian High Commission
Location:
Australia House, The Strand LONDON WC2

1400
Courtesy call on H.E. Mr John Dauth LVO,
High Commissioner

1445
Depart and Travel by tube to Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
Location:
12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, Westminster SW1CS

1500
Discussions with Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
Participants:
Robert Peto, Vice President
Arlette Anderson, Head of Sustainability
John Parsons, Associate Director, Built Environment Professional Group
Nadia Nath Varma, Senior Policy Officer

1700
Depart by Tube to Hotel

1930
Dinner with Hon Peter Reith

Saturday 25 April 2009

0440
Leave hotel by taxi for Hyde Park Corner

0500
Attend Dawn Service at Australian War Memorial

0550
Leave on foot for Gunfire Breakfast
Royal Air Force Club,
128 Piccadilly London W1
0800  Leave RAF Club and return to hotel via Joint Standing Committee on National Security delegation bus

0930  Depart Hotel and travel via Tube for Heathrow Terminal 4

1220  Depart London for overnight flight to Melbourne

QF030 Heathrow to Tullamarine

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Sunday 26 April 2009

1955  Arrive Melbourne

QF030 Heathrow to Tullamarine
30 June 2009

Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig  
Special Minister of State 
Parliament House 
CANBERRA ACT 2600 

Dear Minister Joe,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18, I submit a report relating to my recent overseas study travel.

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

Yours sincerely

Senator Russell Trood  
Liberal, Queensland
Report on Overseas Study Travel
Senator Russell Trood

Travel to Europe, the United States and Canada
20 April - 11 May 2009

Purpose of travel

On 3 April 2009 approval was given by the Special Minister of State for me to travel to Europe, the United States and Canada to undertake overseas study. The purpose of my travel was to have comprehensive discussions and briefings with officials and representatives of governments, international governmental organisations, think tanks, universities and with members of national parliaments [and Congress] around several broad themes. The first was international security, the second the causes, extent and implications of the global financial crisis and the third was the operation of legislative committees in the parliaments of the United Kingdom and Canada and of Congress in the United States.

I confirm that my overseas study trip was undertaken as approved. In accordance with the relevant Remuneration Tribunal determination, I now report on my activities and the results and findings of my trip under the three broad themes being investigated.

International Security

International Security was a theme in most of the briefings and meetings I had during my trip. The focus of my discussions, however, was on several key issues: nuclear non-proliferation, East Asian security, security architecture, the conflicts in Afghanistan and Pakistan, management of consular responsibilities, policy planning and the structure of defence portfolios.

Nuclear non-proliferation
My most significant meeting on this issue took place at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna where I was fortunate to receive a very detailed briefing on the Agency’s work and outlook from a very high level group of officials. Our discussions covered the nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea, the use of new technologies in nuclear safeguards monitoring and verification, the 2010 nuclear non-proliferation review conference, Australia’s role as a nuclear fuel supplier and its contribution to the
non-proliferation regime, prospects for ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the executive leadership of the IAEA, among other matters.

Later, during a meeting with representatives from New Zealand, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia, all countries with delegations to the IAEA, I was able to gain a valuable insight into the role and importance of the Agency from the perspective of some key Asia Pacific countries close to Australia.

In Washington, during a meeting with Senator Lugar, the minority leader on the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I was given a first hand insight into the prospects, procedures and challenges associated with the Obama Administration’s policy to have the United States ratify the CTBT during its first term of office. This was a theme, I also pursued in discussions with several researchers in the United States (Dr Synder of the Carnegie Endowment and Dr Limaye of the East West Center, for example) and with academics and researchers in Canada, (Mr Ron Purver of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service) and Professors Wesley Wark and Roland Paris of the University of Ottawa).

**East Asian Security**
The prospects for security in the East Asia and the wider Asia Pacific was a theme of many of my meetings in all of the places I visited. China’s rise is as much an issue on security agendas in Europe as it is in North America and, among the analysts I spoke with, there was a broad similarity of view that China needed to be encouraged to become a “responsible stakeholder” within the international community. My conversations with Dr Evan Medieros of the Rand Corporation and Dr Michael O’Hanlon of Brookings were especially helpful in providing a deeper understanding of Chinese interests and motivations and in providing insight into the Obama Administration’s likely policy responses to China’s rise. During these discussions, I found that there was considerable interest in Australia’s evolving policies toward China. I was able to take the opportunity to discuss the contents of Australia’s new Defence White Paper, the policy toward Chinese investment in Australia and the likely impact of China’s rise on regionalism in East Asia.

In Washington, one the world’s most respected experts on Japan and Japanese security policy, Dr Sheila Smith of the Council of Foreign Relation, shared with me some of the findings of her recent research in these areas. Among many other things, her perspective that the period of political turmoil currently being experienced by Japan was unlikely to end soon and would almost certainly have
a profound impact on Japan's foreign and security policies was amplified in some detail and enriched my understanding of a country that is of particular importance to Australia's future prosperity and security.

I was also able to explore my interest in US policy in Southeast Asia through meetings with US government officials and several policy analysts. I received an extensive briefing on US government policy priorities in the region during a roundtable discussion with officials from the US Department of State. I was also fortunate to have a lengthy meeting with Mr Bronson Percival, one of only a small group of specialist Southeast Asia researchers with considerable experience in government and in academe. He emphasised the declining attention that Southeast Asia was receiving in US colleges and universities and relative lack of priority it would probably receive from the Obama Administration. The point was made in both official discussions and more widely, however, that in Washington, Indonesia was being seen as an increasingly important leader in fulfilling Southeast Asian countries political and economic aspirations. Finally Dr Satu Limaye of the East West Center briefed me on a targeted and very creative campaign that his center was undertaking to try and deepen Congressional understanding of the importance of Southeast Asia to America's interests.

In Canada I had a meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Foreign Minister, Mr Depak Obhrai. While the parliamentary secretary outlined Canada's policy towards Pakistan and Afghanistan, he had a particular interest in Australian policy towards the South Pacific, especially Fiji and Japan. I was able to brief him at length on each of these issues.

Many of my discussions on East Asian security offered the opportunity for detailed analysis of the many complex issues now facing the region. While views differed on the nature and extent of the challenges governments face, there was a consensus that East Asia has become the hub of the most dynamic part of the global economy. Managing the security complications of the region is absolutely critical to ensuring recovery from the current financial crisis and encouraging prosperity into the future and finding new ways of encouraging cooperation should be high on the agenda.

Security Architecture
The multilateral and more specifically the security architecture of East Asia is matter of growing importance to regional governments. This is also an issue in which I have had a long standing academic and policy interest. My visits to, in particular, the US and Canada provided several opportunities to gain a clearer
understanding on evolving attitudes to this challenging policy issue. I discussed the topic at length with officials in the Australian Embassy in Washington, but most valuably with American officials in the ASEAN affairs Division of the State Department and with Dr Kristin Lord of the Center for a New American Security.

The Organisation for Security Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is sometimes regarded as a useful model of regionalism for emulation in the Asia Pacific. In an effort to gain a clearer understanding of the structure and processes of the OSCE, and its potential as a model, I visited OSCE Headquarters in Vienna. Mr Jaraslaw Pietrusiewicz the Deputy Director of the Operations Service Conflict and Prevention Centre provided me with a detailed briefing on the organisation, its activities and the considerable challenges it is now confronting.

It is clear that the OSCE is the product of a particular time and circumstance in Europe's post Cold War history. It has developed a loose multilateral structure that contrasts markedly with the more formal and stronger forms of European organisation represented by organisations such as NATO and the EU. This loose form of organisation could well have considerable application to the unique histories and strategic cultures of states in the Asia Pacific. On the other hand, there is a need to be wary of transferring European models of organisation into a different arena and expecting that they will operate in the same or a similar fashion. Nevertheless my visit to the OSCE persuaded me that it offered a model of security organisation that deserved closer examination within the Asia Pacific setting.

Afghanistan and Pakistan
The policy challenges posed by the conflicts in Afghanistan and Pakistan was also a theme I explored at considerable length. With a comprehensive US review of ISF policy in Afghanistan having been completed recently, I had been expecting to receive a Pentagon briefing on Pakistan during my visit to Washington. Time and a tight schedule precluded this briefing, but my discussions with experts such as Dr Michael O’Hanlon of the Brookings Institution and Dr Robert Kagan of the Carnegie Endowment, offered more than valuable insights into the direction of US policy and the widely ranging views and expectations for its success.

In Canada I was fortunate to receive a comprehensive personal briefing on Canadian policy in Afghanistan from Ms Cindy Termorshuizen the Director of Policy at the Canadian government's Afghanistan's Task Force. In the UK Mr William Hague, the Opposition's Shadow Foreign Secretary, underscored the
importance the British government attached to resolving the problems caused by the terrorist insurgency in Pakistan when he remarked that it was, in his view, his country's number one foreign policy challenge.

I had anticipated having more extensive discussion on Pakistan with British officials from the Ministry of Defence. Regrettably this was not possible, but I was able to gain some useful insights into the British thinking on the matter during a meeting with several officials from Air Commodore Steve Martin and his team of Australian Defence and Foreign Service officers based in the Australian High Commission in London.

Consular responsibilities
Many countries are experiencing an alarming increase in the number and complexity of consular requests made by their citizens while travelling overseas. Since the demand for consular services by Australians has grown significantly, I was anxious to take advantage of my travels to better understand how other countries were managing this issue. I explored the issue with the Conservative shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Keith Simpson, during a meeting in London and in my meeting, mentioned earlier, with the Canadian Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Depak Obrai. I gained a US perspective on the issue during a visit with Mr James Green of the US State Department's Policy Planning Staff.

The issues surrounding consular management are complex and views differed considerably as to how it could best be handled, but there was some agreement among those I spoke with that it was an area of government responsibility that is likely to demand increasing resources into the future and, as a policy function, may benefit from being separated from other administrative duties.

Policy Planning
In the field of foreign affairs, policy planning encourages decision makers to look ahead to the challenging issues likely to emerge in the near term future. Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) disbanded its expertise in this area some years ago, but the US Department of State has had a highly regarded Policy Planning Division in operation since the 1950s. During my visit to Washington I was able to meet with the current Director of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff (Northeast Asia) Mr James Green, to discuss the value of the unit and its significance to the development of US foreign policy.
In the US, the policy planning unit has direct access to the Secretary of State and is led by a political appointee of the President. While small, the Staff has a high degree of expertise and a unique capacity to focus on key issues of concern to the Secretary. It also has an ability to develop policy ideas independent of the day to day mainstream challenges of policy management. It often does so using expertise from universities and think tanks independent of the Department.

While the resources available to support a policy planning function in Australia would necessarily be smaller, my visit to the State Department’s unit convinced me that a unit along similar lines would provide DFAT with a very valuable policy making capability. In my view, the Australian government should explore the virtues of expanding the present Global Issues Branch within the Department to give it the kind of policy enhancement enjoyed by its US counterpart.

*The allocation of responsibilities within the Defence portfolios*

The increasing burden of administering the Defence portfolio within the context of a Westminster system of government has been a matter of deep interest to me over recent years. During my visits to London, Ottawa and Toronto I was able to gain valuable insights into the way other countries manage this challenging issue in discussions with the UK Shadow Defence Minister, Mr Gerald Howarth MP, Senator Colin Kenney, Chair of the Canadian Senate’s Security and Defence Committee and with one of Canada’s most distinguished foreign affairs academics, Professor James Eayrs, Emeritus Professor of International Politics at the University of Toronto and Dalhousie University. As a result of these discussions, I have become increasingly persuaded to the view that the way successive Australian governments have managed and distributed the Defence portfolios requires some urgent reconsideration and reform.

**The Global Financial Crisis**

For the moment few issues on the international agenda are more important to Australia’s future prosperity and security than the unfolding challenge of the global financial crisis. Given that so much of the turmoil caused by the crisis has its epicentre in Europe and the US, I was anxious to gain a first hand account of the crisis from some of the key policy makers. In London I was able to discuss the crisis with a group of senior officials from the British Treasury led by Mr Nick Joicy of the IMF Directorate. Mr Joicy had played an active role in the London G20 Summit, and had just returned from further discussions in Washington. This meeting provided me with a very valuable insight into European perspectives on the crisis, the dynamics of the London summit and the emerging changes to the global architecture of economic management.
I also had a valuable meeting with Professor Andrew Scott of the London Business School and one of Britain's most eminent macro economists. Professor Scott has been undertaking a study of the nature and extent of the crisis and its implications for global economic management into the future. Not being an economist, I found that our extensive discussion provided me with a much deeper understanding of the provenance of the crisis and the policy tools the international community could use to avoid its repetition. We also discussed the likely prospects for a speedy global recovery and the countries most likely to provide "light at the end of the tunnel".

In Washington I was provided with a detailed briefing on the International Monetary Fund's assessment of the crisis during a lengthy meeting with six officials from the Fund's Strategic Policy Division. The briefing explained the Fund's assessment of the future direction of world economic growth, its implications for the GDP of several key countries, the near term prospects for international trade, the development of new rules for quotas and voting rights on the IMF Executive Board and the emerging structure of the new global economic architecture. I also met with officials from the World Bank, more particularly Dr Ivailo Izvorski, the lead economist in the East Asia Pacific Division. Here I was given a very sobering account of the effects of the financial crisis on developing countries, particularly those in the Asia Pacific.

All of these meeting served to underscore the seriousness of the current financial crisis and the very considerable policy challenge the international community faces in attempting to recover from it. Australia may be experiencing less of an impact from the crisis than many other countries, especially many within the developed world. But it is manifestly clear that our economic recovery will depend largely on the capacity of countries in Europe and North America to address the systemic foundations of the crisis and their ability to cooperate on global reform, and to restructure key elements of their own systems of corporate and financial governance.

**The Work of Parliamentary and Congressional Committees**

As a member of several Australian parliamentary committees, and particularly in my role as (then) Deputy chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, I wanted to make use of my study trip to do a comparative assessment of the roles of similar committees in the legislatures of the each of the countries I was visiting. In the UK I was able to explore this issue during a
meeting with Mr David Natzler, the Clerk of Committees in the House of Commons.

In the US Mr Frank Januzzi, a professional staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee provided me with an exceptionally detailed and useful briefing on the senate committee system, the rules on committee privilege and the conduct of hearings, the key items on his committee’s agenda, and the use and selection of committee staff.

In Canada, Senator Jim Cowan, the Leader of the Opposition in Senate, Senator Colin Kenney and Mr Kevin Sorenson MP, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Canadian House of Commons, all met with me and explained different aspects of the Canadian parliament’s committee system.

The committee systems in the three legislatures all reflect the different constitutional arrangements and political histories of the UK, US and Canadian systems of government. Nevertheless, as in Australia, committees are an integral part of the legislative and enquiry mechanisms that underpin parliamentary and congressional governance and the need to hold the Executive branch of government accountable for its decisions. It was evident in each of these three countries that the legislative committees possess an authority and independence not generally extended to the committees of the Australian parliament. While there may be good constitutional reasons for this situation, there is at the very least a respectable argument that Australia’s system of government could be significantly improved if some of the procedures applying to the committees systems elsewhere were adopted in the Australian parliament.

Miscellaneous Activities

While my study trip was designed to accomplish several key objectives, I was able to fit in a range of other activities into my schedule.

As I was in London on the 25th of April, I joined the Australian and New Zealand High Commissioners, several parliamentary colleagues and a large crowd of other participants in attending the ANZAC day dawn service at the ANZAC memorial in Hyde Park.

With an election due in the UK within the next 12 months, and wishing to understand methods of policy development in other political parties,' I took the opportunity to discuss the process of policy development within the Conservative Party. To this end I met with Mr James O'Shaughnessy the Director
of Policy and Research at Conservative Party Headquarters and Mr Neil O’Brien, Director of Policy Exchange, a London based think tank.

Just prior to my departure from Australia I learnt that the Conservative Party was holding its Spring Conference in Cheltenham outside London over the weekend I was due to be there. I was able to arrange to attend the conference for a short time. I participated in several workshops and had a valuable meeting with the former leader of the conservative Party and now Shadow Foreign Secretary, Mr William Hague.

In Washington, I attended a reception held in my honour and hosted by a former US foreign service officer and his wife. The reception provided me with the opportunity to meet with a range of people working in areas of particular interest to me and was attended by a several professors from Georgetown University and group of officials from several agencies of the US government.

With the international and national debate over the means to reduce global emissions gaining momentum, I was anxious to gain a clearer understanding of US policy on the issue. To that end, I had a lengthy and very informative meeting with Dr Andrew Light of the Center for American Progress. Dr Light is a specialist on climate policy at the Center and a key adviser to the US Congressional Committee piloting the US emissions trading scheme through the House of Representatives.

In Canada, Senator James Cowan, the Leader of the Opposition in the Canadian Senate invited me to attend Question time in the House of Commons and later I had the honour of being presented to the Canadian Senate as a visiting Australian senator.

Summary and conclusions

This study trip was planned with a view to expanding my knowledge and understanding of a broad range of issues related to the performance of my parliamentary duties as (now) Chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee and as a member of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade.

After over 40 meetings with a large number of people from diverse backgrounds and with a wide range of expertise and experience in the fields of particular interest to me, I believe I achieved this objective. The briefings I received in relation to international security traversed a complex set of issues – too many
from which to draw any general overriding insight beyond observing that both in the long and short term, there is little likelihood the challenges to the security of the state will diminish. Indeed it seems clear that in the post Cold War security environment the international community faces a complex array of existing and new, but more demanding, challenges that will impose greater burdens on governments if they are to be met successfully.

My briefings on the global financial crisis deepened my understanding on the causes, extent and prospects for recovering from one on the most severe economic challenges faced by the world community in many decades. Despite signs that the “green shoots” of recovery might be emerging, the overwhelming impression I gained was the impact of the crisis should not be underestimated, and that it could well be longer and cut more deeply than much of the public commentary suggests. Moreover, its consequences are likely to be felt well beyond the financial sectors of the global economy and have a potentially significant impact on geopolitical relations more widely.

As noted in the main body of the report, my investigations into the operation of committee systems provided me with some valuable ideas into the ways the committee systems operating within the Australian parliament might be reformed to improve accountability and their utility as a vehicle for better informing the Australian public of the issues before the parliament.

In conclusion I wish to acknowledge and extend my thanks to the officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra and in Australia’s missions in Vienna, London, Washington and Ottawa who work so conscientiously to facilitate my many meetings and briefings. Without their assistance and commitment of time during my visits to their respective cities, my study trip would have been far less successful. I thank all for their assistance, courtesy and above all their professionalism.
Senator Russell Trood – Detailed Itinerary for Overseas Study Trip

20 April – 11 May 2009

Day 1 – Monday, 20 April 2009
Travel: 13.55 – 19.50
QF51: Brisbane to Singapore;
23.05 – 5.25 on 21 April 2009
QF9: Singapore to London Heathrow

Day 2 – Tuesday, 21 April 2009
Travel: 9.55 – 13.15
BA700: London Heathrow to Vienna

Accommodation:
Intercontinental Hotel
Johannesgasse 28, 1037 Wien, Österreich

Embassy Contact:
Ms Ada Cheung, First Secretary, Australian Embassy,

Meetings: 15.00
Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) - Ms Jaroslaw Pietrusiewicz, Deputy Director, Operations Service, Conflict Prevention Centre,
18.00
Australian Ambassador’s Residence; Ambassador - Peter Shannon - Reception with Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission delegation

Day 3 – Wednesday, 22 April 2009
Meetings: 9.30 – 11.30
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Roundtable with senior officials:
Office of External Relations and Policy Coordination:
Mr Vilmos Cserveny, Assistant Director General for External Relations and Policy Coordination; Mr Tariq Rauf, Head Verification and Security Policy Coordination; Mr Bernardo Ribeiro, External Relations and Policy Officer; Ms Zoryana Vovchok, External Relations and Policy Officer
Department of Safeguards:
Mr Olli Heinonen, Deputy Director General, Head, Department of Safeguards; Ms Jill Cooley, Director Division of Concepts and Planning; Mr Michael Burmester, Head Safeguards Operation A1; Mr Denys Rousseau, Senior Safeguards Inspector, Safeguards Operations A1; Ms Jenni Kataiina Rissanen, Non-Proliferation Strategy Analyst, Division of Concepts and Planning

13.00
Lunch hosted by Australian delegation to the IAEA
Guests: Matt Ferguson, IAEA, (ex DFAT/Safeguard officer); Ambassador for NZ, Ambassador Jennifer Macmillan; Ms Listyowati; First Secretary Indonesia, Ms Ismail Salam, Minister Counsellor Malaysia; Ambassador for Thailand, Mr Brad Peppinck; Connor Dilleen

15.00 – 16.00
Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO)
Meeting with Mr Tibor Toth, Director, and Ms Catherine Brown, Conference Services Section, Legal and External Relations Division, CTBTO

Day 4 - Thursday, 23 April 2009
Travel: 9.30
Depart Intercontinental Hotel to Airport

11.45 – 13.10
BA697: Vienna to London

Accommodation:
Millennium Hotel, Mayfair
44 Grosvenor Square, Mayfair London W1

High Commission Contact:
Mr Terry Porter, Visits Coordinator, Australian High Commission,

Day 5 – Friday, 24 April 2009
Meetings: 11.00
Policy Exchange, Director, Mr. Neil O’Brien, Clutha House, 10 Storey’s Gate, Westminster SW1

Day 6 – Saturday, 25 April 2009
Attending: 5.00
ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Australian War Memorial, Hyde Park Corner, London
7.00
Royal Air Force Club Gunfire Breakfast, 128 Piccadilly W1

Travel:
14.00
Train to Cheltenham

Conference:
21.00
Cheltenham Racecourse: Conservative Party Spring Conference

Accommodation:
Bridge House, 88 Lansdown Road, Cheltenham GL51 6QR

Day 7 – Sunday, 26 April 2009
Conference:
Spring Conference, Cheltenham. Participation in Conservative Party
conference workshops

Meeting:
14.00
Meeting with Mr William Hague, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party,
Shadow Foreign Secretary

Travel:
16.30
Train to London

Day 8 – Monday, 27 April 2009
Meetings:
10.10
Palace of Westminster, House of Commons: Mr David Natzler, Clerk of
Committees

11.15
Visit to Palace of Westminster, discussion on procedures in House of Lords

13.00
Lunch with Mr James O'Shaughnessy, Director of Policy and Research,
Conservative Campaign Headquarters

14.30
Palace of Westminster, House of Commons, attend Question Time

15.30
Australian High Commission briefing with Air Commodore Steve Martin,
Head of Australian Defence Staff and Mr Paul Noonan, Counsellor, Political &
Trade Policy and Ms Julie Dowdle, First Secretary, Political & Trade Policy
16.30
Australian High Commission: Meeting with H.E. Mr John Dauth LVO, Australian High Commissioner

Day 9 – Tuesday, 28 April 2009
Meetings: 10.00
Portcullis House: Discussions with Mr Keith Simpson, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs

11.15
HM Treasury: Discussions with Mr Nick Joicey, Directorate Management Team, IF Fund Directorate, HM Treasury (with Ms Namali Mackay, First Secretary, Political & Trade Policy, Australian High Commission)

16.00
Portcullis House: Discussions with Mr Gerald Howarth MP, Shadow Defence Minister

17.30
London Business School: Discussions with Professor Andrew Scott, Professor of Economics

Day 10 – Wednesday, 29 April 2009
Travel: 10.50 – 13.40
BA217 London Heathrow to Washington (Dulles)

Accommodation:
Beacon Hotel
1615 Rhode Island Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036

Embassy contacts:
Jonathan Kolieb, Congressional Liaison Officer, Embassy of Australia, Washington DC
Thomas Corcoran, Visits Liaison

Meeting: 17.00
Embassy of Australia, Mr David Stuart, Deputy Chief of Mission

Day 11 – Thursday, 30 April 2009
Meetings: 9.00
US State Department: Meeting with Ambassador Scott Marciel - US
Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs and Mr. David Shear - Director, Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs

10.30
Embassy of Australia: Meeting with Mr Michael Sadleir, Counsellor, Political Affairs, briefing on East Asia

11.00
Embassy of Australia: Meeting with Mr Ben Burdon, Counsellor, Political Affairs, briefing on Afghanistan

12.30
Embassy of Australia: Lunch hosted by Mark Pierce with Dr Evan Medeiros, International Affairs Fellow. Council on Foreign Relations and Senior Political Scientist, RAND, Dr Sheila Smith, Senior Fellow for Japan Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, Mr Scott Snyder, Director, Center for US-Korea Policy, The Asia Foundation

15.00
US State Department: Meeting with Mr James Green and Mr Michael Fuchs, Policy Planning Staff (N.E. Asia)

20.00
Reception: Home of Dr & Mrs Henry Ryan, Georgetown

Day 12 - Friday, 1 May 2009
Meetings:

8.00
Breakfast with Dr Robert Kagan, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Beacon Hotel

10.00
Senate Foreign Relations Committee: Meeting with Frank Januzzi, Professional Staff Member (Asian affairs)

11.30
Senate: Meeting with Senator Richard Lugar (R-Indiana), Ranking Member Foreign Relations Committee, Senate Office Building

12.30
Lunch hosted by Embassy of Australia, Mark Pierce (Minister, Political) with Dr Michael O'Hanlon, Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy Brookings Institution & Dr Henry Ryan, Associate for the Institute of the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, Sesto Senso

15.00
East-West Center: Meeting with Dr Satu Limaye, Director
16.30  
Centre for American Progress: Meeting with Dr Andrew Light, Senior Fellow, specialising in climate, energy and science policy

Day 13 – Saturday, 2 May 2009
Personal Day

Day 14 – Sunday, 3 May 2009
Personal Day

Day 15 – Monday, 4 May 2009
Meetings:

9.30  
International Monetary Fund: Experts roundtable - International Monetary Fund - Asia-Pacific Division, Strategic Policy Review Department:

- Mr Ranjit Teja, Deputy Director, Strategic Policy Review Department
- Mr Ray Brooks, Mission Chief for Australia, Asia-Pacific Department
- Ms Petya Koeva Brooks, Deputy Division Chief, Research Dept
- Ms Michaela Schrader, Senior External Relations Officer
- Mr Christ Legg, Alternate Executive Director

11.30  
Centre for American Security: Meeting with Dr Kristin Lord, Vice-President and Director of Studies

12.30  
World Bank: Meeting with Mr Ivailo Izvorski, Lead Economist, East Asia Pacific Vice Presidency, and Lead author of the half-yearly "East Asia & Pacific Update - Battling the forces of global recession"

15.30  
Brookings Institute: Meeting with Dr Dennis Wilder, Visiting Fellow, Brookings Institution

17.00  
CNA Corporation: Meeting with Mr Bronson Percival, John Hopkins University
17.45
Embassy of Australia: Reception for the new Assistant Trade Commissioner, Australian Trade Commission

Day 16 – Tuesday, 5 May 2009
Travel: 08.35 – 10.04
UA8327 Washington to Ottawa

Meetings: 12.45
University of Ottawa: Meeting with Professor Wesley Wark, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, accompanied by the Australian High Commissioner to Canada, Mr Justin Brown

1500
Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS): Meeting with Professor Roland Paris, Director, and University Research Chair in International Security and Governance, University of Ottawa

1800
Private dinner with Senator James Cowan, Senator for Nova Scotia and Leader of the Opposition in the Senate

Accommodation:
Fairmont Château Laurier
1 Rideau Street
Ottawa, Ontario

High Commission contact:
Melissa Fransen
First Secretary
Australian High Commission

Day 17 – Wednesday, 6 May 2009
Meetings: 9.00
Senate Security & Defence Committee: Meeting with Chair, Senator Colin Kenny

12.30
Meeting with Mr Deepak Obhrai (Conservative), Parliamentary Secretary to the Foreign Minister, accompanied by the High Commissioner

13.30
Meeting with Kevin Sorenson MP (Conservative), Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Commons, Canada
14.00
Attendance, Question Time, House of Commons, presentation to Senate of Canada

15.30
Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS): Intelligence Assessment Branch, Meeting with Director Dr Louise Doyon

19.00
Dinner with Mr Ron Purver, Canadian Security Intelligence Service

Day 18 – Thursday, 7 May 2009
Meeting: 11.00
Privy Council Office: meeting with Ms Cindy Termorshuizen, Director of Policy, Afghanistan Taskforce

Travel: 12.25 – 17.06
Train Via Rail – Ottawa to Toronto

Day 19 – Friday, 8 May 2009
Part Personal Day

Meeting: 12.00
Meeting with Dr James Eayrs, Professor Emeritus, Dalhousie University & University of Toronto

Travel: 18.55 – 21.10
QF3246 Toronto – Los Angeles

23.50 – 07.25
QF108 Los Angeles – Sydney

09.40 – 10.30
QF1471 Sydney – Canberra
Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 61  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

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

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose:  
As stated in my letter of 5 May 2009 the purpose of my journey was to attend the Papua New Guinea Parliamentary Group on Population and Development Retreat. The aim of the retreat was to address a wide range of issues integral to health and development in Papua New Guinea. The retreat provided the newly formed PNGPDPD with an opportunity to be briefed by experts in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and population and development and to formalize the structure and workplan of the group and recruit new members.

In my capacity as Chair of the Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development I spoke on the role and work of the Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and the interface with other Groups in the region.

(b) Itinerary:  

Late on the afternoon of Friday 15 May I travelled by ferry to Loloata Island for the meeting with parliamentarians and UNFPA. We returned, by ferry, to Port Moresby late Saturday.
On Sunday 17 May I travelled with Dame Carol Kidu in her vehicle. Our first visit was to the settlement of Eight Mile on the outskirts of Port Moresby. We then visited the city hospital and various destinations throughout Dame Carol's electorate in Moresby South.

On Monday 18 May I travelled to the Port Moresby airport by hotel transfer vehicle.

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings:
The key reason for the visit was to meet with parliamentarians from the PNG Parliament to support the formation of a Parliamentary Group on Population and Development.

The meeting was held on 16 May 2009 at Loloata Island, outside Port Moresby. 14 local parliamentarians, including 3 ministers, and the Deputy Speaker, senior staff members of two other parliamentarians, 3 local representatives from UNFPA, senior public servants and local media attended this meeting. 2 representatives from the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance supported the meeting as secretariat. UNFPA funded the meeting.

This parliamentary group has been discussed for over 2 years and had been championed by Dame Carol Kidu, PNG minister for Community Development after a Joint Study Tour by the Australian and New Zealand Parliamentary Groups in 2006. Participants of this Joint Study Tour included our current Parliamentary Secretary Duncan Kerr MP.

The parliamentary groups operate within a network of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Australian group was formed in 1995 after the 1994 Cairo Conference.

The meeting on Loloata Island formally adopted a constitution and work plan for the PNG group and elected office bearers with Hon. Malakai Tabar MP from Gazelle, East New Britain Province, the President. I have attached a list of elected office bearers and a list of attendees at the meeting. I have also attached local media coverage of the meeting. This media story highlights the presentation of Professor Mola from the University of PNG with whom I met several times over these few days.
Other Meetings:
Friday Afternoon:
On the afternoon of Friday 15 May I met with the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr John Feakes, at the Australian High Commission. Mr Feakes provided information on the Commission, as well as Australian investment and employment in the country. He advised that there were some current security issues around the Chinese riots and he encouraged me, as well as the 2 staff members from the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance, to be in contact with the Commission Security and to have security staff with us when travelling. Naturally we agreed and this security was available on the Sunday in Port Moresby.

Saturday Evening:
I met with Professor Mola to discuss population issues in PNG as well as future support for the new PNG Parliamentary Group. As a lecturer at PNG University, Professor Mola provided information about medical training, regional medical challenges and in particular maternal and child health needs and services.

Sunday Morning:
On Sunday morning, again with Dame Carol Kidu, I visited the settlement of Eight Mile on the outskirts of Port Moresby. This community has a Marie Stopes Clinic which provides information on sexual reproductive issues, counseling and some medical services. The local people engage with clinic staff and are working with a QUT Brisbane program to develop local drama to spread the messages of safe sex and reproductive rights and responsibilities. We also met with the enthusiastic local sports teams - men's rugby league and women's netball. The positive links with sport were clearly reflected in the success of local teams and the enthusiastic plans for the development of a community centre.

Sunday:
I met with local AUSAID officers, Robin Scott-Charlton and Peta Leeman. We discussed local programs, staffing and future directions. This conversation continued later in the evening with Ms Leeman and the two representatives from the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance.

Sunday:
With Professor Mola, Dame Carol Kidu and local workers, I visited the Port Moresby Hospital. The visit included emergency services, intensive care, surgical services and information about the special coronary care centre developed by Dame Carol in memory of her husband.
We also spent time in the Maternity and Women's wards where we met with new mothers and babies as well as families waiting to return home. There was desperate need in all the hospital services - workforce, facilities and infrastructure.

**Sunday Afternoon:**
We visited, with Dame Carol, in her electorate. The main issues were the need for education, employment and housing. It was evident that there is a distinctly personal relationship between politicians and their community. Individuals made contact with Dame Carol with a range of requests for support - money for food, school fees, travel and funeral expenses. This was only in the 4 to 5 hours I shared with her and she described this as a quiet day.

(iii) **Conclusion:**
This trip was extremely useful and informative. The PNG Parliamentary Group on Population and Development has been established and key support and information links have been put into place with the Australian Group.
I have made contact with Dame Carol Kidu, a personal inspiration as well as a key figure in the struggle to gain women's participation in Parliament and the Pacific. The role of the local politician in PNG is distinctly different from my own experience in Australia. There was a constant personal approach with people seeking help and support and with a clear expectation of a response. It was a stimulating few hours and revealed the demanding personal work.

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

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE
2 June 2009
Attachment A:

**PNG Parliamentary Group on Population and Development Office Bearers.**

The Hon. Malakai Tabar MP was elected inaugural President and Hon. Dame Carol Kidu MP, Senior Vice President. Vice Presidents elected were: Hon. Posi Menai MP, Hon. Theo Zurenuoc MP, Hon. Martin Aini MP, Hon. Boka Kondra MP. Vice Presidents were elected to represent regional and party diversity. The Group also elected a Secretary and Treasurer, Hon. Benjamin Mul MP, and Hon. Ken Fairweather MP as Patron.

**Attendees at the PNG Retreat.**

Hon Dame Carol Kidu MP;
Hon Malakai Tabar MP;
Hon Bob Dadae MP, Minister for Defence;
Hon Jamie Graham MP, Healthy foods advocate Chair, Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS;
Tony Sialo, First Secretary to Hon Koni Igua MP;
Hon Benjamin Mul MP;
Hon Michael Ogio MP;
Hon Guma Wau MP;
Hon Theo Zurenuoc MP;
Hon Posi Menai MP;
Hon Martin Aini MP;
Joe Toa, First Secretary to Hon Guma Wau MP;
Hon Boka Kondra MP;
Samuel Awasano, First Secretary to Hon Borry Oueyara MP;
Hon Francis Marus MP, Deputy Speaker;
Hon Francis Awesa MP;
Hon Ken Fairweather MP;
Professor Glen Mola;
Dr Gilbert Hiawalyer;
Golden Mulilo;
Christine Aisoli;
Dr Betty Koka;
Rita Maripa;
Dr Israel Sembajwe;
Joe Ivaharia;
Senator Claire Moore;
Jane Singleton;
Alice Ruxton.
Hon Warren Truss MP  
Leader of The Nationals  
Shadow Minister for Trade, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government  
Member for Wide Bay  

Wt/cw  

8 July 2009  

Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig  
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, I submit the attached statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey to Bali.  

My visit was to attend the 33rd Ministerial Meeting of the Cairns Group held at the Conrad Hotel, Bali from June 7th to 9th 2009.  

Yours sincerely  

WARREN TRUSS MP  
Federal Member for Wide Bay  
Leader of The Nationals  

Enc....
REPORT

by

WARREN TRUSS MP

SHADOW MINISTER FOR TRADE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
LEADER OF THE NATIONALS,
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WIDE BAY

On his attendance at the

33rd Ministerial Meeting of the Cairns Group,

Bali, Indonesia

7th – 9th June 2009
ITINERARY

Sunday, June 7, 2009

1000 hours        Depart Brisbane International Airport flight DJ197
1415 hours        Arrive Ngurah Rai International Airport, Bali
1500 hours        Transfer to Conrad Bali Hotel
1930 hours        Attend Cairns Group Welcome Dinner hosted by Indonesian Government

Monday, June 8, 2009

0900 hours        Attend Official Opening of 33rd Cairns Group Ministerial Meeting
1000 hours        Attend Plenary Sessions of 33rd Cairns Group Ministerial Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

0900 hours        Attend Plenary Sessions of 33rd Cairns Group Ministerial Meeting
1100 hours        Attend Concluding Sessions of 33rd Cairns Group Ministerial Meeting
2200 hours        Transfer to Ngurah Rai International Airport

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

0020 hours        Depart Ngurah Rai International Airport Flight DJ198
0800 hours        Arrive Brisbane International Airport

Note: A copy of the draft program for the Ministerial Meeting is at Attachment A
REPORT

Introduction

The Cairns Group is a Coalition of nineteen agricultural exporting countries who share a commitment to achieving freer trade in agriculture. The establishment of the Cairns Group was an Australian initiative and takes it name from the fact that its first meeting was held in Cairns in 1986. Membership of the Group has risen slowly from fourteen to nineteen. The Cairns Group was one of the first special interest coalitions established to pursue particular trade agendas, especially in the context of comprehensive international trade negotiations such as the Uruguay and Doha Rounds.

While the Cairns Group played a key role in placing agriculture on the agenda for the Uruguay Round, its influence over recent times has been eroded by the creation of a number of other groupings, some of which pursue rival agendas. Indeed, some members of the Cairns Group are also members of other Special Interest Groups with opposite philosophies. The Cairns Group voice was vital in ensuring that agriculture was included in the global trade reform implemented through the Uruguay Round. These efforts helped reduce export subsidy wars and limit agricultural protectionism, though Cairns Group members were disappointed with the level of agricultural trade reform actually achieved in the Uruguay Round.

The Cairns Group continues to be a strong and constant advocate for greater reform in agricultural trade and was very supportive of the launch of the current Doha Round negotiations. The Cairns Group has pushed for ambitious agricultural trade reform, in spite of considerable resistance from many World Trade Organisation members – both developed and developing countries. While the ambition has gradually eroded from the Doha discussions on agriculture, the Cairns Group opposes the loss of ambition and has been an important catalyst in keeping agriculture firmly on the agenda.

Australia is the permanent Chair of the Cairns Group and remains the driving force behind the Group’s activities. It is beyond doubt that the Cairns Group has given Australia a much higher profile in world trade negotiations and that collectively the members of the Cairns Group have been able to exert far more influence than they could have achieved individually. If there are to be worthwhile advances in the Doha Round for agriculture, it is essential that there be a strong champion for freer trade in agriculture and the Cairns Group is best placed to fill that vital role.

A background fact sheet on the Cairns Group is at Attachment B.

Indonesia as Host

The Bali meeting was the 33rd gathering of the Cairns Group. Over recent years, members of the Cairns Group have often met on the fringes of larger international conferences and at various levels around negotiations in Geneva. Meetings hosted by one of the Group members have, however, always achieved a higher profile and have been most effective in pursuing the Group’s agenda. The 33rd Cairns Group Meeting was the first time members had assembled in Indonesia for a full group meeting. Indonesia’s willingness to host the Meeting was especially welcome.
The Meeting was held during the Indonesian Presidential election campaign. In addition, Indonesia is Chairman of the G33 Group which often adopts a protectionist approach to trade issues. The Indonesian Minister for Trade, Ms Mari Pangestu, has strong links with Australia and is highly regarded around the world for her work as Indonesian Trade Minister. The arrangements made by the Indonesian Government to host the Cairns Group Meeting were excellent and their hospitality was warm and generous.

In accordance with the usual practice, the meetings were jointly chaired by the Australian Trade Minister, Hon Simon Crean, and the host government Minister, Ms Mari Pangestu.

Invitation

I was pleased to be invited to attend the Meeting as part of the Australian delegation. I thank the Minister for Trade, Mr Crean, for his invitation (Attachment C) and officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for helping to facilitate my attendance. In particular, I acknowledge the assistance of Mr James Nation who was assigned to assist me.

As the immediate past Minister for Trade, it had been my privilege to Chair a number of Cairns Group Meetings including the 31st Ministerial Meeting in Lahore, Pakistan. Earlier as Minister for Agriculture, I had attended the 20th anniversary of the Cairns Group in Cairns in 2006.

The 33rd Meeting enabled me to renew acquaintances with many of the key trade figures I had come to know during my term as Minister for Trade and to meet some of the new Trade Ministers who have come to office over recent times. The Meeting refreshed my knowledge of trade issues and, in particular, gave me a better understanding of the current state of the negotiations on the Doha Round and other trade issues.

Attendance

Special guests present at the Bali Meeting included Mr Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade Organisation, Mr Ron Kirk, the new United States Trade Ambassador, Mr Anand Sharma, the new Minister for Commerce from India, along with Vice Ministers from Japan and China, and Mr Eckart Guth, European Commission Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation. The participation of these visitors added to the stature of the Meeting. It was particularly useful for Cairns Group members to have the opportunity to meet and listen to the new appointments, many of whom will play a key role in shaping the future of trade reform.

Unfortunately, a number of countries were not represented at the Meeting at a Ministerial level and undoubtedly the Cairns Group would be stronger if more Ministers were in attendance.

A list of attendees is at Attachment D.

At Attachment E is a chart outlining the agricultural performance and key economic indicators of the Cairns Group member economies.
Farm Leaders

Many Cairns Group meetings have been preceded by a gathering of Farm Leaders from member countries and such a meeting was again held in Bali. Farm Leaders from Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Canada, Paraguay and South Africa participated in a preliminary meeting which provided an opportunity for practising farmers to provide an input to the Ministerial discussions. The differences of views between Trade Ministers on key issues are often reflected among farm industry leaders (Canada generally sends two delegations of farm leaders to Cairns Group Meetings representing free trading and protectionist interests.) The Farm Leaders’ meeting provides an excellent opportunity for the leaders to discuss key issues and to put a practical perspective to the Ministerial deliberations.

A copy of the Cairns Group Farm Leaders’ Bali Communiqué is at Attachment F.

33rd Cairns Group Ministerial Meeting Official Opening

The meeting was officially opened by Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance Minister in Indonesia. She spoke of the global financial crisis and her concerns that the economic downturn could lead to social and political unrest. She emphasised Indonesia’s determination to work with the world to mitigate the effects of the financial crisis. Ms Mulyani said that world trade was likely to fall by 9 percent in 2009, causing particular concern for trade dependent developing countries. The problems could only be resolved with a coordinated, global and regional effort.

She emphasised the importance of completing the Doha Development Agenda, pointing out that the world and in particular developing economies would benefit from more equitable trade. She said failure would make it harder to meet the Millennium Development Goals and would have a significantly adverse effect on the world economy over the years ahead.

Ms Mulyani declared Indonesia’s support for the Cairns Group and foreshadowed its willingness to be reasonable in reaching a conclusion to the Doha Round. However, other members of the WTO would also need to be reasonable and big countries should show more leadership. The Cairns Group was leading the fight against protectionism and the Bali meeting was important to discuss a re-engagement on the Doha Development Agenda. She said it was important to resolve the remaining issues on agricultural modalities and to phase out all export subsidies to deliver better market access and reduce trade distorting domestic support.

Plenary Sessions

The Meeting began with a report from Mr David Crombie, (President of National Farmers Federation) on the Meeting of the Cairns Group Farm Leaders. Farm Leaders spoke strongly about the importance of revitalising the Doha Development Round. They called on the Cairns Group Ministers not to weaken in their resolve and to build ambition from the base of the December 2008 text. Farm Leaders expressed concern about the loss of ambition in the agricultural agenda and warned “any further back sliding in ambition will not be acceptable or sufficient for this group’s farmers”.

4
The Meeting then moved into its Plenary Sessions with Ministers and delegation heads making presentations on a range of trade related issues.

While I took notes on the comments of the various delegations, because of the nature of the Cairns Group deliberations, it would be inappropriate in a report of this nature to attribute specific comments to individual delegates. I therefore make the following general observations.

There was strong support amongst delegations for a completion of the Doha Development Agenda. Developing countries are particularly concerned about the impact on their farm sectors if the negotiations fail. Some countries indicated that their willingness to make concessions in one field will require trade-offs in others. While some Ministers wanted elements of the December package re-opened, others argued that the December package as a whole should be treated as an agreed package and a starting point for renewed discussions.

Developing countries are concerned about the talks moving to scheduling, legal and text issues before the modalities are fully understood. The complexities of the negotiations are beyond comprehension for many countries and it is clear that there is an underlying suspicion that the complexities may mask unintended consequences. As one delegate said, everyone believes they are giving more than they can and getting less than they should. Repeatedly, demands were made for the United States to make much more substantial concessions but surprisingly there were very few demands being made of the European Union in this context.

Frequently, delegates spoke of concerns about rising protectionism and the effect of the global economic downturn on market access and the livelihoods of farmers. The importance of improving productivity to feed growing populations was an issue for many but I do not recall a single reference to climate change as an issue during the entire meeting.

**Guest Presentations**

The Director General of the World Trade Organisation, *Mr Pascal Lamy*, who has recently been reappointed unopposed for a further term of five years, reported on the current state of negotiations on the Doha Round. He assured Ministers that work was continuing in Geneva but that ultimately countries would need to give directions about the concessions they were prepared to make in order to achieve an agreement. While significant consensus had been achieved prior to the breakdown of discussions late last year, there were still a number of important issues, including special safeguards, tariffication, anti-dumping, scheduling, and the legal text.

He disputed the view that the Round had lost its ambition and emphasised the importance of “removing water” from the tariff schedules. He pointed out that in the current economic circumstances, many countries were re-imposing tariffs which might previously have been regarded as “water”.

*Mr Lamy said the Cairns Group Meeting was the first of a number of key meetings over the months ahead including the G20 in Pittsburgh in September, Trade Ministers’ Meeting in late November, the G8 in Paris, and APEC in Singapore at which countries would need to give sufficient assurances to enable the Doha Agenda to be completed.*
The WTO Chair of the Special Session on Agriculture, Mr David Walker, also addressed the Meeting. He said the remaining issues on agriculture were few, but some were significant. Settling of the detail on the legal text would be time consuming and there remained a significant gap between members on issues such as special safeguards, tariffication, anti-dumping and cotton.

The meeting was particularly pleased to have present the new United States Trade Ambassador, Mr Ron Kirk, with Under Secretary, Mr Jim Miller. Mr Kirk assured the meeting that his presence demonstrated the United States commitment to a successful completion of the Doha Round. He said the Obama administration has now completed its internal review of the Doha Round. The review had convinced him there was a huge gap between what is expected of the United States and where they can actually go. He said agriculture was important to the United States and that the value of world trade was now being clouded by the global financial crisis.

Mr Kirk said that efforts to date had not been sufficient to get countries close to “end game” and it was time to explore ways to conclude the Round. The United States was prepared to engage and explore the options with the view to achieving success next year. The United States would want meaningful market access for all, including the United States. Agricultural market access and goods and services must all be dealt with in the same time frame. He made it clear that what was on the table at the present time on issues such as special products and safeguards were not sufficient to satisfy the United States.

The Meeting was also attended by Mr Anand Sharma, the new Indian Minister for Commerce. Mr Sharma presented a new constructive attitude from India and called for a proactive approach by all parties during these difficult economic times. He said negotiations needed to reach a broad based consensus and, while there would be no perfect solution, it was important that the Round deliver a fair and ambitious outcome with opportunities for both developed and developing countries.

China’s Vice Minister for Commerce, Mr Yi Xiaozhun, outlined some of the concessions that China has made on its tariffs and called for agreement on special product issues by July. He said it was important that the new United States administration be granted a Trade Promotion Authority as other countries are unlikely to engage unless the US had a TPA in place.

The Japanese Vice Minister, Mr Hidenori Murakami, read a statement from his Minister regarding the reform of agriculture. He said the Doha Round had been going for seven years and countries were losing interest. He suggested that in relation to non-agricultural issues, countries should exchange information on a confidential basis on the issues where they were prepared to make concessions and what they were seeking from other nations.

Mr Eckart Guth from the European Union said the European Union was committed to a successful conclusion of the Doha Round which had increased in importance with the onset of the global economic difficulties. He said the discussion should be resumed based on the December text with a view to completing the modalities in August with the view of developing a single undertaking or agreement.
Observations

It is apparent that progress on the Doha Round has largely stalled awaiting a signal from the new Obama administration in the United States about its approach towards the completion of the Round. During the Presidential election campaign, Mr Obama delivered very negative messages about trade liberalisation. There remains a high expectation in the United States that their government will protect American industry no matter how uncompetitive it may be. The review of the administration’s position on the Doha Round has taken a long time and the world will now be looking for a clear message that the United States is prepared to commit the necessary diplomatic effort and make the necessary concessions to kick start the Round. While there are many other countries that have failed to demonstrate the required commitment to reduce their own trade barriers and agricultural subsidies, the world will be looking for a significant gesture from the United States on market access and subsidy questions before any of the other key protagonists will be willing to engage in “end game” discussions. It is also impossible to escape the conclusion that the United States Obama administration is not yet prepared to make the kind of concessions that particularly the developing world will require to deliver a quality result from the Doha Round.

While meetings of world leaders consistently call for a completion to the Round, it is clear that in practice, they are doing little to further the negotiations (The London G20 Communiqué contained the weakest wording on these issues in years.)

It is important for the Doha Development Round to be concluded successfully and soon. However, it is apparent that any agreement will fall well short of the ambitions projected for the Round when it was launched seven years ago.

The Meeting agreed on a final Communiqué Attachment G.
July 22, 2009

Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 64  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

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

**Purpose of the journey**

I was invited to Israel by the Australia Israel Cultural Exchange (AICE) – a not for profit non government organisation based in Melbourne and Jerusalem dedicated to promoting cultural exchange between Israel and Australia.

AICE conducted a week long series of events while the delegation was in Israel culminating in the inaugural Australia/Israel Leadership Dialogue of which I was fortunate to be a founding member.

My purpose while in Israel was to take part in this week long event.

**Itinerary**

I travelled as follows:


Key meetings and outcomes/findings

I have attached a detailed day by day outline of the meetings, events and other aspects of the visit in which I took part.

The visit included my participation in the G’Day Shalom Salaam Israel Festival. The Festival included a Australia/Israel Film Festival which I launched, a series of cultural events and the Australia/Israel Leadership Dialogue.

Saturday June 20

The official visit began with the opening of the G’day Shalom Salaam Israel Festival with a concert by David Helfgott (the world-renowned piano prodigy played by Geoffrey Rush in the film ‘Shine’).

Sunday June 21

The delegation travelled to Be’er Sheva and conducted a wreath laying ceremony at Pratt Park of the Australian Soldier. We were briefed by ANZAC historian Mr Kelvin Crombie.

Pratt Park pays tribute to those ANZACs who served in the Middle East during the two world wars and in subsequent peace operations. The centrepiece of the Park is a memorial commemorating the last great cavalry charge in war – the charge of the Australian Light Horse on 31 October 1917. The park is a landscaped leisure venue for the people of Be’er Sheva and features Australian flora and a specially constructed dual-purpose integrated playground enabling full enjoyment by children with physical disabilities. The memorial, comprises a life-size bronze sculpture of a mounted light horseman by Australian sculptor Peter Corlett.

The Australian Government, through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, coordinated the ceremony.

The delegation visited Ben-Gurion University in Be’er Sheva, meeting with Professor Rivka Carmi, President of the University.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was established with the aim to spearhead the development of the Negev, a desert area comprising more than sixty percent of the country. The University was founded by Israel’s first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion.

Today, Ben-Gurion University is a major center for teaching and research, with over 17,000 students enrolled in the faculties of Engineering Sciences, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Guilford Glazer School of Business and Management and the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies. It also includes the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev, the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies and the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism. The University has campuses in Beer-Sheva,
including the Marcus Family Campus, as well as in Sede Boquer and Eilat. Ben-Gurion University is a world leader in arid zone research, offering its expertise worldwide.

The delegation was fortunate to hear from Professor Alon Tal, from the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research. His primary research focus is in water management and policy, with an emphasis on joint Israeli-Palestinian environmental projects. We also heard from Professor Elon Adar, one of Israel’s leading researchers in water sources, use and technology. He is the Director of Ben Gurion University’s Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research and an Associate Professor of the BIDR-Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research. Professor Adar’s main research activities deal with quantitative assessments of groundwater flow systems; sources of recharge on complex basins with puzzling geology and scarce hydrological information; and modelling of temporal and spatial distribution of contaminants in aquatic systems.

We then travelled to Sderot where we were hosted by Mr Avi Dichter MK and Mr Gidi Grinstein, President of the Reut Institute. Sderot is a western Negev city in the Southern District of Israel. The city has been an ongoing target of Qassam rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip since 2000. These have killed 13 residents, wounded hundreds, caused millions of dollars in damage, and disrupted daily life as well as the local economy. Nearly all residents have been traumatized by the frequent sound of air-raid sirens and explosions of incoming projectiles. All local schools have been fortified.

After Israel’s disengagement from Gaza in the summer of 2005, the number of confirmed rocket strikes against Israel increased by more than 500 percent, thousands of rockets and mortar bombs have been fired at Sderot and the western Negev, an average of three or four each a day. Studies done in recent years show that the continued rocket fire and the large number of shock victims have led to post traumatic stress disorder among many of Sderot’s residents (close to 30%).

Avi Dichter MK is an Israeli politician who currently serves as a member of the Knesset for Kadima. He is a former Minister of Internal Security and Director of Israel’s internal security service, Shin Bet.

In Sderot, the delegation was addressed by Gidi Grinstein, President of the Reut Institute on “Assymetrical Warfare & the Homefront”. Reut is an innovative policy group designed to provide real-time, long-term strategic decision-support to government agencies.

Gidi Grinstein served in the Office and then in the Bureau of PM Barak as the Secretary and coordinator of the Negotiation Team of the Government of Israel to the Permanent Status negotiations between Israel and the PLO (1999-2001).

In the evening, I opened the Australian Film Festival with the international premiere of the film *Tackling Peace*, a fly-on-the-wall documentary about the AFL Peace Team that competed in the Aussie rules International Cup in Melbourne last August.

The team of 13 Israelis and 13 Palestinians, sponsored by the Peres Centre for
Peace, made international headlines as they competed in a code they had never played until eight months before the competition began.

The sixth annual AICE Australian Film Festival is being directed by Ros Tatarka, an independent film producer and a board member of the Australian Film Institute. It was held in venues across Israel including Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Monday June 22

The delegation travelled to Ramallah, the administrative capital of the Palestinian Territories.

There we first met with Dr Riad Malki, the Foreign Minister of the Palestinian Authority and discussed the options for a return to normality in the West Bank; the transfer of land for peace and in particular the continuation of the settlements in the West Bank, especially those bordering Israel. We also discussed the role of Hamas in Gaza and their future in the peace negotiations and the relationship between Hamas and Fatah.

We next met with a delegation of members of the Palestinian Legislative Council led by Dr Mustapha Barghouti but including representatives of Fatah, Independent Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. As with the Palestinian Foreign Minister, we discussed the future of Gaza and the West Bank, the “two state solution”, the role of Hamas and their prognosis for the future.

We also met with representatives of the Negotiation Team that engages with their Israeli counterparts on an ongoing basis and they briefed the delegation on their current work, their plans for the future and their opinion on the likely development and outcomes of their talks.

The delegation returned to Jerusalem and met over lunch with Mr Eyal Arad, the Chairman of Euro-Israel, which is part of the Havas Group, the world’s fifth largest communications group. We discussed current Israeli and Middle East politics. He has a particular insight having managed campaigns for Nir Barkat (Mayor of Jerusalem, 2008), Shimon Peres (President, 2007), Ehud Olmert (Prime Minister, 2006), Ariel Sharon (Prime Minister, 2001 and 2003), The Center Party (1999 election campaign), Yitzhak Mordechai (Likud Primaries, 1996), Benjamin Netanyahu (Prime Minister, 1996), Benjamin Netanyahu (Likud leadership, 1993).

That night the delegation attended the gala dinner which doubled as the launch of the Australia-Israel Leadership Dialogue at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. The over two hundred guests heard speeches from Mr Albert Dadon AM, Chairman of the Australia Israel Cultural Exchange, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Education, Workplace Relations, Employment and Social Inclusion and the Hon Peter Costello MP, former Treasurer of Australia. The theme of the Dinner was ‘Sydney Opera House comes to Jerusalem’. The highlight being that Guillaume Brahimi was the Chef. Guillaume, is a French-born chef based in Sydney. He is currently head chef of Guillaume at Bennelong restaurant located at the Sydney Opera House.
Tuesday June 23

At breakfast the delegation heard from Mr Efraim Halevy, Immediate Past Head of Mossad (Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations) on the subject of the “Middle East Today: New Perspectives on a Changing Landscape”.

Mr Efraim Halevy is a lawyer and an Israeli intelligence expert. He was the ninth director of Mossad and the 4th head of the Israeli National Security Council. Above all, he is remembered for his part in bringing about the peace treaty with Jordan. Mr Halevy remained in the Mossad for 28 years, heading three different branches throughout. Between 1990-1995, under the directorship of Shabtai Shavit, he served as deputy director and as head of the headquarters branch. In March 1998, he became the director of Mossad following the resignation of Danny Yatom. In 1996, he became the Israeli ambassador to the European Union in Brussels.

It was a fascinating and insightful session.

The delegation then visited the Yad-Vashem Holocaust Museum. Since its inception (by an act of Knesset (Parliament), Yad Vashem has been entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust period, preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims, and imparting the legacy of the Holocaust for generations to come through its archives, library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations).

At Yad-Vashem, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Hon Peter Costello laid a wreath at the perpetual flame of remembrance.

The delegation next travelled to the Supreme Court of Israel and was received by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It was not only a spectacular building and a show case of Israeli architectural brilliance but an experience to discover the rights of Israelis to appeal to the Supreme Court without fetter which means the dozen justices as dealing with up to eleven thousand cases each year.

The Israel-Australia Friendship Group of the Israeli Knesset hosted the delegation for lunch and we heard from Ms Ronit Tirosh MK, Head of the Israel-Australia Friendship Group, member of Kadima (the main Opposition Party) and a former Director General of the Ministry of Education. As Shadow Minister for Education I found this particularly of interest. Ms Tirosh discussed current Israeli and Middle East politics, as well as the relationship between Israel and Australia and touched on the policies of the previous and current Israeli governments in relation to primary and secondary education.

We next visited the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and met with the President of the University, Dr Menachem Ben-Sasson MK. Dr Ben-Sasson is a world famous academic in the area of the history of the Jewish people in Islamic Lands. He is also a member of the Knesset
for Kadima and Chairman of the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee in the last parliament.

He gave us a comprehensive outline of the undertakings of the Hebrew University, its history and its founding by Albert Einstein amongst others. We then viewed some of Albert Einstein’s original writings held by the University.

I then made my way to the Knesset and met with Speaker Rivlin MK and Danny Donon MK, members of the governing coalition. We discussed matters to do with the Parliament, the “two state solution” with the Palestinians and the peace process. We also discussed Israel’s relationship with Australia both historically and currently and what future economic opportunities existed to expand that relationship.

Wednesday June 24

The Australia-Israel Leadership Dialogue began in closed session on this day with opening speeches of welcome by Mr Albert Dadon AM, the Israeli Minister for Education, Mr Gideon Saar MK and the Israeli Minister for Industry, Trade and Labour, Mr Fuad Ben-Eliezer MK and myself.

The sessions consisted of an address from the key speaker followed by a dialogue between the forty or more participants at any one time.

I have attached a list of the participants from both the Australian and Israeli sides.

Speakers on Wednesday were:

- Dr Orna Berry, Partner, Gemini Israel Funds, on “Effective research and development policy”;
- Mr Elisha Yanay, General Manager of Motorola Israel, on “Education 2000: Engineering vs Law and CSI;
- Professor Stanley Fischer, Governor of the Bank of Israel, on the economic situation in Israel;
- Dr Steven Kennedy, General Manager of the Competition and Consumer Policy Division of the Australian Treasury, on “Australia’s Response to the Financial Meltdown”
- Brigadier-General (Ret.) Gal Hirsch, Chairman, Defensive Shield Holdings, on “From Vessels to Speedboats”;
- Mr Greg Sheridan, Foreign Editor, The Australian newspaper, on “Obama: the Talk and the Walk”;
- Professor David Menashri, Head of Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University and Dr Mordechai Kedar, Research Associate Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, on “Two Perspectives on Iran”;
- Mr Shai Agassi, Chief Executive Officer, Better Place, on “Ending the World’s Addiction to Oil”.

That evening I dined with Mr Gideon Ezra MK, a former Minister in the Sharon and Olmert governments and a long serving Member of the Knesset. Formerly he was Deputy Director of the Shin Bet, the Israeli Internal Security Service. For some time he was Head of the Israel-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Knesset. We discussed matters of interest concerning Israel and Australia, the Middle East peace process, Israeli settlements in the West Bank, Hamas and Fatah and current and future Israeli politics.

Thursday June 25

The delegation was fortunate to hear from Mr John Lyons, Middle East correspondent for News Ltd in the morning over breakfast. Mr Lyons had only recently returned from Iran, being one of the very few journalists remaining in Tehran during the riots following the Presidential elections there. He gave the group a first hand impression of events leading up to, during and the aftermath of the elections. He had particular insights into the democratic movement which the delegation found useful and insightful.

The second day of the Australia-Israel Leadership Dialogue continued following Mr Lyons’ presentation.

We received a presentation on “New Health Challenges Under Climate Change” from Professor Paul Zimmet, Director Emeritus & Director of International Research-Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute. Professor Zimmet is a leader in investigations into social, nutritional and lifestyle diseases, and to biotechnology development in Australia. He has published over 6500 scientific papers, chapters and reviews in peer-reviewed journals and books. He is co-editor of the major and widely used texts on diabetes – “International Textbook of Diabetes Mellitus” and “The Epidemiology of Diabetes”.

He was followed by Professor Shlomo Ben-Haim, the Chief Executive Officer of Impulse Dynamics. Professor Ben-Haim is one of Israel’s leading biotech entrepreneurs, having founded and sold several successful ventures. Today he continues to develop new companies that address significant medical markets with unmet needs. Ben-Haim has also been a professor of medicine, physiology and biophysics, with appointments at both Harvard University and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

He addressed the dialogue on the same subject matter as Professor Zimmet and an exchange of views was then conducted.

In all these seminars of the dialogue the sessions were chaired by either Mrs Mary Easson as Deputy Chair of the Australia Israel Cultural Exchange (AICE) or Mr Albert Dadon AM as its Chair. They were both ably assisted by Mr Paul Israel, Chief Executive Officer of AICE in Israel.

Copies of all the presentations are available at my Adelaide Electorate Office should you be interested in studying them.
This was my fourth visit to Israel in sixteen years. The last being in 1999. It gave me a first hand opportunity to assess for myself a number of the key issues facing Israel and the peace process in the Middle East as well as the relationship between Israel and Australia. In this journey I improved my understanding of the complex dynamic that is the relationship between the Jews and Palestinians of Israel; the ongoing negotiations between the Palestinians of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and the government of Israel; the economic, cultural and social landscape of Israel and the West Bank; the particular challenges confronting Israel in its dealings with Hamas in Gaza; the trade and geopolitical relationship between Israel and Australia and the current situation involving Israel and Iran.

The visit was particularly of interest to me, not only because of my longstanding interest in foreign affairs and trade matters but also because I can now better understand and have dialogue with my constituents of both Jewish and Palestinian extraction.

In the short time since my return I have already had meetings and discussions with my constituents of Jewish and Palestinian extraction to explain my impressions to them. This has included a meeting with the Australian Friends of Palestine.

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

Yours sincerely

Christopher Pyne
# Australian Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Hon. Julia Gillard MP</td>
<td>Deputy Prime Minister&lt;br&gt;Minister for Education&lt;br&gt;Minister for Employment &amp; Workplace Relations&lt;br&gt;Minister for Social Inclusion&lt;br&gt;Labour Member for Lalour- Victoria</td>
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<td>Mr. Tim Mathieson</td>
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<td>Senator Guy Barnett</td>
<td>Coalition Scrutiny of Government Spokesperson&lt;br&gt;Liberal Senator for the State of Tasmania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Tom Bentley</td>
<td>Deputy Chief of Staff to Deputy PM Julia Gillard</td>
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<td>Mr. Andrew Bolt</td>
<td>Journalist, Columnist Herald Sun</td>
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<td>Senator George Brandis SC</td>
<td>Shadow Attorney General&lt;br&gt;Liberal Senator for the State of Queensland</td>
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<td>The Hon. Peter Costello MP</td>
<td>Liberal Member for Higgins- Victoria</td>
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<td>Ms. Tanya Costello</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Albert Dadon AM</td>
<td>Chairman, Australia – Israel Leadership Forum (AILF)&lt;br&gt;Chairman Australian – Israel Cultural Exchange (AICE)&lt;br&gt;Executive Chairman, Ubertas Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Debbie Dadon</td>
<td>Executive Director, Besen Family Foundation</td>
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<td>Mr. Michael Danby MP</td>
<td>Labour Member for Melbourne Ports - Victoria</td>
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<td>Mr. Mark Dreyfus QC MP</td>
<td>Labour Member for Isaacs</td>
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<td>Ms. Deborah Chemke</td>
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<td>Prof. Graham Durant</td>
<td>Director, Questacon</td>
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<td>Mr. Michael Easson AM</td>
<td>Executive Chairman, EG Property</td>
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<td>Ms. Mary Easson</td>
<td>Director, Probity International&lt;br&gt;Board Member, AICE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Kimberley Gardiner</td>
<td>Advisor, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister</td>
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<td>Name</td>
<td>Position/Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Andrew Hagger</td>
<td>GM, Private &amp; Institutional Wealth- National Australia Bank</td>
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<td>Ms. Pamela Hagger</td>
<td>Physiotherapist</td>
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<td>Mr. Alan Howe</td>
<td>Executive Editor, Herald Weekly Times (HWT)</td>
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<td>Mr. Peter Ivany AM</td>
<td>CEO, Ivany Investment Group</td>
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<td>Ms. Sharon Ivany</td>
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<td>Mr. Leon Kempler OAM</td>
<td>Chairman, Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Chairman, Questacon- National &amp; Science Technology Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Steven Kennedy</td>
<td>GM, Competition &amp; Consumer Policy Div. Australian Treasury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Douglas Kirchner</td>
<td>School of International &amp; Political Studies- Deakin University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Marion Lustig</td>
<td>Psychotherapist</td>
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<td>Mr. James Lambie</td>
<td>Chief of Staff to Senator George Brandis</td>
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<td>H.E. James Larsen</td>
<td>Australian Ambassador</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Warren Mundine</td>
<td>Chairman Indigenous Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>CEO, NTSCORP</td>
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<td>The Hon. Christopher Pyne MP</td>
<td>Shadow Minister for Education, Apprenticeships &amp; Training</td>
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<td>Manager of Opposition Business in the House</td>
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<td>Former Minister for Ageing</td>
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<td>Liberal Member of Sturt- South Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Greg Sheridan</td>
<td>Journalist, Foreign Editor - The Australian</td>
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<td>Ms. Jessie Sheridan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Bruce Solomon</td>
<td>Founder Solotel Hospitality Management</td>
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<td>Ms. Barbara Solomon</td>
<td>Director, Jewish Museum</td>
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<td>Mr. Yosi Tal</td>
<td>Director, Designer Rugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Evan Thornley</td>
<td>CEO, Project Better Place Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Paul Zimmet AO</td>
<td>Director of Int'l Research, Baker IDI Heart &amp; Diabetes Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Vivien Zimmet</td>
<td>President, Australian Friends of Tel-Aviv University</td>
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## Israeli Participants

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Organisation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Joseph Ackerman</td>
<td>President &amp; CEO - Elbit Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Shai Agassi</td>
<td>CEO, Project Better Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Gila Almagor</td>
<td>Actress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Eyal Arad</td>
<td>Chairman, Euro - Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Benny Bachrach</td>
<td>President, Olseh - Business &amp; Economic Consulting Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Reuven Behar</td>
<td>Managing Partner, Fischer Behar Chen Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Binyamin (Fuad) Ben-Eliezer MK</td>
<td>Minister of Industry, Trade &amp; Labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Shlomo Ben-Haim</td>
<td>CEO, Impulse Dynamics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Daniel Ben – Simon MK</td>
<td>Labor Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Orna Berry</td>
<td>Venture Partner, Gemini Israel Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Ze’ev Bielski MK</td>
<td>Kadima Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Rivka Carmi</td>
<td>President, Ben – Gurion University</td>
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<td>Mr. Danny Danon MK</td>
<td>Likud Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Stanley Fischer</td>
<td>Governor, Bank of Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Hanoch Gutfreund</td>
<td>Hebrew University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Tzachi Hanegbi MK</td>
<td>Chairman, Security &amp; Foreign Affairs Commision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Isaac Herzog MK</td>
<td>Minister of Social Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Gal Hirsch</td>
<td>Chairman, Defensive Shield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mordechai Kedar</td>
<td>Begin – Sadat Centre Strategic Studies, Bar – Ilan University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Ishmael Khalidi</td>
<td>Middle- East Advisor (Diplomat), Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>Ms. Inas Ali</td>
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<td>Mr. Nir Lempert</td>
<td>CEO, Golden Pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Isaac (Itche) Lidor</td>
<td>Chairman, Bermad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. David Menashri</td>
<td>Head of Iranian Studies, Tel Aviv University</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Dani Naveh</td>
<td>Managing General Partner, Agate Medical Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Amir Oren</td>
<td>Editorial Board, Ha'aretz</td>
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<td>Mr. Yosi Peled, MK</td>
<td>Minister without Portfolio</td>
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<td>Amb. Yuval Rotem</td>
<td>Israeli Ambassador</td>
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<td>Mr. Roni Rimon</td>
<td>Partner, Cohen Rimon Cohen</td>
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<td>Mr. Gideon Saar MK</td>
<td>Minister of Education</td>
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<td>Mr. Katriel Schory</td>
<td>CEO, Head of the Israel Film Fund</td>
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<td>Mr. Nachman Shai MK</td>
<td>Kadima Party</td>
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<td>Mr. Ronni Shaked</td>
<td>Senior Arab Affairs Correspondent Yedioth Ahronot</td>
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<td>Mr. Chemi Shalev</td>
<td>Deputy Editor, Israel Hayom</td>
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<td>Prof. Gerald Steinberg</td>
<td>Chairman Political Studies, Bar-Ilan University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Israel (Izzy) Tapoohi</td>
<td>Chairman - Audit Commity, Shikun Ve Binui Holdings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Elisha Yanai</td>
<td>General Manager, Motorola Israel</td>
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<td>Mr. Dov Yarden</td>
<td>CEO, NGO Monitor</td>
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21 August 2009

Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig
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 journey:

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

The purpose of the study trip was to visit Israel as an Australian delegate to the inaugural Australia-Israel Leadership Forum, which was held in Israel (principal in Jerusalem) between 19 – 25 June 2009. The Australian delegation was led by the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Julia Gillard, MP. The Australia-Israel Leadership Forum, which is inspired and largely modelled on the Australia-America Leadership Dialogue, is intended to be an ongoing forum for opinion leaders from politics, business, academia, journalism, the military and the arts, to meet and discuss issues of common interest and concern to both countries.

The Forum provided accommodation and sustenance. Outlays from my study allowance were limited to the costs of travel and small incidental expenses.

(b) Itinerary:

See attachment “A”, which forms part of this Report.

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings:

Details of meetings are as set out in attachment “A”. As discussions at the Forum, on the various topics set out in the itinerary, were conducted on a “Chatham House Rules” basis, I am not at liberty to record the substance of those discussions in detail. My observations and conclusions are set out at item (iii) below.
(iii) Conclusion:

The visit enhanced my awareness of issues which were the subject of the sessions outlined in the itinerary. Specifically, it enabled me to better inform myself on a variety of particular matters relating to Israel and Middle Eastern affairs, and areas of common interest and future co-operation between Israel and Australia including:

- The current state of the peace process

  I obtained a perspective on the Palestinian attitude to the current state of the peace process from meetings with the Palestinian Foreign Minister, Mr Malik; members of the Palestinian Assembly; and with the negotiating team of the Palestinian authority. I also met with Israeli political leaders, military leaders and journalists, who expressed the variety of different Israeli perspectives on the peace process.

  The Palestinians are encouraged by the election of President Obama, and what they perceive to be the more neutral rhetoric emerging from Washington. Conversely, this is a matter of concern to the Israelis, although the magnitude of the concern varies among the different political groups. At the time of my visit, President Obama had lately given his Cairo speech addressing the Muslim world, and the weekend before, Prime Minister Netanyahu had delivered what was perceived to be the Israeli response. Notwithstanding Netanyahu’s adoption of the “two state solution” for the first time by a party of the right, the Palestinians question his good faith. In particular, they identify the following issues as unresolved stumbling-blocks to further accommodation with Israel:

  o Settlements on the West Bank. The Palestinians insist that there be no further building on existing settlements. In this, they appear to be supported by the Obama Administration, to the consternation of the Israelis. The Israeli position is to insist on “natural increase” of existing settlements, which includes development of new accommodation blocks.

  o Right of return. The Palestinians insist on the “right of return” of Palestinian citizens to Israel, where they assert dispossession from particular areas by the creation of the Israeli state. Given the number of potential Palestinian resettlers. Israel regards this as tantamount to dismemberment of the Israeli state and therefore non-negotiable.

  o Contiguity of territory. The Palestinians claim that Israel’s current conception of a Palestinian state on the West Bank (i.e. the Netanyahu position) is inconsistent with true statehood, since it contemplates extensive Israeli corridors throughout the territory, to accommodate existing Jewish settlements.
Territorial sovereignty. The Palestinians claim that the limitations which Israel would place upon a Palestinian state are so extensive as to be inconsistent with sovereignty. These include (so it is asserted) Israeli control of Palestinian airspace, the prohibition of a Palestinian military force, or the basing on Palestinian lands of the military forces or weapons of other nations. The Israelis point out that such limitations, in the context of a peace settlement, are not unprecedented. By the terms of the Japanese peace treaty, for instance, Japan was prohibited from maintaining a significant military force.

The status of East Jerusalem. Sovereignty over East Jerusalem remains a non-negotiable issue for Israel; that situation is unlikely ever to change.

The most difficult conundrum for Israel is the split among the Palestinians between Fatah and Hamas. The two factions are increasingly mutually hostile. Fatah itself is now split between its old guard and rising younger activists, who take a more hard-line view. Increasingly, it is unclear to Israel (or, for that matter, the United States and the EU) who to negotiate with, and how the performance of any undertakings could be secured.

Iran's nuclear ambitions

Israel's most pressing current concern is the apparent nuclear ambitions of Iran. My visit coincided with the Iranian "elections", which produced a result (the re-election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad) which almost all observers regarded as corrupt. The period also saw an unprecedented split among the senior Iranian clerics. These events were watched with intense interest by Israel, and we were briefed, among others, by The Australian's Middle East correspondent John Lyons, who had just returned to Jerusalem after having been one of the few Western journalists in Teheran during the elections.

Although Ahmadinejad's nuclear intentions could not be more clear, those of his political rivals are only slightly less ambitious. Israel is deeply pessimistic, whatever the turn of events in Iranian politics in coming years, that it will develop a deliverable nuclear weapon – it apparently already has the missile, and is considered to be, at most, perhaps 2-3 years away from being able to weaponize it with a nuclear device.

At present, Israel is awaiting the outcome of President Obama's engagement with Iran, in the hope that Iran can be persuaded to stop short of developing a nuclear weapons capability. However, many political leaders and decision-makers are pessimistic about the likelihood that Obama will be successful, and Israel is carefully considering its options should the American policy fail. More than one person to whom I spoke pointed out that, had Israel not bombed Iraq's nuclear reactor near Baghdad in 1981, Saddam Hussein would have had nuclear weapons by the 1990s. Whether, in the event of the failure of Obama's policy of engagement and negotiation, Israel takes similar pre-
emptive action against Iranian sites, remains to be seen. In any event, this is an issue which will come to a head within the next 3 years and possibly much sooner.

- Economic and commercial issues

The modern Israeli economy is highly sophisticated, based largely on high-tech industries with a large export sector. It dominates its neighbours economically and in terms of the quality of life of its people. The contemporary shape of the Israeli economy is the result of decades of investment in research and development and higher education. It has also been influenced not a little by the necessity of maintaining a powerful military. As a result, Israel is one of the world’s most important producers of high-tech weaponry, and is responsible for 7% of world trade in this sector. As one lecturer remarked, “we’re not a country that just produces oranges any more.”

Two areas of Israeli economic development of particular interest to Australia are (a) irrigation, and the management of desert lands; and (b) electric vehicles.

During a visit to Ben Gurion University of the Negev, we were briefed on Israeli initiatives in the fields of dry land farming and irrigation. Like Australia, irrigation and water management are issues of central concern to Israel, and like Australia, most of Israel’s territory is desert. Unlike Australia, however, the Israeli state is small in size, so the imperative to irrigate is much greater than in this country. As a result, it has invested relatively higher sums in research and development of dry land farming, and adapted those technologies and equipment for export.

One of the lectures at the Forum was delivered by an Israeli entrepreneur, Shai Agassi, whose company, Better Place, claims to be close to the commercialization of an electric motor vehicle capable of long-distance travel, at a cost which compares favourably with petrol vehicles. Agassi was recently named in Time magazine’s 100 most influential people, and presented as an archetypal new-age entrepreneur. He sees Australia as a useful test market and proposes to introduce his product here within the next 5 years.

- Legal and constitutional issues

We were received at the Supreme Court of Israel by the Chief Justice. Israel has a bill of rights and extensive judicial review of political and even national security decisions. For instance, the Supreme Court has, in cases brought under the bill of rights, ordered the redirection of the security fence which separates the eastern borders of Israel from the Palestinian populations in the West Bank. In the context of the current bill of rights debate in Australia, we explored at length the benefits and shortcoming of judicial adjudication of policy issues under the bill of rights.

- Cultural issues
Our visit coincided with the “G’day Shalom S’al’a’m” festival – somewhat reminiscent of the “G’day USA” Australian cultural festival in America. As part of this festival, we attended the Australia-Israel Film Festival. Film-making is an area of significant, though as yet small-scale, joint endeavour between Israel and Australia, and offers extensive possibilities for future co-operation.

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

Yours faithfully

(George Brandis)

Encl.
INAUGURAL AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL LEADERSHIP FORUM

DRAFT PROGRAM

Friday 19th – Thursday 25th June, 2009

Led by the Hon. Julia Gillard, Deputy PM of Australia
FRIDAY 19TH JUNE:

- Delegates start to arrive in Israel
- Check-in @ David Citadel Hotel- Jerusalem
- Optional Tourism

Evening  Traditional Shabbat Dinner with
Rabbi Israel Lau
(Rabbi Lau is a Former Chief Rabbi of Israel. Today he is the Chairman of Yad
Vashem Council (Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority).

Rabbi Lau was born in 1937 in Piotrków, Poland, the scion of a well-known
European rabbinic family. During the early years of the war, he was incarcerated in
the Piotrków ghetto. In October 1942, his father and brothers, along with the
majority of the Jews of their town, were deported to the Treblinka extermination
camp, where they were murdered. Lau and his mother managed to escape the
deportation. In November 1944, during a selection, Rabbi Lau’s mother had him
stand close by his brother Naftali who was slated to be sent to a forced labor camp.
Lau’s mother was sent to her death, but the two brothers were deported to the
Czenstochov forced labor camp and from there to the Buchenwald concentration
camp. When Buchenwald was liberated by the US armed forces, eight-year-old Lau
(nicknamed Lolik) was the youngest surviving prisoner. Following liberation, Lau
emigrated to Eretz Israel on a ship of orphaned refugee children.

Rabbi Lau has served in many rabbinic capacities. In 2006, Rabbi Lau was
awarded the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement and special service to society
and the State of Israel.

Rabbi Lau’s autobiography, Do Not Raise Your Hand Against the Boy was
published during the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Buchenwald. It tells the
story of his experiences during the Holocaust, growing up in Israel, and how the
memory of his childhood during the war influenced him as a rabbi and communal
leader.
@ the David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem
SATURDAY 20TH JUNE:

All Day  Tourism- Jerusalem
Visit Observation Points, Old City, Major Religious sites and more
(Considered by many people to be the most holy city in the world. A long, rich
history is connected to this city where events central to the traditions of each of the
three monotheistic faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—are believed to have
taken place. To the Jewish people it is home to The Western Wall which is
considered the holiest Jewish site on account of its proximity to the destroyed two
ancient Temples, To the Christians it is where the crucifixion (Church of the Holy
Sepulchre) and the resurrection of Jesus took place, To the Muslims it is where the
prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven)

Evening  Informal Dinner @ David Citadel Hotel
Opening of G'day Shalom Salaam Israel Festival with a
David Helfgott Concert
(the world-renowned piano prodigy immortalised by Geoffrey Rush will dazzle the
Israeli audience with a virtuoso performance)
@ Henry Crown Auditorium, Jerusalem
SUNDAY 21ST JUNE:

07:00 – 07:50 Analysis of the Israeli political landscape after the last elections
Breakfast Briefing by:
Yaron Dekel, Senior Political Analyst- Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA)
(Yaron will outline the various parties in the Knesset and then explain the structure of
the current Government Coalition and likely future scenarios.
Dekel hosts a morning talk show on Israel Radio: "It's All Talk" - in which he discusses
issues of the day with politicians and other public figures as well as with lesser-known
individuals. Dekel is also a widely respected political commentator who appears daily
and nightly on news and current affairs radio and television programs hosted by his
IBA colleagues)
@ David Citadel Hotel

08:00
Depart Jerusalem for Be’er-Sheva

10:00 – 10:30 ANZAC Wreath Laying Ceremony @
Pratt Park of the Australian Soldier- Be’er-Sheva
with ANZAC Historian Mr Kelvin Crombie
(The Park pays tribute to those ANZACs who served in the Middle East during the
two world wars and in subsequent peace operations. The centrepiece of the Park
is a memorial commemorating the last great cavalry charge in war – the charge
of the Australian Light Horse on 31 October 1917.
The Park, a landscaped leisure venue for the people of Be’er Sheba and visitors,
features Australian flora and a specially constructed dual-purpose integrated
playground enabling full enjoyment by children with physical disabilities.
The memorial, comprising a life-size bronze sculpture of a mounted light horseman
by renowned Australian sculptor Peter Corlett, serves as an enduring reminder of
the victorious charge of the Australian Mounted Division against Ottoman positions
at Beersheba on 31 October 1917. The capture of Beersheba opened the road to
Jerusalem and changed the course of history in the Middle East.
The Australian Government, through the Department of Veterans' Affairs, is
coordinating the dedication ceremony)
@ Be’er-Sheva

10:30
Depart Park of the Australian Soldier for Ben-Gurion University
CONT'D SUNDAY 21ST JUNE:

10:45 – 13:15 Ben-Gurion University (includes lunch)
Hosted by: Prof. Rivka Carmi, President
(Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was established with the aim to spearhead the
development of the Negev, a desert area comprising more than sixty percent of the
country. The University was inspired by the vision of Israel's first prime minister
David Ben-Gurion, who believed that the future of the country lay in this region.

Today, Ben-Gurion University is a major center for teaching and research, with over
17,000 students enrolled in the faculties of Engineering Sciences, Health Sciences,
Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Guilford Glazer School of
Business and Management and the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate
Studies.

It also includes the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev, the Jacob
Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, the Albert Katz International School for
Desert Studies and the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and
Zionism. The University has campuses in Beer-Sheva, including the Marcus Family
Campus, as well as in Sede Boqer and Eilat.

Ben-Gurion University is a world leader in arid zone research, offering its expertise
worldwide.

Guest Speakers:
Professor Alon Tal, Blaustein Institute for Desert Research-
Born and raised in the United States, Tal holds a law degree from Hebrew
University and a doctorate from the Harvard School of Public Health. His primary
research focus is in water management and policy, with an emphasis on joint
Israeli-Palestinian environmental projects.

Professor Eilon Adar is one of Israel's leading researchers in water sources, use
and technology. He is the Director of Ben Gurion University's Zuckerberg Institute
for Water Research and an Associate Professor of the BIDR-Jacob Blaustein
Institute for Desert Research. Professor Adar's main research activities deal with:
quantitative assessments of groundwater flow systems; sources of recharge on
complex basins with puzzling geology and scarce hydrological information; and
modelling of temporal and spatial distribution of contaminants in aquatic systems.
@Be'er-Sheva

13:15 Depart Be'er-Sheva for Sderot
CONT'D SUNDAY 21ST JUNE:

14:00 – 16:00 Sderot

Hosted by: Mr Avi Dichter MK &
Mr Gidi Grinstein, President- Reut Institute

(A western Negev city in the Southern District of Israel with an approximate 19,300. The city has been an ongoing target of Hamas rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip. Sderot, less than a mile from Gaza, has borne the brunt of Palestinian rocket attacks since 2000. These have killed 13 residents, wounded hundreds, caused millions of dollars in damage, and disrupted daily life as well as the local economy. Nearly all residents have been traumatized by the frequent sound of air-raid sirens and explosions of incoming projectiles. All local schools have been fortified. After Israel’s disengagement from Gaza in the summer of 2005, the number of confirmed rocket strikes against Israel increased by more than 500 percent, thousands of rockets and mortar bombs have been fired at Sderot and the western Negev, an average of three or four each a day. Studies done in recent years show that the continued rocket fire and the large number of shock victims have led to post traumatic stress disorder among many of Sderot’s residents (close to 30%).

Avi Dichter MK is an Israeli politician who currently serves as a member of the Knesset for Kadima. He is a former Minister of Internal Security.

Born in Ashkelon, where he lives today, Dichter's parents were Holocaust survivors. Dichter was selected to serve in the elite unit of the Israel Defense Forces, Sayeret Matkal, under then Commander Ehud Barak. Upon completing his military service, Dichter joined Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, in 1974 where he advanced to eventually become its Director in 2000.

During his tenure as Director, the Palestinians launched one of their most deadly campaigns, the al-Aqsa Intifada. Under Dichter's leadership, Shin Bet changed its modus operandi and restructured its mission and duties to serve at the forefront of Israel's security and counter-terrorism efforts. The organization spearheaded counter-insurgency and intelligence operations deep inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In doing so, the Shin Bet is credited with drastically reducing the number of attacks perpetrated against Israel during this time as well as helping to restore safety and positive morale to the public. Another one of Dichter's successful initiatives included envisioning and planning with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon the controversial West Bank barrier.

He was elected to the Knesset on Kadima's list in 2006, and on 4 May that year was sworn in as the Minister of Internal Security. In this role, he oversees Israel’s law enforcement system including Israel’s Police Force and Prison Service.

Guest Speaker: Gidi Grinstein, President- Reut Institute
“Assymetrical Warfare & the Homefront”

(Reut is an innovative policy group designed to provide real-time, long-term strategic decision-support to government agencies.

Gidi Grinstein is the Founder and President of the Reut Institute. He served in the Office and then in the Bureau of PM Barak as the Secretary and coordinator of the Negotiation Team of the Government of Israel to the Permanent Status negotiations between Israel and the PLO (1999-2001).

Gidi has an extensive background in policy-planning and is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2002) and Tel-Aviv University Schools of Law (1999) and Economics (1991).
16:00    Depart Sderot for Jerusalem

18:00    Return to Hotel, Jerusalem

18:00 – 19:30 Free Time

19:30    Depart Hotel for Jerusalem Cinematheque

19:45 – 21:00 AICE Dinner @ Jerusalem Cinematheque
CONT'D SUNDAY 21ST JUNE:

21:00 Opening of Australian Film Festival
(An International premiere of the film Tackling Peace will open the festival, A fly-on-the wall documentary about the AFL Peace Team that competed in the Aussie rules International Cup in Melbourne last August.
The team of 13 Israelis and 13 Palestinians, sponsored by the Peres Centre for Peace, made international headlines as they attempted to mark, handpass and boot goals in a code they had never played until eight months before the competition.

But the footy was a sideshow to the barriers that were broken down and the friendships that were built between the Israelis and Palestinians during the course of the unprecedented adventure.

The sixth annual AICE Australian Film Festival is being directed by Ros Tatarka, an independent film producer and a board member of the Australian Film Institute)
@Jerusalem Cinematheque
MONDAY 22ND JUNE:

07:00 – 07:50 Israel/Palestinian Affairs Breakfast Briefing with
Mr Ehud Ya'ari, Senior Arab Affairs Analyst- Israel’s Channel Two
(Ehud Yaari is a well-known Israeli commentator and expert on Middle Eastern
issues. He has interviewed most of the recent and past Arab & Israeli leaders
(Atafat, King Hussein of Jordan and his son Abdullah, President Mubarak of Egypt,
almost all Israeli prime ministers since Menahem Begin, Bashar al-Assad,
Muammar al-Gaddafi and more). Yaari now works for Israel's Channel 2 Television.
He is also an associate editor of the Jerusalem Report, the author of eight books on
the Arab-Israeli conflict, and an associate of the Washington Institute for Near East
Policy. Ehud Yaari is a lecturer and gives lectures all around the world.)
@ David Citadel Hotel

Morning Palestinian Authority
Visit Ramallah
(Meet with Senior Members of the Palestinian Authority Leadership. Being organised
by the Australian Government Representative, based in Ramallah)

Afternoon Nir Barakat, Mayor- City of Jerusalem (includes lunch)
(Nir Barkat was born in 1959, raised and educated in Jerusalem. Barkat joined the
army and served as a paratrooper for six years. In 1983 he was discharged from
active duty as major, last serving as a company commander.

Barkat established with three other partners the hi-tech group BRM, which was one of
the first in the world in developing antivirus software. Later the company invested in
companies such as BackWeb and Checkpoint. Barkat served as the chairman of
BackWeb and Checkpoint in the company’s early years.

In the course of his public service, Nir initiated the establishment various non-profit
organizations such as:
"New Spirit" – an organization of students which views young people and students as
a central resource for growth and for stopping the negative immigration from
Jerusalem. New Spirit has set as its goal to make a connection between the students
and the city and focuses on activities such as volunteering, apprenticeship program,
culture events, and the formation of student communities in the under-privileged
neighborhoods of the city.

In addition to all of this, Barkat headed the committee for human capital and education,
the objective of which was to enlist knowledge and transparency in the service of the
education system in Israel.

Nir Barkat, his wife Beverly and their three daughters continue to build their lives in
Jerusalem
@ Jerusalem Municipality

Evening Gala Dinner- Official Launch of the Australia-Israel Leadership Forum
in honour of the Australian Delegation
(Some 200 local guests will be in attendance. The theme of the Dinner will be
'Sydney Opera House comes to Jerusalem'. The highlight of this is that Guillaume
Brahimi will be the Chef. Guillaume, is a French-born chef based in Sydney,
Australia. He is currently head chef of Guillaume at Bennelong restaurant located at
the Sydney Opera House)
TUESDAY 23RD JUNE:

08:00 – 08:50 Middle East Today: New Perspectives on a Changing Landscape,
   Breakfast Briefing
   Prof Asher Susser, Moshe Dayan Centre for M.Eastern & African Studies
   @ Tel-Aviv University
   (Professor Susser speaks about how that today the Middle Eastern agenda is set by
   various, primarily non-Arab, countries, such as the US and the other non-Arab Middle
   Eastern players: Iran, Turkey and Israel. In fact, these three Middle Eastern states
   together exert more influence than all the Arab states combined.)
   @ David Citadel Hotel

Morning  Yad-Vashem Holocaust Museum
   (Since its inception (by an act of Knesset (Parliament)), Yad Vashem has been
   entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust
   period, preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims, and
   imparting the legacy of the Holocaust for generations to come through its archives,
   library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations)

Afternoon  Knesset
   (Meetings with senior Israeli Politicians and MKs.)

Evening  Israeli Cultural Event in Tel-Aviv
   (Founded in 1909, Tel-Aviv is celebrating its centenary. On the outskirts of the
   ancient port city of Jaffa Tel Aviv's White City, designated a UNESCO World
   Heritage Site in 2003, comprises the world's largest concentration of Modernist-
   style (Bauhaus) buildings

   Tel Aviv is a beta world city, Israel's economic hub and its wealthiest city, home to
   the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and many corporate offices and research and
   development centers. Its beaches, bars, cafés, upscale shopping, great weather
   and cosmopolitan lifestyle have made it a popular tourist destination and given way
   to its reputation as a "Mediterranean city that never sleeps." It is the country's
   cultural capital and a major performing arts and commerce center.
WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE:

DAY 1 OF AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL LEADERSHIP FORUM (AILF)
08:00 – 18:00
A series of 1-hour sessions (includes breakfast & lunch), each speaker will present for approximately 40 minutes followed by 20 minutes of moderated dialogue

In order to ensure an open and frank dialogue the AILF will strictly abide by the Chatham House Rule which states that: "participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker, nor that of the participant, may be revealed."

The forum is being held @ the NCC- National Convention Centre- Jerusalem (Binyamei Ha'uma)

Evening  Informal Dinner

Western Walls Tunnels (Old City of Jerusalem)
(The Tunnels reveal the entire length of the Western Wall- almost 448 meters long. They include an incredible labyrinth of tunnels, arches, a Hasmonean water tunnel and passageways that have remained untouched for centuries)

THURSDAY 25TH JUNE:

DAY 2 OF AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL LEADERSHIP FORUM (AILF)
08:00 – 14:00

PRESENTERS:

Professor Stanley Fischer, Governor- Bank of Israel
Global Financial Meltdown and Israel's Response
(Born in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) on 15 October 1943, he obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. at the London School of Economics from 1962-1966 and his Ph.D. at MIT in 1969, all in economics. He was a professor at MIT from 1977 to 1996, where he authored two popular economics textbooks: Macroeconomics (with Rüdiger Dornbusch and Richard Staritz) and Lectures in Macroeconomics (with Olivier Blanchard), and was a thesis advisor to Ben Bernanke.

From January 1988 to August 1990 he was Vice President, Development Economics and Chief Economist at the World Bank. He then became the First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, from September 1994 until the end of August 2001. By the end of 2001 Mr. Fischer had joined the influential Washington-based financial advisory body, the Group of Thirty. After leaving the IMF, he served as Vice Chairman of Citigroup, President of Citigroup International, and Head of the Public Sector Client Group. Mr. Fischer worked at Citigroup from February, 2002 to April, 2005.

He became Governor of the Bank of Israel on May 1, 2005, replacing David Klein, who ended his term on January 16, 2005. Mr. Fischer became an Israeli citizen, the aforementioned action being a prerequisite to this appointment. He has been involved in the past with the Bank of Israel, having served as an American government adviser to Israel's economic stabilization program in 1985)
Brigadier General (Ret.) Gal Hirsch, Chairman- Defensive Shield Holdings

From Vessels to Speed Boats
Hirsch has had 25 years of experience in commanding infantry, paratrooper and commando forces, and has personally led special forces units, battalions, brigades and divisions in fighting Israel’s enemies.

During his military service he was critically wounded in an enemy ambush, was rehabilitated, and returned to the battlefield. For a considerable period, while commanding the IDF’s Officers’ School, BG Hirsch devoted himself to the education of the IDF Officers’ Corps, developing military leadership and instructing and training its combat commanders. He is regarded world-wide as an expert in strategic knowledge development, and has written numerous papers on doctrinal issues.

He holds an MBA Degree from Tel-Aviv University and graduated from the Advanced Operational Course in the IDF. AS J3 in the central command, BG Hirsch devised, planned and led the IDF in its large scale operations against terror – ‘Operation Defensive Shield’. Following that, he was put in charge of the planning and establishment of the border-defense alignment opposing suicide-based terrorism, an operation involving engineering development, advanced technological infrastructure construction and intelligence and operational capabilities for an area extending for hundreds of kilometers.

Professor Gerald Steinberg, Chair- Department of Political Studies- Bar-Ilan University

Lawfare as Warfare
("Lawfare" involves the misuse of the law to achieve objectives that cannot be achieved militarily. Lawfare is exponentially effective because one lawsuit can silence thousands who have neither the time nor the financial resources to challenge well-funded terror financiers or the vast machine of the international judicial system. The potential for a "chilling effect" on both speech and conduct are limitless and the consequence can have a devastating effect on public safety and international security.)

Professor Steinberg, the founder of the Program on Conflict Management and Negotiation, and the Executive Director of NGO Monitor. He specializes in international relations, strategy, arms control, diplomacy, and "soft power", particularly in the Middle East, including proliferation, the Iranian nuclear program, the NPT regime, and the politics of NGOs.

He works with a number of international organizations (NATO, UN University, OSCE, SIPRI) is a columnist for the Jerusalem Post, and his articles appear in the Wall St. Journal, the International Herald Tribune, etc. He is also a commentator for the BBC, NPR, and CBC.

Joseph Ackerman, President & CEO- Elbit

Elbit- An Israeli Multi-National NASDAQ Listed Company
Elbit with an annual turnover of close to $US3Bl, Caalyar,develop, manufacture and integrate advanced, high-performance defense electronic and electro-optic systems for customers throughout the world. The Company focuses on designing, developing, manufacturing and integrating command, control, communication, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) network centric systems, including unmanned vehicles, for defense and homeland security applications.

They also perform upgrade programs for airborne, land and naval defense platforms. Moreover, we develop and manufacture systems and aero structures for the commercial aviation market. We also provide a range of support services.
**Mr Elisha Yanay, General Manager - Motorola Israel**

**Education 2000: Engineering vs LA Law and CSI**

Elisha Yanay has been a director since our inception. Since July 2004, Mr. Yanay has served as a Senior Vice President of Motorola, Inc., a global telecommunications company. Mr. Yanay has been the General Manager of Motorola Israel Ltd. since 1990 and has been its Chairman since 2001. Prior to that, in the course of his 36 years with Motorola, Mr. Yanay served in a variety of positions, including as marketing manager for all signaling products in Israel and as Motorola Israel’s representative in the U.S. Mr. Yanay has served as the Chairman of the Israel Association of Electronics and Information Industries since January 2004.

Mr. Yanay is also leading Education 2000, a forum for the expansion and enhancement of technological and scientific education in Israel, and is the Industry Representative on the Council for Higher Education, a position he has held since January 2002. Mr. Yanay received the Rothschild Prize for Innovation in 1980 for the computerized irrigation system that he designed and developed. Mr. Yanay has a B.Sc. in Electronics Engineering from the Technion Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel. In June 1997, in recognition of his personal initiative and contribution to the development and promotion of technological education in Israel, Mr. Yanay was named a Distinguished Fellow of the Technion Faculty of Electrical Engineering and an Honorary Fellow of the Tel-Aviv University Faculty of Engineering. In May 1998, Mr. Yanay was awarded Honorary Fellow of the Technion.

**Mr Katriel Schory, CEO - Israel Film Fund**

**Bridging Differences through Cultural Initiatives**

Katriel studied at the New York University Film School and returned to Israel in 1973 to join as the Head of Productions for Kastel Films, Jerusalem, at that time the leading production company in Israel. He was responsible for the production of a large number of documentaries and dramas which won Israeli & International prestigious awards. He was also responsible for numerous international co-productions, with BBC, ARD, VARA and PBS.

He has produced over 200 films including Award winning Feature Films, Documentaries, TV Dramas, Studio television shows, and International Co-Productions. In 1999 he accepted the position of the Executive Director of the Israel Film Fund. The Fund is the main Film Fund in Israel, which supports, encourages, promotes and invests in Israeli Feature Films.
Mr Greg Sheridan, Foreign Editor- The Australian

Obama Administration- Challenges or Opportunity for Change

Greg Sheridan, The Australian's foreign editor, is the most influential foreign affairs analyst in Australian journalism.

After 25 years in the field, he is a veteran of international affairs who has interviewed leaders all over the Asia Pacific and America. He has had a life-long love affair with Asia and knows its leaders and societies, intimately, having interviewed presidents and prime ministers in Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, The Philippines, Thailand, New Zealand and numerous other countries.

His work has appeared in newspapers around the world, including The Sunday Times of London, The Asian Wall Street Journal, the Jakarta Post and the South China Morning Post.

He is a frequent foreign affairs commentator on radio and television and is a sought-after speaker at conferences around the region.

Mr Efraim Halevy, Immediate Past Head of Mossad (Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations)

Counter Terrorism

Efraim Halevy (born 1934) is a lawyer and an Israeli intelligence expert. He was the ninth director of Mossad and the 4th head of the Israeli National Security Council.

Above all, he is remembered for his part in bringing about the peace treaty with Jordan. The special relationship he developed with King Hussein made it possible for Halevy to open Jordan to the awareness that only a peace agreement with Israel would extricate the Hashemite kingdom from the crisis after the Gulf War.

Halevy was born in the United Kingdom to an established Orthodox Jewish family. He emigrated to Israel in 1948. He attended Ma'aleh, a religious high school in Jerusalem, and later, graduated (with commendation) in law.

Halevy remained in the Mossad for 28 years, heading three different branches throughout. Between 1990-1995, under the directorship of Shabtal Shavit, he served as deputy director and as head of the headquarters branch. In March 1998, he became the director of Mossad following the resignation of Danny Yatom. In 1996, he became the Israeli ambassador to the European Union in Brussels.

Halevy served as the envoy and confidant of five Prime Ministers: Yitzhak Shamir, Yitzhak Rabin, Benjamin Netanyahu, Ehud Barak and Ariel Sharon. He took an active part in a special mission by Rabin in forging the Israel-Jordan Treaty of Peace. After the failure of the Mossad operation to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Mashal in 1997, he took an active part in Benjamin Netanyahu's mission to return the Mossad men captured in Jordan, and to settle the crisis with the King of Jordan.

Mr Gabi Ashkenazi, Chief of Staff- Israel Defence Forces

The IDF

Ashkenazi grew up in Hagor, a Moshav, or cooperative agricultural community in the Sharon region of Central Israel. Ashkenazi's father, a Bulgarian Jewish Holocaust survivor, and mother, a Syrian Jew, helped found the community. Ashkenazi completed high school at a military boarding school affiliated with the prestigious Gymnasium Herzliya in Tel Aviv

Professor Manuel Trajtenberg, Former Economic Adviser to PM Olmert

Econometrics of R&D Policy

Formulating policy initiatives for achieving growth while reducing social gaps, and preparing both opinions on the State budget prior to its submission to the Cabinet and alternatives to the budget, to the extent necessary.
The head of the Council is Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg, from the Ethan Bergles School for Economics at Tel Aviv University. Prof. Trajtenberg holds a doctorate from Harvard University, is a research fellow at NBER (National Bureau of Economic Research) in Boston and in the CEPR (Center for Economic Policy Research) in London, and also serves as an adviser to the World Bank in the fields of policy innovation and growth. In addition, Prof. Trajtenberg served as a guest professor at Stanford and Harvard Universities.)

Two Perspectives on Iran

**Professor David Menashri, Head of Iranian Studies- Tel-Aviv University**

David Menashri participated in a conference on "The International Context of Conflicts in the Middle East and Asian Approaches to Conflict Resolution" at Ryukoku University (Kyoto) on March 3-6, 2006, where he presented a paper on "Patterns of Modern Iranian Politics: Continuity and Change." During a lecture tour of the US in April 2006 he spoke at Columbia University, New York University, and Hampshire College. On April 24 he delivered a lecture on "Ahmadinejad the President of Iran: What He's All About," at a conference inaugurating the Center for Iranian Studies (CIS) at Tel Aviv University. On June 6-7, he discussed "Ahmadinejad and Iran Neo-Cons: A New Hope for the Revolution?" at a CIS conference on political and social thought in Iran. At the end of June he attended a conference organized by the European Cultural Center of Delphi on the role of the US in the 21st century, and lectured on "The Emergence of President Ahmadinejad: Continuity and Change in Iran's Revolutionary Politics." He spoke on "Iran's President Ahmadinejad: Implications for Israel," at a September 6 colloquium sponsored by the CIS and the Daniel Abraham Center for International and Regional Studies on Iran in the Aftermath of the War in Lebanon. He published "The Jews of Iran: Between the Pahlavi Monarchy and the Islamic Republic," in Haim Sadot (ed.), Jews of Iran (in Hebrew: Jerusalem: Ben Zvi Institute, 2006), and his "Iran, Israel and the Middle East Conflict," was published in the January 2006 issue of Israel Affairs.

**Dr Mordechai Kedar, Research Associate Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies**

Served for 25 years in IDF Military Intelligence specializing in Arab political discourse, Arab mass media, Islamic groups and the Syrian domestic arena. A lecturer in Arabic at Bar-Ilan U., he is also an expert on Israeli Arabs.

New Health Challenges Under Climate Change

**Professor Paul Zimmet, Director Emeritus & Director of International Research-Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute**

He was awarded the Order of Australia for his distinguished services to medicine and education (AM, 1993) and for services to medical research of national and international significance (AO, 2001), particularly in the field of diabetes, and as a leader of investigations into social, nutritional and lifestyle diseases, and to biotechnology development in Australia.

Professor Zimmet has published over 6500 scientific papers, chapters and reviews in peer-reviewed journals and books. He is co-editor of the major and widely used texts on diabetes – International Textbook of Diabetes Mellitus - and The Epidemiology of Diabetes.

**Professor Shlomo Ben-Haim, CEO- Impulse Dynamics**

He is one of Israel's leading biotech entrepreneurs, having founded and sold several successful ventures; today he continues to develop new companies that address significant medical markets with unmet needs. Ben-Haim has also been a professor of medicine, physiology and biophysics, with appointments at both Harvard University and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Ben-Haim previously served as chief scientist of Johnson & Johnson's Biosense-Webster. He has performed...
extensive medical research, published more than 100 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals and received multiple professional prizes. He holds more than 180 patents and patent applications, including a navigated cardiac catheterization system and an implantable device for treating congestive heart failure. Ben-Haim has long been active in social programs to extend professional education to the underprivileged, revitalize communities, prevent violence and improve health. He was formally educated in the fields of nuclear physics, mathematics, biomedical engineering, philosophy and medicine.
Australian Israel Leadership Forum attending on the Australian Side

Leader
Ms Julia Gillard and Mr Tim Mathieson
Mr Peter Costello MP, Mrs Tanya Costello
Mr Christopher Pyne MP
Senator Mark Arbib
Senator George Brandis
Senator Guy Barnett
Mr Michael Danby MP, Mrs Amanda Mender Da Costa
Mr Mark Dreyfus MP, Mrs Debrah Chenko
Mr James Larsen, Ambassador of Australia in Israel
Mr Steven Kennedy
Mr Michael Easson AM and Mrs Mary Easson
Mr Albert Dadon AM and Mrs Debbie Dadon
Mr Peter Ivany AM and Mrs Sharon Ivany
Professor Douglas Kirsner and Dr Marion Lustig
Mr Yosi Tal
Mr David Dinte
Mr Leon Kempler OAM
Mr Andrew Hagger and Mrs Pamela
Professor Paul Zimmet and Vivianne Zimmet
Mr Greg Sheridan and Mrs Jessie Sheridan
Mr Alan Howe
Mr Andrew Bolt
SENATOR GUY BARNETT

Israel
18 – 27 June 2009
22 July 2009

Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig
Special Minister of State
Suite MG 64
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister Joe

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION - STUDY LEAVE
Israel 18 – 25 June 2009

Further to my letter of 5 May 2009 I wish to draw upon the entitlement available for overseas study purposes. In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18, I submit the following details concerning my proposed overseas study journey:

Confirmation of Purpose(s):
I visited Israel as guest of the inaugural Australia-Israel Leadership Forum to meet political, defence, security, business and community leaders for the purpose of being briefed on current domestic Israeli politics. This delegation was led by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard. All accommodation and most subsistence was provided by the host, the overseas travel entitlement is drawn upon for airfares and insurance and I am preparing a separate claim relating to incidental expenses that will be forwarded to the Department of Finance at a later date.

Key meetings and outcomes/findings:
Please refer to my enclosed report.

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

Yours sincerely,

GUY BARNETT
Coalition Scrutiny of Government Spokesperson
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

Enc.
REPORT OF

SENATOR GUY BARNETT’S VISIT TO ISRAEL AS PART OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE INAUGURAL AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL LEADERSHIP FORUM

18-25 June 2009

Submitted July 2009
VISIT TO ISRAEL AS PART OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO INAUGURAL AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL LEADERSHIP FORUM

18 – 25 June 2009

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VISIT TO ISRAEL AS PART OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO INAUGURAL AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL LEADERSHIP FORUM

18 – 25 June 2009

OVERVIEW / CONFIRMATION OF PURPOSE

I visited Israel as a guest of the Inaugural Australia-Israel Leadership Forum to meet political, defence, security, business and community leaders for the purpose of being briefed on current domestic Israeli politics as part of a bipartisan Australian Government Parliamentary Delegation.

The delegation was led by the Hon Julie Gillard, Deputy Prime Minister and co-led by the Hon Peter Costello, and included the following:

- Ms Julia Gillard and Mr Tim Mathieson
- Mr Peter Costello MP, Mrs Tanya Costello
- Mr Christopher Pyne MP
- Senator George Brandis
- Mr Michael Danby MP, Mrs Amanda Mender Da Costa
- Mr Mark Dreyfus MP, Mrs Debrah Chenko
- Mr James Larsen, Ambassador of Australia in Israel
- Mr Steven Kennedy
- Mr Michael Easson AM and Mrs Mary Easson
- Mr Albert Dadon AM and Mrs Debbie Dadon
- Mr Peter Ivany AM and Mrs Sharon Ivany
- Professor Douglas Kirsner and Dr Marion Lustig
- Mr Yosi Tal
- Mr David Dinte
- Mr Leon Kempler OAM
- Mr Andrew Hagger and Mrs Pamela
- Professor Paul Zimmet and Vivianne Zimmet
- Mr Greg Sheridan and Mrs Jessie Sheridan
- Mr Alan Howe
- Mr Andrew Bolt
ISRAEL & PALESTINE - Australia’s contribution and the path to peace

Israel, it is said is trapped between ‘history and hope’. From the first day of it being an independent state as authorised by the United Nations on 15 May 1948 to today disputes, battles and wars have been fought over not only its borders but its right to exist. Last year the Australian parliament commemorated Israel’s 60 years as an independent nation and I spoke in the Senate to support these sentiments. Australia has been one of the world’s strongest supporters of Israel and its right to exist. This strong support has not diminished the credibility Australia holds in the eyes of the Palestinians.

My six day visit to Israel and Palestine in late June as part of the Inaugural Australia-Israel Leadership Forum was an honour. It came at a critical juncture in history following the landmark speeches of US President Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, and of course on the back of recent elections in Iran and Lebanon.

Australia’s support of a two state solution as the key ingredient in the path to peace in the middle-east was a view overwhelmingly supported by President Obama and the key political leaders in Israel including the Prime Minister (for the first time). However following several meetings amongst the members of the Knesset it was clear the strength of that support was variable.
There are a raft of challenging issues that impede a long lasting peace. They include Israel’s right to the security and safety of its citizens, free from rocket attacks from Gaza, suicide bombers from the West Bank or military incursions from the Hezbollah backed military in Lebanon. It is well noted that the terrorist listed organisation Hamas now has majority support in both the West Bank and Gaza. Hamas does not recognise Israel’s right to exist as a sovereign state. So there we have a sizeable problem to start. From the Palestinian’s perspective Israeli settlements in the West Bank are an unnecessary incursion. President Obama says there should be no more including no ‘natural’ growth. What this means in practice for growing families who for example wish to build another room for another family member is unclear. The road blocks and border controls and the wall between the two are impeding free access for workers and families.

The Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki, who I met with our delegation in Ramallah in the West bank on Palestinian territory, said he would welcome Australian troops in Gaza as part of an international peacekeeping force. He also said that if the “two states solution proceeds” and Israel withdraws from the West Bank, Australian troops would be welcome there.

Attempts to diminish Australia’s support for Israel are misguided, attempts to isolate Israel are wrong.

The Iranian election and its aftermath is a good example. Where are the loud noises, the street protests in Australia or around the world showing solidarity with the oppressed in Iran? The vigorous and public attacks on Israel compared to the passive criticism of the totalitarian Iranian regime is like chalk and cheese.

How can we condone an illegitimate and cruel regime while supporting the people of Iran who have been physically and mentally abused. As I was told at our Forum, Iran allows free speech but there is no freedom following your speech.

A key objective of the Israeli people is to survive so the prospects of Iran gaining nuclear weaponry are worrisome indeed. Whatever the protests, Iran is still led by a crazy mad dictator who either has or is determined to have a nuclear bomb.

Israel’s security concerns are well founded with the recognised terrorist organisation Hamas being funded and resourced by Iran.
The Jewish people have experienced suffering and persecution unlike any other race. The visit to Jerusalem’s holocaust museum confirmed this. I was saddened to learn that of the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazi’s during WW2 over 1.5 million were children. In an astonishing highlight to this visit one of our delegation was shocked to see his own father in a black and white photo on a wall in the museum. His father was much smaller and lighter at the time, being in a concentration camp, but lived through the holocaust to survive and immigrate to Australia. A poignant moment for all delegates. Many of the business leaders in our delegation had lost family members or friends during the holocaust.

31 Australian Light Horsemen were killed in action during what was said to be the last great cavalry charge in history on 31 October 1917. Our 800 soldiers trotted, cantered then galloped over three kilometres of open ground against machine gun and artillery fire into the jaws of the defending Turkish forces in Beersheba, southern Israel.

Their success at Beersheba, against the odds, lead to the defeat of the Turks in Jerusalem over one month later freeing it from Muslim rule for the first time in nearly 800 years. The Park of the Australian Soldier in Beersheba opened last year by the Governor General with funding support from the Pratt Foundation honours this historic battle and is a sign of the lasting relationship between our two nations. The visit to the Park was all the more special as I was asked on behalf of our delegation to share a message and the ode of remembrance to honour those Aussie diggers. My wife’s great uncle had been a member of the Australian Light Horse having trained at Mona Vale in Tasmania before embarking for the middle-east. Australia’s long time military contribution to Israel and the middle-east has often been underestimated.

Jerusalem is the epicentre where three of the world’s great religions, Islam, Judaism and Christianity, collide. Literally within metres the Muslim’s Dome of the Rock mosque, the Jews Wailing Wall of the second temple, and for Christians, the place of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. From Mt Olives I viewed old Jerusalem on Mt Moriah. For me this was profound, emotional. I could see the place of Jesus’ last supper with his disciples, the garden of Gethsemane where he was betrayed by Judas into the hands of the Romans, Caiphas house where Jesus was interrogated by the religious leaders of his day, Pontius Pilot’s residence where Jesus was tried and convicted despite Pilot’s belief that he ‘could find nothing wrong with this man’, the road Jesus walked carrying his cross to Golgotha the site of his crucifixion, and nearby his burial place. It was all so real I had to pinch myself. To think that god himself
would become man and submit himself to do all this because of his infinite unconditional love for me and humankind.

The subsequent day I visited Caesaria, Nazareth, and the Sea of Galilee where Jesus preached, and performed many miracles. Although 2000 years prior it was so easy to imagine it all happening. Peter James and John fishing and Jesus feeding the 5000 with 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread. I stood on the hill where Jesus preached the sermon on the mount-the beatitudes.

For me being in Israel brought the Bible alive. It still does. As young Aussies say ‘it was awesome’.

Finally the forum agenda was comprehensive and the seminars informative. Topics discussed included the global financial crisis, R and D policy, education and water reform, security, health and cultural initiatives. Congratulations should go to Albert and Debbie Dadon for their initiative in establishing the forum. The opportunity for dialogue and to build relationships is invaluable in efforts to grow support for the values both nations hold dearly, being support for freedom, democracy and peace.

GUY BARNETT

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

View of Jerusalem
INAUGURAL AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL LEADERSHIP FORUM

PROGRAM

Friday 19th – Thursday 25th June, 2009

Led by the Hon. Julia Gillard, Deputy PM of Australia

Australia Israel Cultural Exchange Limited
Industry House
Level 11, 29 Hamered St
Tel-Aviv, ISRAEL
POB 50473
Tel-Aviv 61500
ISRAEL
T: +972 3 510 6464
F: +972 3 516 8931
E: anztrade@netvision.net.il
www.oicec.org

Chairman:
Albert Dadon AM

Patrons:
Marc Besen AO
Josh Liberman

Governor:
Phil Scanlan AM

Australia Board:
Mary Essassin
Peter Ivany AM
Dr Gene Sherman
Yosi Tai

Ex-Officio:
Ambassador of Israel H.E. Yuval Rotem
Ambassador of Australia H.E. James Larsen

Company Secretary:
Joey Borensztaijn

Executive Director for AILF: Paul Israel
FRIDAY 19TH JUNE:

- Delegates start to arrive in Israel
- Check-in @ King David Hotel - Jerusalem
- Optional Tourism

20:30 Traditional Shabbat Dinner with 
Rabbi Michael Melchior
Melchior was born in Denmark into a family whose members had served as the country’s chief rabbis for seven generations. He studied at Yeshivat HaKotel in Jerusalem and in 1980 received rabbinic ordination after which he returned to Scandinavia to serve as Chief Rabbi of the Norwegian Jewish Community. In 1986, he made aliyah to Israel where he served as International Relations Director for the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity.
Melchior became involved in the politics when the Meimad party was formed shortly before the 1999 elections. The party joined Labor in forming an alliance called One Israel. In 2000, he hosted the Pope John Paul II’s visit to Israel and said he was “very moved” by the Pope’s gesture.
The Rabbi’s political career continued till 2009. Melchior served in various Ministerial roles - Minister of Social and Diaspora Affairs, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, and Sport and was also Deputy Minister of Social and Diaspora Affairs.
The Rabbi invested a lot of time and energy in ‘dialogue’ between religious and secular segments of Israeli society and also Arab/Jewish relations.
@ ‘Ambassador Garden Hall’ King David Hotel, Jerusalem
(Ranit- 052-840-2090, Jordan- 054-780-6129)
SATURDAY 20TH JUNE:

09:00 – 17:00 Tourism- Jerusalem
Visit Observation Points, Old City, Major Religious sites and more
Considered by many people to be the most holy city in the world. A long, rich history is connected to this city where events central to the traditions of each of the three monotheistic faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—are believed to have taken place. To the Jewish people it is home to The Western Wall which is considered the holiest Jewish site on account of its proximity to the destroyed two ancient Temples, To the Christians it is where the crucifixion (Church of the Holy Sepulchre) and the resurrection of Jesus took place, To the Muslims it is where the prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven.
(Tour Guide, Israeli Herzog- 052-472-1122)

17:00 – 20:00 Free Time

20:00 – 21:00 Welcome Dinner @ King David Hotel
@ ‘Ambassador Garden’ Hall,

21:00 Depart King David for Jerusalem Theatre

21:30 Opening of G’day Shalom Salaam Israel Festival with a
David Helfgott Concert
The world-renowned piano prodigy immortalised by Geoffrey Rush will dazzle the Israeli audience with a virtuoso performance
@ Henry Crown Symphony Hall, Jerusalem Theatre
20 Marcus St, Jerusalem (enter from Chopin St)
(02-560-5755)
‘FORUM ON THE ROAD’

SUNDAY 21ST JUNE:

08:00  Depart Jerusalem for Be’er-Sheva

10:00 – 10:30 ANZAC Wreath Laying Ceremony @
Pratt Park of the Australian Soldier- Be’er-Sheva
with ANZAC Historian Mr Kelvin Crombie
The Park pays tribute to those ANZACs who served in the Middle East during the
two world wars and in subsequent peace operations. The centrepiece of the Park
is a memorial commemorating the last great cavalry charge in war – the charge of
the Australian Light Horse on 31 October 1917.
The Park, a landscaped leisure venue for the people of Be’er Sheba and visitors,
features Australian flora and a specially constructed dual-purpose integrated
playground enabling full enjoyment by children with physical disabilities.
The memorial, comprising a life-size bronze sculpture of a mounted light horseman
by renowned Australian sculptor Peter Corlett, serves as an enduring reminder of
the victorious charge of the Australian Mounted Division against Ottoman positions
at Beersheba on 31 October 1917. The capture of Beersheba opened the road to
Jerusalem and changed the course of history in the Middle East.
The Australian Government, through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, is
coordinating the dedication ceremony.
@ Rehov Shaul Hamelach (enter via Rehov Ahimeir) Be’er-Sheva
(Peter Adler- 050-727-4491, 02-930-9631, Kelvin- 054-224-7836)

10:30  Depart Park of the Australian Soldier for Ben-Gurion University
FORUM ON THE ROAD

CONT'D (1) SUNDAY 21ST JUNE:

10:45 – 13:15 Ben-Gurion University (includes lunch)
Hosted by: Prof. Rivka Carmi, President

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was established with the aim to spearhead the development of the Negev, a desert area comprising more than sixty percent of the country. The University was inspired by the vision of Israel’s first prime minister David Ben-Gurion, who believed that the future of the country lay in this region.

Today, Ben-Gurion University is a major center for teaching and research, with over 17,000 students enrolled in the faculties of Engineering Sciences, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Guilford Glazer School of Business and Management and the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies.

It also includes the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev, the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies and the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism. The University has campuses in Beer-Sheva, including the Marcus Family Campus, as well as in Sede Boqer and Eilat. Ben-Gurion University is a world leader in arid zone research, offering its expertise worldwide.

@ Senate Building, Main Entrance
(from Rager St @ traffic light #5, turn left into campus to Senate Bldg)
(Liza- 052-683-9354)

Guest Speakers:
Professor Alon Tal, Blaustein Institute for Desert Research-
Born and raised in the United States, Tal holds a law degree from Hebrew University and a doctorate from the Harvard School of Public Health. His primary research focus is in water management and policy, with an emphasis on joint Israeli-Palestinian environmental projects

Dr Amit Gross, Department of Environmental Hydrology and Microbiology, Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research, Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, BGU

Dr. Gross’ research involves issues related to water, effluent, and soil qualities as well as their impact on the environment, and the search for practices to improve water and environmental quality related to contamination by different sources (i.e. aquaculture, wastewater, and saline water).

In the last few years he has extended his research interests from aquaculture alone to similar issues in a wider context of marginal waters. A new field of research, currently called Ecological Sanitation (ECOSAN), is aimed at developing and improving means for efficient use and reuse of natural resources, by researching subjects such as:

- Recycling of water and nutrients through the reuse of marginal waters (i.e. saline water, treated agricultural effluents, graywater and domestic wastewater for irrigation) by green solutions (i.e. wetlands and biofilters)
- Reuse of biosolids (i.e. manures and composts) for prevention of environmental and water bodies contamination and for fertilization
- Use of microbial amendments for enhancing water and soil quality and for bioremediation
- Management of aquatic systems. A significant part of my current research is devoted to these goals

13:15 Depart Be’er-Sheva for Sderot
‘FORUM ON THE ROAD’

CONT’D (2) SUNDAY 21ST JUNE:

14:00 – 16:00 Sderot

Hosted by: Mr Avi Dichter MK & Mr Gidi Grinstein, President- Reut Institute

A western Negev city in the Southern District of Israel with an approximate 19,300. The city has been an ongoing target of Qassam rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip. Sderot, less than a mile from Gaza, has borne the brunt of Palestinian rocket attacks since 2000. These have killed 13 residents, wounded hundreds, caused millions of dollars in damage, and disrupted daily life as well as the local economy. Nearly all residents have been traumatized by the frequent sound of air-raid sirens and explosions of incoming projectiles. All local schools have been fortified. After Israel’s disengagement from Gaza in the summer of 2005, the number of confirmed rocket strikes against Israel increased by more than 500 percent, thousands of rockets and mortar bombs have been fired at Sderot and the western Negev, an average of three or four each a day. Studies done in recent years show that the continued rocket fire and the large number of shock victims have led to post traumatic stress disorder among many of Sderot’s residents (close to 30%).

Avi Dichter MK is an Israeli politician who currently serves as a member of the Knesset for Kadima. He is a former Minister of Internal Security. Born in Ashkelon, where he lives today, Dichter’s parents were Holocaust survivors. Dichter was selected to serve in the elite unit of the Israel Defense Forces, Sayeret Matkal, under then Commander Ehud Barak. Upon completing his military service, Dichter joined Shin Bet, Israel’s internal security service, in 1974 where he advanced to eventually become its Director in 2000. During his tenure as Director, the Palestinians launched one of their most deadly campaigns, the al-Aqsa Intifada. Under Dichter’s leadership, Shin Bet changed its modus operandi and restructured its mission and duties to serve at the forefront of Israel’s security and counter-terrorism efforts. The organization spearheaded counter-insurgency and intelligence operations deep inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In doing so, the Shin Bet is credited with drastically reducing the number of attacks perpetrated against Israel during this time as well as helping to restore safety and positive morale to the public. Another one of Dichter’s successful initiatives included envisioning and planning with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon the controversial West Bank barrier. He was elected to the Knesset on Kadima’s list in 2006, and on 4 May that year was sworn in as the Minister of Internal Security. In this role, he oversees Israel’s law enforcement system including Israel’s Police Force and Prison Service.

@ Kibbutz Zigim
(Oren- 050-627-2117, Inbal 050-623-3789)

Guest Speaker: Gidi Grinstein, President- Reut Institute

"Assymetrical Warfare & the Homefront"

Reut is an innovative policy group designed to provide real-time, long-term strategic decision-support to government agencies. Gidi Grinstein is the Founder and President of the Reut Institute. He served in the office and then in the Bureau of PM Barak as the Secretary and coordinator of the Negotiation Team of the Government of Israel to the Permanent Status negotiations between Israel and the PLO (1999-2001). Gidi has an extensive background in policy-planning and is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2002) and Tel-Aviv University Schools of Law (1999) and Economics (1991).

@ "Mishkan Etzal", 4 Hadekel St, Sderot (near the Cinematheque)
(Yonatan 050-994-4963, Gidi 052-220-0565, Dana 052-323-9086, Netaly 052-231-4772)
‘FORUM ON THE ROAD’

CONT’D (3) SUNDAY 21ST JUNE:

16:00 Depart Sderot for Jerusalem
18:00 Return to Hotel, Jerusalem
18:00 – 19:45 Free Time
19:45 Depart Hotel for Jerusalem Cinematheque
20:00 – 21:00 AICE Dinner @ ‘Lavan’ Jerusalem Cinematheque

21:00 Opening of Australian Film Festival- ‘Tackling Peace’
An International premiere of the film Tackling Peace will open the festival, A fly-on-the-wall documentary about the AFL Peace Team that competed in the Aussie rules International Cup in Melbourne last August.
The team of 13 Israelis and 13 Palestinians, sponsored by the Peres Centre for Peace, made international headlines as they attempted to mark, handpass and boot goals in a code they had never played until eight months before the competition.

But the footy was a sideshow to the barriers that were broken down and the friendships that were built between the Israelis and Palestinians during the course of the unprecedented adventure.

The sixth annual AICE Australian Film Festival is being directed by Ros Tatarka, an independent film producer and a board member of the Australian Film Institute)
@ Jerusalem Cinematheque
'FORUM ON THE ROAD'

MONDAY 22ND JUNE:

08:00 – 08:50 Israel/Palestinian Affairs Breakfast Briefing with Mr Ronni Shaked, Senior Correspondent Palestinian Affairs & Commentator- Yediot Ahronot

Ronni has been intimately following the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since the Six Day War (1967). His areas of specialties are: Palestinian Islamic Fundamentalist Organizations, Palestinian Terrorism, Palestinian Internal Politics and Arab- Israeli Citizens- their Inter-Development & role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

Ronni has written two books: "Hamas - the Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist Movement"(1994), and "Capucci - the General Security Services in the heels of terrorist" (1995) plus he has published dozens articles on Palestinian affairs.

Born in Jerusalem in 1946, he is married with 3 children. Served in the IDF in a Paratroop and Intelligence Corps. Ronni graduated from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1969- BA in Middle-Eastern studies and MA in Middle-Eastern studies in the Hebrew University Jerusalem (with Distinction).

Currently he is a Doctoral student in the Middle East Department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is writing his doctoral dissertation on Palestinian Islamic terrorism.

From 1969 till 1982 Shaked served in the Israel General Security Services, the majority of his duty was spent in the prevention of terrorism activity in the West Bank.

Since 1982 he has been a Member of the Editorial Board of “Yedioth Ahronoth” (Israel’s largest Hebrew daily) and is regularly invited to Lecture on Palestinian Affairs at the IDF Educational Facility, he is also an active member of the Jerusalem Journalists Association.

@ ‘Reading Room’, (next to Reception) King David Hotel (052-555-8656)

09:00 Depart King David Hotel for Ramallah
'FORUM ON THE ROAD'

CONT'D (1) MONDAY 22ND JUNE:

Morning  Palestinian Authority  Visit Ramallah  Meet with Senior Members of the Palestinian Authority Leadership. Being organised by the Australian Government Representative, based in Ramallah.  (Australian Representative- Ben Scott- 057-758-9830,02-240-7710)

10:00 - 11:00 Dr Riad Malki - Minister of Foreign Affairs- Palestinian Authority  Riyad al-Malki is Minister of Information and Foreign Affairs in the Palestinian Authority. He was formally a lecturer in Bir Zeit University and a leading member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He is head of Panorama, a non-governmental organization. He holds a PhD in Civil Engineering from the American universities. He worked at the engineering department at Beirzeit University in 1978 and he became Head of the Civil Engineering Department in the university. He is founder of Panorama Center since 1991. He got awarded the European Peace Prize in 2000 in Copenhagen and the Italian Peace Prize in 2005. He is the coordinator of the Arab Program to Support and Develop Democracy which is an alliance of more than 12 civil society institutions. Visiting professor in several European universities.  @ Ramallah

11:00 - 12:00 Dr Saeb Erekat - Head of Negotiations Team- Palestinian Authority  Dr Erekat is the Palestinian chief of the PLO Steering and Monitoring Committee. He negotiated the Oslo Accords with Israel and remained chief negotiator from 1995 until May 2003, when he resigned in protest from the Palestinian government. He later reconciled with the party and was re-appointed to the post in September 2003. He is currently part of the Israel-Fatah negotiations team working to establish a Palestinian state. Saeb Erekat was born in 1955 in East Jerusalem, into a Muslim family, then under Jordanian occupation. Erekat received a BA and MA in Political Science at San Francisco State University in the United States and completed his Ph.D. in Peace and conflict studies at Bradford University, England. He returned the West Bank town of Nablus to lecture in Political Science at the An-Najah National University, and also served for 12 years on the editorial board of the widely-circulated Palestinian newspaper, Al-Quds. He also served as secretary general of the Arab Studies Society. He is married with twin daughters and two sons.  @ Ramallah
‘FORUM ON THE ROAD’

CONT’D (2) MONDAY 22ND JUNE:

12:00 - 13:00 Negotiations Support Unit
The PLO Negotiations Affairs Department (NAD) was established in 1994 in Gaza in order to follow up on the implementation of the Interim Agreement signed between Israel and the PLO. Until mid 2003 the NAD was headed by Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Secretary-General of the PLO Executive Committee. After Mahmoud Abbas was selected by the Palestinian Legislative Council in April 2003 to become the first Palestinian Prime Minister, Dr. Saeb Erekat, former Minister for Local Government and Chief Palestinian Negotiator was nominated as Head of the NAD by the PLO. In late 1998 the NAD approached the Government of the United Kingdom seeking technical assistance to its preparations for Permanent Status talks. The U.K. Department for International Development consequently agreed to support the establishment of the Negotiations Support Project in Ramallah. The purpose of the Negotiations Support Project is to provide highly professional legal, policy and communications advice to the NAD and Palestinian negotiators in preparation for, and during, Permanent Status negotiations with Israel. Following the collapse of formal negotiations at the outset of 2001, an additional purpose of the project is to encourage the resumption of Permanent Status negotiations by contributing to a variety of diplomatic initiatives aimed at bringing the two sides back together.

Following the establishment of the Negotiations Support Project, the governments of Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden also agreed to support the project. Since that time, these five governments have continuously provided funding to the project and have committed to doing so until January 2010.

@ Ramallah

13:00 Depart Ramallah for Jerusalem

13:30 – 15:30 Lunch @ Darna- Traditional Authentic Moroccan Restaurant with Mr Eyal Arad, Chairman- Euro-Israel
Eyal Arad has a Masters in Biblical Theology from J.T.S. in New York. A former Diplomat (held numerous positions including- Spokesman for the Israeli Delegation to the UN). Today he is Chairman of Euro-Israel which is part of the Havas Group – the world's 5th largest communication groups. Mr. Arad has an extensive consulting record to Israeli firms on business and corporate strategies.

Eyal Arad is among the most senior political strategists in Israel, and in recent years has managed numerous election campaigns on a countrywide and local level, as well as political and public professional campaigns including:
• Nir Barkat for Mayor of Jerusalem (2008)
• Shimon Peres for President (2007)
• Ehud Olmert's election campaign for Prime Minister with "Kadima" (2006)
• Ariel Sharon's election campaign for Prime Minister (2001); (2003)
• The Center Party's election campaign for the 15th Knesset (1999)
• Yitzhak Mordechai's Likud party primaries campaign (1996)
• Benjamin Netanyahu's election campaign for Prime Minister (1996)
• Benjamin Netanyahu's campaign for head of the Likud party (1993)
@ 3 Horkinus St, (Mig rash Hanusim), Jerusalem
(02-624-5406, Eyal- 054-669-9996, Lior- 054-669-9340)

15:30 Depart Darna for Jerusalem Municipality
‘FORUM ON THE ROAD’

CONT’D (3) MONDAY 22ND JUNE:

16:00 – 17:00 Nir Barkat, Mayor- City of Jerusalem

Nir Barkat was born in 1959, raised and educated in Jerusalem. Barkat joined the army and served as a paratrooper for six years. In 1983 he was discharged from active duty as major, last serving as a company commander.

Barkat established with three other partners the hi-tech group BRM, which was one of the first in the world in developing antivirus software. Later the company invested in companies such as BackWeb and Checkpoint. Barkat served as the chairman of BackWeb and Checkpoint in the company’s early years.

In the course of his public service, Nir initiated the establishment various non-profit organizations such as: “New Spirit” –has set as its goal to make a connection between the students and the city and focuses on activities such as volunteering, apprenticeship program, culture events, and the formation of student communities in the under-privileged neighborhoods of the city.

In addition to all of this, Barkat headed the committee for human capital and education, the objective of which was to enlist knowledge and transparency in the service of the education system in Israel. Nir Barkat, his wife Beverly and their three daughters continue to build their lives in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem (Hebrew: Yerushaláyim) is the capital of Israel and its largest city in both population and area, with a population of 747,600 residents (64% are Jewish, 32% Muslim, and 2% Christian) over an area of 125.1 square kilometres (population density was 5,750.4 inhabitants per square kilometre).

The city has a history that goes back to the 4th millennium BCE, making it one of the oldest cities in the world. Jerusalem has been the holiest city in Judaism and the spiritual center of the Jewish people since the 10th century BCE, contains a number of significant ancient Christian sites, and is considered the third-holiest city in Islam.

@ Jerusalem Municipality
(02-629-5332,02-629-7720, Stephan- 050-312-1841)

17:00
Depart Jerusalem Municipality for King David Hotel

17:15 – 20:00 Free Time

20:00
Gala Dinner
Official Launch of the Australia-Israel Leadership Forum (AILF) in honour of the Australian Delegation

Some 200 local guests will be in attendance.
Keynote addresses by: Deputy PM Julia Gillard, Hon Peter Costello MP, Isaac Herzog MK- Israeli Minister of Welfare & Social Services (Labor Party).
Internationally-acclaimed Australian pianists Paul Grabowsky and Joe Chindamo will do a short performance.
The theme of the Dinner will be ‘Sydney Opera House comes to Jerusalem’.
Guillaume Brahimi, who has his own award-winning restaurant, Bennelong, at the Sydney Opera House, will take charge of the menu.

@ President’s Hall- King David Hotel, Jerusalem
‘FORUM ON THE ROAD’

TUESDAY 23RD JUNE:

08:00 – 08:50 Middle East Today: New Perspectives on a Changing Landscape,”
Breakfast Briefing
Mr Efraim Halevy, Immediate Past Head of Mossad
(Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations)
Efraim Halevy (born 1934) is a lawyer and an Israeli intelligence expert. He was the
ninth director of Mossad and the 4th head of the Israeli National Security Council.

Above all, he is remembered for his part in bringing about the peace treaty with
Jordan. The special relationship he developed with King Hussein made it possible for
Halevy to open Jordan to the awareness that only a peace agreement with Israel
would extricate the Hashemite kingdom from the crisis after the Gulf War.

Halevy served as the envoy and confidant of five Prime Ministers: Yitzhak Shamir,
Yitzhak Rabin, Benjamin,Netanyahu, Ehud Barak and Ariel Sharon. He took an active
part in a special mission by Rabin in forging the Israel-Jordan Treaty of Peace. After
the failure of the Mossad operation to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Mashal in
1997, he took an active part in Benjamin Netanyahu’s mission to return the Mossad
men captured in Jordan, and to settle the crisis with the King of Jordan.
@ ‘Reading Room’, (next to Reception) King David Hotel

09:00 Depart King David Hotel for Yad-Vashem

09:30 – 11:00 Yad-Vashem Holocaust Museum
Since its inception (by an act of Knesset (Parliament), Yad Vashem has been
entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust
period, preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims, and
imparting the legacy of the Holocaust for generations to come through its archives,
library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations.
(Shoshi- 050-755-7388, Ilana 052-354-8346, David- 050-990-2285)

11:00 Depart Yad-Vashem for Supreme Court
‘FORUM ON THE ROAD’

CONT’D (2) TUESDAY 23RD JUNE:

11:30 – 13:00 Supreme Court of Israel
Hosted by: President, Chief Justice- Ms Dorit Beinisch
The Supreme Court is at the head of the court system in the State of Israel. It is the highest judicial instance. The Supreme Court sits in Jerusalem. The area of its jurisdiction is the entire State. A ruling of the Supreme Court is binding upon every court, other than the Supreme Court itself. This is the principle of binding precedent (stare decisis) in Israel.

The three organs of state—the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government—as well as the bar association are represented in the Judges’ Nominations Committee.

Writing in the New York Times Paul Goldberger argues that the Supreme Court is “Israel’s finest public building” achieving “a remarkable and exhilarating balance between the concerns of daily life and the symbolism of the ages”. He notes that the design is complex, creating a series of interrelated geometric patterns.

Dorit Beinisch (born: 1942) is the president of the Supreme Court of Israel. She is the first woman to serve as president of the Supreme Court, appointed in September 2006. In her various public service positions, she gave special attention to government corruption and to ensuring that government institutions adhere to the law, with a particular emphasis placed on the IDF, the police and general security services. Standing out among her opinions as a Supreme Court justice, is a decision holding that parents cannot use corporal punishment and other decisions stressing the importance of women’s and children’s rights. Lately Dorit Beinisch gave few judgments concerning the conflict between security needs, and civil & human rights.

Sha’arey Mishpat St, Jerusalem
(02-675-9702, Sara- 050-625-5937, Marcia- 02-675-9612, 050-625-5078)

13:00
Depart Supreme Court for Crowne Plaza

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch with MKs
Hosted by: Ms Ronit Tirosh MK
Head of Israeli-Australian Parliamentary Friendship Association
(Member of the following Knesset Committees- Finance Committee, Education, Culture, and Sports Committee & Joint Committee for the Knesset Budget.
Member of the following Knesset Lobbies- Chairperson, Lobby for the War Against Road Accidents, Member, Lobby for the Struggle Against Corruption in the Public Sector, Member, Lobby for Local Government & Member, Lobby for Tel Aviv - Jaffa Born in Tel Aviv, Ronit was elected to the Kneset in 2006 when she joined Ariel Sharon’s new Kadima Party. Prior to her political life Ronit spent numerous years in the Education system, her last appointment was the Director General of the Ministry of Education.)

@ Kerem Carmit Hall, Level ‘R’, (one level below lobby) Crowne Plaza Hotel
(Knesset- Yehudit- 02-640-8292, 050-623-3632)
(C.Plaza- Oria- 02-658-8825,Nurit- 050-686-1402)
‘FORUM ON THE ROAD’

CONT’D (3) TUESDAY 23RD JUNE:

15:00        Depart Crowne Plaza for Hebrew University

15:30 – 16:30 Hebrew University of Jerusalem
            with Dr Menachem Ben-Sasson, President
            Founded in 1925, HU has more than 24,000 students, nearly 40% of all civilian scientific research in Israel is conducted at the Hebrew University. About 3,800 research projects are in progress at the University, and 1,500 new projects are started each year. The University’s range of intellectual property includes inventions and know-how in many fields, including nanotechnology, medicine and pharmaceuticals, agriculture and nutrition, water and environmental technologies, computer science, homeland security, and more. Over the past 40 years, Hebrew University has granted more than 400 technology licenses and is responsible for commercializing an array of successful products that generate nearly $1USBi in worldwide sales every year.

            Dr Ben-Sasson was recently appointed President @ HU. He is former Member of the Kadima- Party and was Chairman of the Knesset Constitution, Law & Justice Committee
            Prior to entering politics in 2006, Dr Ben-Sasson was Rector at Hebrew University & a Member of the Board of Directors at Yad-Vashem. His academic background is- History and Philosophy, in particular History of the Jewish People in the Islamic Lands.
            @ Belgium House –Library, Givat Ram Campus
            (Gina- 054-882-0630, 02-588-2933, Eliyahu Honig- 054-978-2823)

16:30        Depart Hebrew University for King David Hotel

17:00 – 18:00 Free Time

18:00 – 19:00 Informal Dinner @ King David Hotel
            @ Terrace (Mirpeset)

19:00        Depart King David Hotel for Tel-Aviv
'FORUM ON THE ROAD'

CONT'D (4) TUESDAY 23RD JUNE:

20:30  Israeli Cultural Event in Tel-Aviv- Israel Philharmonic Orchestra
Musical program:
R. Strauss: Till Eulenspiegel; Liszt: Piano Concerto no. 2
Liszt: Mephisto Waltz; Ravel: Valses Nobles et Sentimentales
Ravel: La Valse
Artists:
Ludovic Morlot, conductor
Jean-Yves Thibaudet, pianist
Since its inception in 1936, The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra has been dedicated to presenting the world’s greatest music to audiences in Israel and abroad. Founded by the outstanding Polish violinist Bronislaw Huberman, the IPO represents the culmination of his dream “to unite the desire of the country for an orchestra with the desire of the Jewish musicians for a country”.

Huberman spent countless hours arranging for first-chair musicians of Eastern European and German orchestras, who lost their jobs as a result of Nazism, to migrate to Palestine. In doing so, Huberman created an “orchestra for soloists” that under the esteemed leadership of Maestro Zubin Mehta, Music Director for Life, continues to provide vital inspiration to the people of Israel.

From the outset, world renowned soloists and conductors have performed with the IPO. Its inaugural concert was played under the baton of Arturo Toscanini who felt his participation was a means to demonstrate his opposition to Fascism. Since that time, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra has enjoyed associations with such renowned artists as Leonard Bernstein, Daniel Barenboim, Shlomo Mintz, Murray Perahia, Itzhak Perlman, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Arthur Rubinstein, Gil Shaham, Isaac Stern, Pinchas Zukerman and many others. Their contributions of time and talent have enriched the cultural life of Israel and have helped the Orchestra to maintain the highest artistic standards.

Often said to have more heart than other orchestras, the IPO is Israel’s finest cultural emissary and travels throughout the world, particularly to countries where there is little or no Israeli representation. The goodwill created by these tours, which have included historic visits to Japan, Argentina, Poland, Hungary, Russia, China and India, is of enormous value to the State of Israel.

Founded in 1909, Tel-Aviv is celebrating its centenary. On the outskirts of the ancient port city of Jaffa Tel Aviv’s White City, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, comprises the world’s largest concentration of Modernist-style (Bauhaus) buildings.

Tel Aviv is a beta world city, Israel’s economic hub and its wealthiest city, home to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and many corporate offices and research and development centers. Its beaches, bars, cafés, upscale shopping, great weather and cosmopolitan lifestyle have made it a popular tourist destination and given way to its reputation as a “Mediterranean city that never sleeps.” It is the country’s cultural capital and a major performing arts and commerce center.

@ the Mann Auditorium (Heychal Tarbut), Habimah Square
(Tell 052-690-3617, 621-1766)
’FORUM IN SESSION’

INAUGURAL AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL LEADERSHIP FORUM, (AILF)
WEDNESDAY 24TH – THURSDAY 25TH JUNE, 2009

The objective of the AILF is for high-level Australian and Israeli leaders to get together in a private, intimate, non-partisan setting and discuss issues of mutual relevance. The topics discussed include contemporary challenges for both countries and cover strategic issues of importance.

Leaders are gathered from a range of fields—Politics, Academia, Journalism and Business. The aim is to hold the Forum on a regular basis and build on the bi-lateral relationship between Australia & Israel. A series of 1-hour sessions (includes breakfast & lunch), each speaker will present for approximately 30 minutes followed by 30 minutes of moderated dialogue.

The forum is being held @ the NCC- National Convention Centre- Jerusalem (Binyamei Ha’uma)
Gordon Hall, Room 313

AILF “Closed Forum” Policy
In order to ensure an open and frank dialogue the AILF will strictly abide by the Chatham House Rule.

Chatham House Rule
11 December 2008

The Chatham House Rule reads as follows: “When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed”.

http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/about/chathamhouserule/

On further consideration we believe that this policy is inadequate because some participants may feel restricted and limit their capacity to engage in frank and robust discussions. We have therefore decided to go one notch further than the famous rule cited above.

AILF “Closed Forum” Policy
Our “closed forum” policy is that “whatever is said during the Forum stays with the Forum”. If any of our media delegates wish to report on what was said during any of the session, they will need to ask the participant concerned to repeat the comments outside the Forum on the record.
WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE

08:00 – 08:30 Opening Remarks

08:40 - 09:40 Effective R&D Policy
Dr Orna Berry, Partner- Gemini Israel Funds

09:45 - 10:45 Education 2000: Engineering vs LA Law and CSI
Mr Elisha Yanay, General Manager- Motorola Israel

10:55 – 11:25 Governor- Bank of Israel Address
Professor Stanley Fischer, Governor- Bank of Israel

11:30 – 12:30 Australia’s response to the Financial Meltdown
Dr Steven Kennedy, GM- Competition & Consumer Policy Division Australian Treasury

12:31 - 12:34 Group Photo

12:35 – 13:40 Lunch

13:40 – 14:40 From Vessels to Speed Boats
Brigadier General (Ret.) Gal Hirsch, Chairman- Defensive Shield Holdings

14:45 – 15:45 Obama the Talk and the Walk
Mr Greg Sheridan, Foreign Editor- The Australian

15:55 – 16:55 Two Perspectives on Iran
Professor David Menashri, Head of Iranian Studies- Tel-Aviv University
&
Dr Mordechai Kedar, Research Associate Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies-
Bar-Ilan University

17:00 – 18:00 Ending the World’s Addiction to Oil
Mr Shai Agassi, CEO- Better Place
CONT'D WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE

18:00  Depart Binyaney-Ha'uma for King David Hotel

18:30 – 20:00 Free Time

20:00 – 21:00 Informal Dinner @ the Hotel
    @ Terrace (Mirpeset)

21:00  Depart King David Hotel for Old City

21:30  Western Walls Tunnels Tour
    Jewish Quarter- Old City Jerusalem
    The Tunnels reveal the entire length of the Western Wall- almost 448 meters long.
    They include an incredible labyrinth of tunnels, arches, a Hasmonean water tunnel and
    passageways remained untouched for centuries.
FORUM IN SESSION

THURSDAY 25TH JUNE

07:45 – 08:30  Breakfast

08:35 – 09:35  New Health Challenges Under Climate Change & Globalisation
Professor Paul Zimmet, Director Emeritus & Director of International Research- Baker
IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute
&
Professor Shlomo Ben-Haim, CEO- Impulse Dynamics

09:40 – 10:40  Elbit- An Israeli Multi-National NASDAQ Listed Company
Joseph Ackerman, President & CEO- Elbit

10:50 – 11:50  Lawfare as Warfare
Professor Gerald Steinberg, Chair- Department of Political Studies- Bar-Ilan

11:55 – 12:55  Bridging Differences through Cultural Initiatives
Mr Katriel Schory, CEO- Israel Film Fund

13:00 – 14:30  Lunch and Closing Remarks
22 July 2009

Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig
Special Minister of State
Cabinet Secretary
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006-18 I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study journey.

i. The purpose of my visit was to attend and participate in the Australia Israel Leadership Forum in Jerusalem, Israel. I arrived on Saturday 20 June 2009 and left on Friday 26 June 2009.

ii. This was the inaugural Australia Israel Leadership Forum. The Forum itself covered two days on Wednesday 24 June and Thursday 25 June 2009. The object of the Forum is for high level Australian and Israeli Leaders to get together in a private non-partisan setting and discuss issues of mutual relevance. Leaders gathered from a range of fields:- politics, academia, journalism, business. The discussions during these two days covered R&D policy, macroeconomic policy, energy policy, perspectives on Iran, climate change, NGOs and high technology development. Participants on the Australian Government side included the Deputy Prime Minister, the Member for Isaacs, the Member for Melbourne Ports. Participants from the Coalition side, other than myself, included Senators Barnett and Brandis and the Member for Sturt.

Prior to the Forum commencing there was a program on Sunday 21 June 2009 which included visiting the Park of the Australian Solder at Be’er-Sheva and laying a wreath, discussions on desertification and irrigation at Ben-Gurion University and a visit to Sderot which has been subject to shelling from Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Key meetings included Avi Dichter MK one time Director of the Israeli Security Service, Shin Bet.

On Monday 22 June 2009 I visited Ramallah for meetings with the Foreign Minister of the Palestinian Authority, Members of the Palestinian Council and the Palestinian Negotiation Support Unit to discuss progress in the settlement of Middle East questions. I also addressed a Gala Dinner which launched the Australia Israel Leadership Forum.
On Tuesday 23 June 2009 I visited and laid a wreath at the Yad-Vashem Holocaust Museum, held meetings with the Chief Justice of the Israeli Supreme Court and with Members of the Knesset who are engaged in the Australia Israel Friendship Society.

Key outcomes from these various meetings were to understand progress and stumbling blocks in the settlement of peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority including Israeli settlements, transport corridors, terrorism, and the rise of militant Islamism. Australia was able to lend its support to proposals designed to secure a Two State Solution recognising both Israeli and Palestinian rights behind recognised and secure borders. Useful discussions also occurred in relation to broader security issues such as the threat of nuclear weapons from Iran and the de-stabilising effect this is likely to have on the region.

iii. It is plain that the security of Israel and the settlement of Palestinian claims is a critical policy issue. The broader threat of terrorism is a threat to Australia’s security and an understanding of the challenge these movements present is important in deciding how best to protect our own citizens. Enhancing Australia-Israel relations will also deepen investment and trade relations which will have benefit to business in both countries.

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

Yours sincerely,

PETER COSTELLO
MR MICHAEL DANBY MP

India
25 June – 8 July 2009
Dear Minister

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

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

*Purpose of visit to India: As Chair of the Australian-All party Parliamentary Group for Tibet I led the first ever delegation of Australian Parliamentarians to Dharamsala, the spiritual home of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The purpose of the visit was to meet with Tibetan government officials as well as experience the culture and society of the Tibetan people. The visit also gave the delegation a chance to meet with Indian parliamentarians and the Australian High Commissioner to India especially to discuss the violence in Australia against Indian students.*

(b) **Itinerary:**

**Sunday 29th June**
- Arrive in Delhi
- Ngodup Gyaltse and Simon Bradshaw to receive the delegation and escort to hotel
- Briefing for delegation

**Monday 29th June**
- Delegation Press conference with Indian Print Media re violence against Indian students in Australia
- Lunch with the Australian High Commissioner to India at the Australian High Commission
- Visit to Red Fort and Visit to Old Delhi

**Tuesday 30th June**
- Visit Taj Mahal (All day visit)

**Wednesday 1st July**
- Morning: Coffee meeting with Indian parliamentarians and tour of the Lok Sabha
- Meeting with Dr Mahendra Prasad Member of Indian Parliament
- Flight departs for Dharamsala
- Arrive at Gaggal Airport. To be received by the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile.
- Performance by the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts, followed by a dinner reception hosted by the Tibetan Parliament in Exile.

**Thursday 2nd July**
- Visit Tibetan Children’s Village (TCV)
- Visit Reception Centre for New Arrivals from Tibet
- Lunch at Norbulinga Institute
- Tour of Norbulinga Institute
- Visit Tibetan Parliament
- Visit Library of Tibetan Works and Archives
Meeting with Kalon Tripa (Prime Minister) and Minister for the
Department of Information and International Relations (DIIIR)
Dinner reception hosted by Khashag (Tibetan Cabinet)

Friday 3rd July

Visit Tibetan Museum and Tsuglagkhang (Main Temple)
Audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama
Followed by Press Conference
Tibetan Youth Congress, Guchusum,
Students for a Free Tibet and
National Democratic Party of Tibet, followed by dinner

Saturday 4th July

Audience with His Holiness the Karmapa
Lunch at Gyuto Monastery
Meeting with former political prisoners, Guchusum

Sunday 5th July

Visit nearby Tibetan settlements or attend meditation classes.

Monday 6th July

Function at Tsuglagkhang (Main Temple)
Speech(es) by members of the delegation on behalf of the Australian
All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet
Farewell lunch
Leave for airport

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings:

Key meetings were held with the Australian High Commissioner to India, Indian Parliamentarians and
Tibetan parliamentarians.

The meetings with the Tibetan parliamentarians and visits to various cultural centres enabled the
group to develop a greater understanding of Tibetan society and culture. A key meeting with Kalon
Tripa, the Tibetan Prime Minister, also allowed the group to discuss at length the reasons behind
Tibetan calls for autonomy in China and the discussions the Tibetan government-in-exile have been
having with the Chinese government.

Key meeting with Dr Mahendra Prasad Member of Indian Parliament and Indian media to brief them
on Harmony Day march in Melbourne promoting human rights and tolerance in the aftermath of
violence against Indian students in Australia.

The Key meeting however was with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Discussion on Tibetan culture and
society were held as well as discussion on Tibetan autonomy within China.
(iii) Conclusion:

The trip was invaluable. As the Chair of the parliamentary friendship group for Tibet, the delegations visit enabled me to broaden my knowledge of the Tibetan culture, people, politics and society. The delegations visit received mass press coverage in Australia.

(http://www.darbymp.com/index.php?article=396)

Being in the spiritual homeland of His Holiness the Dalai Lama gave the delegates and myself an insight into a side of Tibetan culture we only ever see in news reports. The visit was invaluable in gaining first hand knowledge of life in Dharamsala for Tibetans. We were also able to brief Indian media on the Harmony Day march in Melbourne to promote human rights and tolerance in the aftermath of violence against Indian Students. Also enabled me to increase awareness among my colleagues of the salience of the India as a place Australia should be more politically engaged.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six-monthly tabling of travel costs for Senators and Members.

Yours sincerely

Michael Danby MP
Federal Member for Melbourne Ports
06/10/09
THE HON PHILIP RUDDOCK MP

United States of America, United Kingdom and Switzerland
26 June – 25 July 2009
Senator the Hon Joseph Ludwig  
Special Minister of State  
Suite MG 61  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  

Dear Minister,  

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

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purposes:  

As indicated in my letter of 19 March 2008, I was invited to attend the second annual Caux Forum for Human Security. The Forum focused on the global economic crisis and the growing threat from climate change, the underlying causes of these two crises and what strategies can be developed to overcome them.  

En route to the Forum, I took the opportunity to engage in meetings that assisted me in my role as Deputy Chair of the Human Right Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and also my Deputy Chairmanship of the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence and Security.  

(b) Itinerary:  

Please find my itinerary for the trip attached.  

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes:  

Caux Forum for Human Security, Switzerland  

The principle program objectives were to deal with:  

(a) The Global Economic Challenge;  
(b) The Global Climate Change Challenge;  
(c) Strengthening the Fundamental Conditions of Governance – National and International; and  
(d) Developing cultural dialogue and understanding  

The Keynote Speaker was HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan.  

Planning for the conference was undertaken by Ambassador Mohammed Sahnoun, formerly Special Adviser to Kofi Anan, the former Secretary General of the United Nations.
The President of "Initiatives of Change International" is Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Ghandi.

Of particular interest were the detailed briefings on security issues around the world. I was involved in sessions on Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, Southern Sudan and Sri Lanka. Each provided detailed briefings on issues affecting Australia, both directly and indirectly. A range of different initiatives to be followed up on return to Australia were discussed.

While en route to Caux, I undertook the following additional study activities:

**The United States of America**

**Chicago**

*Human Rights Watch*

I met with Jobi Peterson Cates, the Director of Human Rights Watch and discussed issues including ghost prisoners, child prisoners and asylum seekers. Following preliminary discussions about the role of the organisation in Australia, we discussed enquiry processes undertaken by Human Rights Watch as well as the support role undertaken to provide relevant resources for research on human rights abuses around the world.

**Argonne National Laboratory**

The Laboratory founded in 1943 and managed by the University of Chicago is one of the largest research laboratories in the world and is funded by the US Department of Energy. It developed and tested the prototypes for most of today's modern nuclear reactors.

Detailed briefings were offered on:

1. Argonne's program with the Department of Homeland Security to identify security vulnerabilities and interdependency models for emergency management scenarios were outlined and compared with Australian work conducted by the CSIRO and Geoscience Australia.
2. The Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors (RERTR) Program and the Reactor Conversion program which supports the minimisation and elimination of the use of highly-enriched uranium in civil nuclear applications by working to convert research reactors and radioisotope production processes to the use of low-enriched uranium fuel and targets throughout the world.
3. Export controls to implement non-proliferation interests in the European Union, Eastern Europe, the Americas and Asia. The program is to strengthen global efforts to prevent the proliferation of WMD-related materials, equipment and technology.

Discussion also centred on the reduced use of the nuclear fuel cycle in the USA while India, Europe and China will build new plants with supporting research in
support of them and the likely impact on US ascendency in research on the nuclear fuel cycle.

Washington

My principle visits in Washington were to discuss potential developments in climate change policy. Appointments with the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming along with the American Petroleum Institute, the Environmental Defense Fund and the US Chamber of Commerce enabled me to obtain a cross-section of views on the likely Senate progress of the Waxman/Markey Bill.

Passage through the Senate is not a given, despite the Democrats achieving the 'magic' 60 Senator majority. If you map the Democrat representatives who opposed the Bill in the House of Representatives (44 Democrats did not vote for it) against the State they came from, it is not very encouraging given equal votes per State in the Senate. The Bill relied heavily on support from the populous West Coast and North East.

One third of the Senate faces mid-term elections next year and mid-term votes usually go against the incumbent President. Mid West and South support for the Bill is soft. There are other difficult bills due to be dealt with by the Senate and the public is not as engaged on climate change issues as Australians are so there is the general feeling that Senators up for re-election may not have the appetite for another controversial vote.

In addition, I met with representatives of the World Bank to discuss the future of fragile and conflict-affected States. Emphasis was on countries in Africa and the Middle East. I was also given a detailed assessment of progress in Palestine.

In Washington I was also hosted to lunch by partners of Hogan & Hartson, a large US law firm with a considerable presence worldwide. Discussion ensued on access to the American legal market by Australian-qualified practitioners as well as the impact of the world economic crisis on internationally exposed law firms.

David Stuart Charge d’Affaires briefed me on developments in implementing the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement, including access to services (legal) in the US which was an area of particular concern to me in my time as Attorney-General of Australia.

London

In London I met with Alex Allan, Chair of the Joint Intelligence Committee advising the British Cabinet. Discussions concerned sensitive issues on recent developments in the national security arena, in particular in relation to Iran. The Middle East generally was also canvassed, as were the most recent assessments on the extent of the exposure of the UK to possible terrorism incidents.

Later meetings included:
(a) Ian Hunter QC, Chair of the Anglo-Australian Lawyers Association. Discussions included recent developments in the legal profession and opportunities for young Australian lawyers in the United Kingdom.

(b) Lord Carille of Berriew QC, the independent reviewer of terrorism laws in the UK. Discussions included his impressions from his recent visit to Australia and the importance of any independent monitor of security in Australia being seen to be genuinely independent and accountable to the Parliament.

(c) Darren Green MP, Shadow Minister for Immigration spoke to me at length about the UK’s approach in dealing with asylum seekers. We discussed the extent to which the decision-making process had been overloaded and unable to effectively resolve claims. In addition, demands for an amnesty in the UK were discussed in the context of the Australian experience.

(d) I met with Baroness Cox to receive an updated brief on her work to assist oppressed Christians around the world. Recent developments in Central and West Africa were noted.

(e) Marc Ellenbogen the Chair of the Prague Society briefed me on recent developments of the Society and its related body, The Global Panel.

Geneva

World Economic Forum

My first meeting in Switzerland was with the representatives of the World Economic Forum. The Forum provided me with insights on the status of the US economic recovery. Given the importance of climate change issues and the role of the US in addressing the matter, I canvassed the views of the Forum on the likely progress of the Waxman/Markey Bill in the US Senate. Finally, discussions ensued on future program development by the World Economic Forum, including:

(a) Corporate regulation;
(b) Corporate responsibility; and
(c) The role of the corporate community in national security, particularly security for energy and oil.

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

In my meeting with Chris Lamb of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, I was briefed on new administrative arrangements and progress of regional support programs conducted by the organisation.

UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Later I met with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The agency relates closely with Emergency Management Australia, the coordinating body for the Australian Government’s response to all forms of domestic and international disasters. Preparing member states for dealing with tsunami incidents regionally was canvassed.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Meetings with representatives from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights canvassed a wide range of issues. In my role as Deputy Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, discussions centred on the committee's view of human rights institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. Developments funded by the UN to bring tiny Pacific States together were outlined along with the next steps to be taken. A copy of the Samoa Declaration was provided.

As at 2 June 2009 a schedule of accreditation status of National Institutions was provided. It identified whether the Paris Principles had been complied with fully, partly or not at all.

Given the recent developments in Sri Lanka, representatives of the Council reported on the UN Secretary-General's visit to Sri Lanka. Areas of interest included access to the detainees, the assessment process to identify combatants, as well as access to deliver humanitarian aid.

Collaboration with NGO's such as the ICJ and AI was also outlined.

I was also briefed on the role of the UN Agency on Mine Action which deals with de-mining and victim assistance. Discussions centred on Sudan where assistance is required. While Sudan has signed the UN Declaration on People with Disabilities, agencies like the UN Development Program are denied a role in delivery of services because of the ICJ indictment of the Sudanese President. NGO or Nation State involvement in such programs may be more successful.

**Interparliamentary Union**

When visiting the Interparliamentary Union, I canvassed the issue of human rights for Members of Parliament. I heard that reports on Members of Parliament assassinated or incarcerated are prepared by the Interparliamentary Union and circulated to Parliaments through the Presiding Officers. It was noted the German Parliament adopts specific cases. On return to Australia I have taken this question up with the Presiding Officers of the Parliament.

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

Yours sincerely,

Philip Ruddock MP
Federal Member for Berowra
ITINERARY

Friday 26 June – travel day (Sydney-LA-Chicago)

13:05 Depart Sydney QF107
09:45 Arrive Los Angeles
12:45 Depart Los Angeles AA681
19:00 Arrive Chicago

Accommodation: University Club of Chicago

Saturday 27 June
Sunday 28 June

Monday 29 June

10am Human Rights Watch Chicago
  • Jobi Petersen Cates, Director

2pm Meeting with Argonne National Laboratory staff
  • Dr. Mary Anne Yates, Deputy Director, National Security and Homeland Security Programs
  • Dr. Charles Roche, Department Manager-National Security and Proliferation
  • Dr. Peter Heine, Technical Nonproliferation Policy Support
  • Mr. Norman Peterson, Office of the Director
Venue: Building 208, Room C234
Contact: Norman Peterson, ph 630-252-4823

Tuesday 30 June - travel day (Chicago-Washington)

13:15 Depart Chicago AA620
16:05 Arrive Washington

Accommodation: University Club of Washington DC
Wednesday 1 July - Washington

9:00am  Meeting with Mr David Stuart, Charge d’Affaires
        Embassy of Australia

10:00am  Meeting with Dr Ana Unruh Cohen, Deputy Staff Director, House
        Select Committee on Energy Independence & Global Warming and
        advisers to the Committee

11:15am  Meeting with Steve Crookshank, Senior Economist, American
        Petroleum Institute

12.30pm - Lunch with Ms Jennifer Haverkamp, Managing Director for
        International Policy & Negotiations, Environmental Defense Fund

2:30pm  Meeting with Mr Stephen Eule, Vice President for Climate &
        Technology, Institute for 21st Century Energy, U.S.Chamber of
        Commerce

4:00pm  Meeting with Mr Markus Kostner, Acting Director, Fragile and
        Conflict Affected States, the World Bank

Thursday 2 July - travel day (Washington-London)

12:30pm  Lunch with Partners from Hogan & Hartson law firm

19:00  Depart Washington        BA216

06:55  Arrive London

Accommodation: Royal Overseas League, Overseas House

Friday 3 July - London

10:30  Discussions with Mr Alex Allan, Chairman, Joint Intelligence
        Committee (Cabinet Office)

12.30  Lunch with Mr Ian Hunter QC, Anglo-Australian Lawyers
        Association.

15:00  Meeting with Lord Carlile of Berriew QC

16.30  Telephone discussions with Mr Damien Green MP, Shadow
        Minister for Immigration.

18:30  Meeting with Baroness Caroline Cox
Dinner  Marc Ellenbogen – Prague Society

Sunday 5 July - travel day (London-Geneva)
11:40  Depart London
14:25  Arrive Geneva

Accommodation:  Intercontinental, Petit Saconnex

Monday 6 July
16:15  Meeting with Lee Howell, Senior Director, Head of Programming and Senior Adviser on Asia, World Economic Forum

Thursday 16 July  travel morning (Barcelona-Geneva)

15.00  Meeting IFRC Special Adviser, Chris Lamb

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

17:00  Meeting with Margareta Wahlstrom, Assistant Secretary-General, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Accommodation:  Intercontinental, Petit Saconnex

Friday 17 July – Caux

Wednesday 22 July (inclusive) attend the Caux Forum for Human Security.

Accommodation:  Mountain House, Caux

Thursday 23 July

10.00  Briefings with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human
Rights

1. National Institutions: Mr Gianni Magazzeni
2. Asia-Pacific (including Sri Lanka): Mr Rory Mangoven
3. Africa (including Zimbabwe): Ms Francoise Mianda and Ms Yanine Poc
4. Disabilities: Ms Silvia Lavagnoli and Mr Christian Courtis

15.00 Meeting with Mrs Gabrielle Marceau, Office of the Director General, WTO

16.30 Meeting with Mr Marcelo Bustos, Director of Assembly Affairs, IPU

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Friday 24 July - Accompanied to Geneva airport by Ms Robinson

07:45 Depart Geneva BA723
08:35 Arrive London Heathrow
12:15 Depart London QF 32
19:05 Arrive Sydney
MS ANNA BURKE MP

Ireland, United Kingdom, Austria, France and Italy
26 June – 31 July 2009
Dear Minister,

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

Confirmation of Purpose(s):

The purpose of my study tour was to:

i. Attend the UK CPA Conference on Climate Change in London;
ii. Attend the fifth annual meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament in Vienna and;
iii. Visit the Parliaments of Ireland, Scotland, France and Italy to discuss Parliamentary Procedures.

Itinerary:

26/06/09  Depart Melbourne Qantas QF9 to London - connecting flight Aer Lingus EI153 to Dublin
02/07/09  Depart Dublin, Aer Lingus EI 252 to Edinburgh
04/07/09  Depart Edinburgh, British Airways BA1439 to London
11/07/09  Depart London, British Airways BA 700 to Vienna
17/07/09  Depart Vienna, Air France AF1439 to Paris
22/07/09  Depart Paris, Air France AF 1604 to Rome
29/07/09  Depart Rome, British Airways BA 559 to London - connecting flight Qantas QF10 to Melbourne
31/07/09  Arrive in Melbourne.
DUBLIN

Key meetings and events:

- Ms Anne Plunket, Ambassador to Ireland
- Meet with Parliamentary staff on procedural and other issues
- Call on Ceann Comhairle (Speaker)
- Call on Cathaoirleach (Senate Speaker)
- Call on Leas Cheann Comhairle (Deputy Speaker)
- Lunch hosted by Leas Cheann Comhairle with members of the Ireland-Australia Friendship Group
- Tour of Leinster House, Welcome in Dail Eirann and Seanad

Outcomes/findings:

The visit to the Dublin Parliament provided an insight into the workings of the Oireachtas where I was recognised in both chambers and held productive discussions with the clerks of the house. The discussions examined how the Doyle handles issue of security, especially given the history of the troubles in Ireland. Security around the Parliament has long been an on-going concern to the Presiding officers and the senior staff. We discussed the way assessments are made about balancing the genuine security needs of the Parliament and allowing as much public access as is reasonably possible. I note that visits by the public to the Doyle are limited by invitation only – a situation I would hate to see ever replicated in our Parliament.

EDINBURGH

Key meetings and events:

- Tour of Parliament and Parliamentary Complex
- Briefing on the Scottish Parliament and Devolution
- Lunch hosted by Mr David McLetchie (Scottish Conservative Party) MSP and cross party members

Outcomes/findings:

The purpose of the visit to the Scottish Parliament was to look at their innovative and progressive utilisation of the committee system. The committee system in the Scottish Parliament is integral to the legislative process and not an adjunct to it. Indeed the entire Parliament building has been designed to incorporate the committee system with purpose built committee rooms designed for public hearings, broadcast, media and public access. The work of the committee system in the Parliament is treated as importantly as the workings of their unicameral chamber and gives all members a tremendous opportunity to be part of the legislative making process and not merely a commentator after the event.

While the physical infrastructure of the Federal parliament is not amenable to major re-organisation, the integration of the work of the committees, particularly the standing committees and joint parliamentary committees, seems to have much to offer the Australian parliament in the development of better long term planning for legislation and regulatory frameworks.
LONDON

Key meetings and events:

- Attend Commonwealth Parliamentary Association’s (CPA) Conference on Climate Change (5 days)
- Private discussions with Mr David Broom, Director, Administration and Finance CPA and other staff

Outcomes/findings:

I have attached a detailed program of the conference and the conference communique which outlines the extensive and informative nature of this intensive conference program. The conference has been extremely beneficial to me in both my work in the Parliament and to my work in the electorate on the crucial area of climate change. Without doubt climate change is the issue of greatest concern to constituents in Chisholm.

In addition to describing and defining in great detail the myriad complexities of developing a coherent response to climate change, the conference also allowed me to establish and extend great links with many parliamentarians, particularly from developing nations in our region as we work towards developing a global response to climate change at the forthcoming international conference in Copenhagen later this year, of which this conference forms an important part.

Discussions with Mr Broom and other CPA staff were also valuable. I left them better informed of the challenges facing the CPA and also convinced of its valuable role in assisting other Commonwealth nations, many of whom will be the first to be affected by, and need to respond to the effects of climate change. The CPA should remain a forum of genuine engagement and activity for Australia in the future.

VIENNA

Key meetings and events:

- Attend the fifth annual meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament
- Meet with Ms Barbara Prammer, Speaker of the Austrian Parliament
- Informal dinner with Mr Jeremy Kruse Charge d’Affairs, Australian Embassy and Mrs Catherine Kruse, Ms Wanda Oram-Miles First Secretary, Australian Embassy and her daughter

Outcomes/findings:

I have attached a copy of the conference program and copy of the speech I delivered to the conference. It was an honour to partake in this impressive event to both learn from the experiences of other women presiding officers and also to provide input into how women can ensure the Parliament, and not just the executive, has a say in the determination of issues affecting our communities, particularly those of greatest importance to women.
Outcomes/findings continued:
As one of the more senior parliamentarians in attendance, this conference provide a
great opportunity to meet other women who have roles as presiding officers and to
gain an understanding how they achieved their role, and the challenges they face
advance in executing their important roles, as these varied very widely across
jurisdictions. One of valuable aspects of this conference was to reaffirm the
importance of our Parliaments reflecting the entire community by ensuring women
are better represented in all Parliaments.

I would also like to particularly record my appreciation of the excellent and
approachable service provided to me by the staff of the Australian Embassy in
Vienna, in particular the advice and help of First Secretary Ms Wanda Oram-Miles,
whose professionalism and expertise was exemplary, and greatly appreciated.

PARIS

Key meetings and events:

- Call on Ambassador Mr David Ritchie - Australian Ambassador to France
- Tour of French House of Representatives
- Call on Mr Alain Geste - Vice President, National Assembly's France-Australia Friendship Group

Outcomes/findings:

I was honoured to be welcomed in the French Parliament and to have an
extensive and broad ranging discussion with the Vice President of the National
Assembly about the structure, role and various ways of participation by members
in the Parliament of France. We also discussed the logistical, security and
procedural challenges of managing the Assembly, given the size of the
membership. We also had long and fruitful discussions about our respective
countries' responses to the Global Financial Crisis.

ROME

Key meetings and events:

- Meeting with Hon. Antonio Leone, Deputy President of the Chamber of Deputies
- Tour of the Montecitorio Palace

Outcomes/findings:

I was honoured to be welcomed in the Italian Parliament and to have a broad
ranging discussion with the Deputy President of the Chamber of Deputies about
the role of participation by members in the Parliament, given the size of the
membership and also to discuss the different committee structure of both our
Parliaments, and their role in the legislative process. The Deputy President was
particularly keen to learn more about our Main Committee; he advised me that
the Italian Parliament had been exploring a similar model to better allow all
members to be involved in Parliamentary debates and to streamline the
legislative process.
Outcomes/findings continued:
As one of the more senior parliamentarians in attendance, this conference provide a
great opportunity to meet other women who have roles as presiding officers and to
gain an understanding how they achieved their role, and the challenges they face
advance in executing their important roles, as these varied very widely across
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approachable service provided to me by the staff of the Australian Embassy in
Vienna, in particular the advice and help of First Secretary Ms Wanda Oram-Miles,
whose professionalism and expertise was exemplary, and greatly appreciated.

PARIS

Key meetings and events:

• Call on Ambassador Mr David Ritchie - Australian Ambassador to
  France
• Tour of French House of Representatives
• Call on Mr Alain Gest - Vice President, National Assembly's France-
  Australia Friendship Group

Outcomes/findings:

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extensive and broad ranging discussion with the Vice President of the National
Assembly about the structure, role and various ways of participation by members
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  of Deputies
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ranging discussion with the Deputy President of the Chamber of Deputies about
the role of participation by members in the Parliament, given the size of the
membership and also to discuss the different committee structure of both our
Parliaments, and their role in the legislative process. The Deputy President was
particularly keen to learn more about our Main Committee; he advised me that
the Italian Parliament had been exploring a similar model to better allow all
members to be involved in Parliamentary debates and to streamline the
legislative process.
Conclusion

This was a very informative and rewarding study journey that will greatly assist me in my role as the Deputy Speaker and also in my duties as the Member for Chisholm. In addition, I was able to make a valuable contribution to two international conferences, and to establish a better network of parliamentary relationships, particularly from smaller countries in our region. I am grateful to the Parliament for making study assistance available to Members and Senators to assist us in improving our knowledge and understanding of issues of importance to the Parliament and our community.

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

Yours sincerely

Anna Burke MP
Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives
Federal Member for Chisholm

Encl.
Report not received at time of preparation of this document.
THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP

United Arab Emirates
28 June – 2 July 2009
Dear Minister

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

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose

The purpose of my trip to Afghanistan was to meet with members of the Australian Defence Force deployed as part of Australia’s military contribution to the UN mandated International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan (ISAF), to discuss first hand with defence personnel the situation on the ground and to observe the tasks being undertaken by our forces in Oruzgan Province.

In my capacity as Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs I wished to be informed of how the Government’s policy on Australia’s increased contribution to ISAF was being implemented by the various components of the ADF in Afghanistan as part of the international effort to assist the Afghan government establish and maintain a secure and stable environment.

The travelling party included the Leader of the Opposition, Malcolm Turnbull and Shadow Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston.

(b) Itinerary

Sunday 28 June 2009
- Departed Perth 22.30 EMIRATES EK 421

Monday 29 June 2009
- Arrived Dubai 05.45
- Departed Dubai 13.00 VVIP SPEC
- Arrived Kandahar 18.00
Tuesday 30 June 2009
- Departed Kandahar 11.00 VVIP SPEC
- Arrived Tarin Kowt 12.00
- Depart Tarin Kowt 19.00 VVIP SPEC
- Arrived Dubai 20.00
- Accommodation – Grand Hyatt Dubai

Wednesday 1 July 2009
- Depart Dubai 10.15 EMIRATES EK 424
- Arrived Perth 00.55

(ii) Key Meetings and outcomes/findings

Defence requirements and security constraints prevent the release of specific details of meetings and briefings but in summary:

Monday 29 June 2009
- Briefings by Commander Joint Task Force 633 on overall military contribution
- Tour of El Minhad Airbase.
- Briefing by Commander Force Support Unit at Kandahar
- Meeting with troops Kandahar

Tuesday 30 June 2009-07-30
- Meeting with NATO troops
- Briefing by Commander Regional Command (South)
- Briefing RAAF Control and Reporting Centre
- Briefing Rotary Wing Group
- Meeting with troops Tarin Kowt
- Briefing Commander Task Force (Oruzgan)
- Briefing and tour by Commanding Officer Mentoring Reconstruction Task Force including the Trade Training School
- Briefing and tour by Commanding Officer Special Operations Task Group
- Briefing and tour Australian Medical Treatment Facility
- Meeting with troops

(iii) Conclusion

The security situation in Afghanistan had deteriorated in recent years. However, the increased efforts of ISAF, in particular through the “surge”, the additional troop deployment from the United States as a result of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Strategic Review, should provide the necessary leadership and resources to implement an improved military strategy and nation building campaign.
The majority of local Afghans do not support the Taliban but are currently unable to defend themselves from insurgent attacks. Extremist forces coming from Pakistan and foreign fighters are taking part in cross border attacks.

The Special Operations Task Group have conducted successful operations against the Taliban leadership as part of the overall effort to disrupt Taliban insurgents. The dangerous nature of their work and the extreme conditions under which they operate cannot be underestimated.

A necessary element of establishing Afghanistan as a state capable of defending its people, its institutions and policing its territory is to build an effective national security force. Due to a combined international effort, the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police are being trained, equipped and mentored to establish the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) capable of taking responsibility for the country’s security.

Australia’s Operational Mentor and Liaison Team has been providing vital mentoring and advice to a battalion of the 4th Afghan National Army Brigade and partners with the battalion as it undertakes security operations.

Ensuring that the Afghan people succeed politically and economically will assist in the battle against extremism. The Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force (MRTF) is supporting local capacity building through major infrastructure projects, including security, health, education and other essential infrastructure.

The Trade Training School run by the MRTF is an outstanding example of supporting local communities. The four week courses are recognised by the Afghan Government and provide opportunities for skill development and employment amongst local people, particularly young men of “fighting” age.

While the Afghan Government has had a number of successes in building the ANSF and instituting programmes in health and rural development, the Taliban’s chances of success improve if the Afghan Government is weak. The national government must ensure there are honest and effective officials at provincial and local levels and ensure the delivery of basic services. To build and maintain a new democratic order, the Presidential elections in August must be secure, free and fair. Australia’s contribution of an Election Support Force of 120 personnel and additional resources will be necessary to assist ISAF and the Afghan Government during the elections.

The aim of our commitment in Afghanistan must be to defeat the Taliban and to stabilise the country to prevent it from again becoming a terrorist haven. The military objectives must be supported by civil objectives in strengthening the legitimacy of the Afghan Government through progress on the security, political, governance and economic fronts, so that the country can stand on its own.
Australia must continue to commit to the success of the international operations in Afghanistan including by reassuring the local people that we are not only committed to defeating the Taliban but also to staying the course to improve their lives. Winning the hearts and minds of the Afghan people is essential to success.

The commitment, dedication and expertise of the ADF personnel is outstanding.

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

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

JULIE BISHOP
30/7/09
HRG Australia
Parliamentary Travel Office
NG111, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Tel: 1300 769 307
Email: M&PS.au@hrgworldwide.com  Web Site: www.hrgworldwide.com
ABN: 14 074 038 828 Licence No: 32125
Licencee Name: M&PS

Galileo Booking File: KL11DE
Consultant: Nichole Hanlon
Fare Quote: 7,394.00 Inc Tax

Gemini Ref: KL11DE160609
Printed On: 19 June 2009
Ticketing required by: 19 June 2009

Itinerary for:
BISHOP/JULIEHON

Flight  Emirates EK421
Booking Class: Business Class (C)
Departs  Perth
Arives  Dubai
Special: 

Seats booked: 1
22:30  Confirmed
23/08/09  11hrs 15mins
011A
77L Boeing 777-200LR

Sunday, June 28, 2009

Flight  Emirates EK424
Booking Class: Business Class (C)
Departs  Dubai
Arives  Perth
Special: 

Seats booked: 1
10:05  Confirmed
23/08/09  11hrs 15mins
008K
Airbus A340-500

Wednesday, July 01, 2009

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

Frequent Flyer Number: DJ2104645213
Frequent Flyer Number: EK219013604
Frequent Flyer Number: QF20050749

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

Airline Reference Airline
HETVCS  Emirates

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

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

United States of America and Canada
28 June – 10 July 2009
Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig
Special Minister for State
Suite MG 64
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2660

7th August, 2009

Dear Minister,

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

(i) (a) Confirmation of Purpose:

   The purpose of the overseas study travel was as outlined in my letter of the 10th of June, 2009 namely study inclusive of all areas of shadow portfolio and matters of policy related to my general Senate responsibilities.

(b) Itinerary:

   The Itinerary is attached

(ii) Key meetings and outcomes/findings:

   Monday 29th June, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories

   My visit to the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories was truly a memorable occasion.

   The manager of Government and Community relations, Donald Medley escorted both our consul general, David Lawson and myself around the facility and provided...advancing Tasmania’s interests.
an extensive briefing. Mr Medley is shortly to take up a White House appointment as the congressional liaison for the Science and Technology sections.

He will be following the former director of Berkeley Dr. Stephen Chew, who is the new energy secretary in the Obama Administration.

Berkeley prides itself on being not only a US first but a world first research facility. It is funded by the Federal Government and managed by the University of California.

The linkages between the Laboratory and the University are strengthened by the fact that the top researchers at Berkeley are also Professors at the campus.

Like Australia there is a drought of young people taking on the sciences for academic and career choices.

This has been fought aggressively through the “Report on the gathering storm” dealing with the issue of what the US needs to do to maintain innovation leadership. Part of the report’s focus is to get young people into science.

The energy and environment issues facing both the US and the world are being used to excite interest in the sciences. It is the first real focus for young people after the space challenge and moon walk some four to five decades ago. Further, summer schools are run to encourage students and teachers to spend time with scientists for mentoring.
The mission of the Berkeley Laboratories is to “solve the most pressing and profound scientific problems facing mankind”

To fulfil its mission it provides national user facilities.

It also seeks to train the next generation of scientists. With eleven noble laureates the laboratory has an excellent and extensive proven track record. It has 4% of the membership of the academy of sciences.

Having started off as a physics laboratory it has expanded rapidly in its 70 plus years of operation to include other sciences including engineering, medical and biological pursuits. It is the birth place of nuclear medicine.

To be world leading the Laboratory has needed to have the latest facilities and technology. For example it has the most powerful ultraviolet source in the world. Facilities such as this, to mention one, attracts the top scientists from around the world. It also boasts the world’s most powerful microscope.

Berkeley Laboratories has a group of 500 scientists in the energy and built environment area dealing with issues of lighting, windows etc. It provides the research group that develops the science behind the relevant energy standards for domestic appliances. This same group is actively involved with Chinese and Indian Scientists and companies to assist them in their challenges. For example, in China they are dealing with the refrigeration and cement sectors, whilst in India memoranda of understanding have been signed with high tech companies and government agencies.
The Berkeley Laboratory employs about 4,000 scientists of whom one quarter are students be they undergraduate or doctorate. Berkeley Laboratory boasts a synchrotron similar to our's based at Monash University.

A world map showing the existence of synchrotrons around the world still showed Melbourne's as being “under construction”. Having visited our facility in recent times, I was able to advise them that a correction was required!

Besides its synchrotron it has a joint genome institute, molecular foundry, national centre for electron microscopy, energy sciences network and national energy research scientific computer centre, amongst others. It was noted that Australia is connected with the energy sciences network.

The energy and environment nodes have developed the concept of “cool roofs”; a system whereby a particular pigment is included with colouring agents which reflects 50% of the heat signature of the sunlight.

If this could be commercialised for roofing and asphalt it is considered that a substantial dent could be made in the worlds warming issues.

The Laboratories are also working on bio fuels and electric power the strong view being the world will need both.

Battery technology is still seen as inefficient for converting and storing energy.
New paradigms for photovoltaic generated energy are also seen as necessary.

Interestingly in this area artificial photosynthesis at the nano level is being pursued.

In the area of carbon sequestration it is recognised that a lot of work still needs to be done. The most expensive part being in the initial carbon capture.

As an aside and as a stimulus to collaboration and share scientific knowledge the use of the synchrotron facility is free if the results after work undertaken are published. This is deliberately done to encourage people to publish and thus share their scientific discoveries.

**Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum**

The policy group meeting of this forum was held from the 29th – 30th June 2009. I was delighted to be able to sit in on some of the discussions prior to lunch and then enjoy a detailed discussion with Australian representatives. I was provided with papers for the conference together with an excellent briefing as to how different countries from around the world are dealing with the issue of carbon sequestration. It was encouraging to see India represented albeit, it was note worthy that Brazil and China were not.

30th June, Meeting with Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association.

It is considered that each manufacturing job in the auto space has a spin off, of about five extra jobs. It is the largest employer in manufacturing in 8 states and in Ohio it is up to 15%. There are many technology development spin offs from the manufacturing sector that are often overlooked. It was acknowledged that there
was an over capacity in the components sector albeit that there are more auto
makers in the world today than there has been in previous decades.

It was interesting to be advised that the Congress legislated that the department of
transport couldn’t spend money on researching fuel efficiency. This was throughout
the Clinton years (I note in passing that Al Gore was the Vice President at the time).
This of course stopped innovation.

Discussion also centred around “cash for clunkers” type projects together with the
social benefits of the manufacturing sector where often it is seen and in fact does
become the ticket for the ride from poverty to middle class living. The view was
expressed that more money was needed for battery research for electric vehicles.
Batteries for motor vehicles are in fact not made in the USA. Hybrid technology
seems to be very much a Japanese innovation. I was provided with numerous
briefing papers that are available should they be requested.

Meetings with Kenneth Green and Samuel Thurnston from the American Enterprise
Institute

It was agreed that our discussions would be forth right, frank and open and
therefore I do not intend to detail our discussions in any great detail other than to
say that they were most stimulating and informative. Discussions were held about
some of the key theories on global warming and if the theories were to be proven
what the likely outcome would be. Discussion was also centred around the
possibility of adaptation. They were of the view that there was at this stage no cost
effective method to reduce green house gases. All had thus far failed. They were of
the view that if there was to be a price on carbon this could be best achieved
through a carbon tax. The view was expressed that the US legislation after it
emerges from the Senate would be substantially different to that which passed the House of Representatives. The view was expressed that if the BRIC countries were not to cooperate at Copenhagen then that may have a huge domestic impact on the United States in relation to a carbon pollution reduction scheme. The difficulties are that both China and India are largely immune from public opinion. It is understood that Russia is in fact arguing for 1990 levels as its starting point which would in fact allow its omissions to grow. In general the discussions centred around the science, the politics, the economics and the international situation which was most informative.

Meeting with expert staff of the Senate environment and public works committee

As I am writing this report I note that July has passed. On my visit it had been hoped that by the end of July a bill would have emerged out of the committee. It was anticipated that some of the deals in the Waxman bill would be likely to remain along with some other substantial modifications. The view was that the floor of the Senate might make the legislation less effective and would be considered in about September or October.

It is understood that the National Academy of Sciences will be looking at the efficiency of ethanol production. The renewable energy sector, that is anything from a plant has been exempt under the Waxman legislation. It would be fair to say that the agriculture sector is very suspicious of the approach of the Environment Protection Agency. The latest version of the Waxman legislation had reduced funding for research and development.

Meeting with minority Republican staff director

This was a most informative and interactive meeting where I was able to discuss with a number of senior republican staffers the current political situation in the United States and the first months of the Obama administration and share ideas.
1st July, Meeting with International Monetary Fund experts

This was a general discussion about the global financial crisis, the international monetary fund’s capacity to predict and respond to economic situations and their assessment of the Australian economy and banking system. The view was expressed that Australia had done exceptionally well in the global financial crisis because of its foundations and underlying strengths. The banking system in Australia was compared favourably to the Canadian system but the view was expressed that the Canadian system was just that slight bit better than Australia.

Meeting with Automotive Trade Policy Council

General discussion was had about the automotive sector in the USA. It was interesting to note that 30 years ago there were no Japanese or European cars of any note in the United States. Also note worthy was that General Motors currently has seven retired workers per one active worker. This is a huge legacy cost with pension and health costs spiralling out of control. General discussion was had about general automotive policy and how the markets will adjust. General Motors was the United States largest corporation and is now 60% owned by the government. The observation was made that the oil market drives the consumer demand in the United States. The United States scrap or cash for a clunker program so far funded 250,000 vehicles all be it the goal is for 1,000,000. The support offered is about three thousand to about four and half thousand dollars for motor vehicles with lower fuel efficiency. In 2007 there was a 25 billion dollar fund to develop and advance technology to upgrade specific facilities to meet higher fuel efficiency goals. It was noted this was a loan scheme of which a number of manufacturers were availing themselves. Nissan had sought 3 billion dollars to assist in battery technology and Tesla a small start up company in California producing all electric
vehicles. A general discussion was had about the impact of Chinese and Indian imports over the next 10 years. As an aside Mr Collins the President which whom I met had started postgraduate life as a staffer for Senator Ted Kennedy.

**Meeting with American Forest & Paper Association**

A general discussion was had about the economic difficulties facing the sector but also the environmental issues relating to the forestry sector. The AFPA runs very informative campaigns including table napkins which read “did you know the forestry industry plants 1.7million trees every day/more than 2 trees for each man, woman and child living in the US each year”. These sort of Forestry facts tend to have a substantial cut through and educate the public. Provision of genuine information such as this might be something worthy of consideration in Australia. I was provided with numerous briefing papers dealing with climate change principles, forest products, issues briefings, climate change fact sheets and renewable energy and the forest products industry. Most of the American forestry sector relies on plantations and private forestry.

**Meeting with the National Science Foundation and it is director Dr Arden Bement**

This was clearly one of the most exciting visits of the study tour. I was provided with a number of the foundations experts which enabled me to have a very worth while discussion. Indeed our allocated time was virtually doubled. I am greatly indebted to Dr Bement and his officials for being so generous with their time. Their task is to integrate industry with research. They are very concerned to ensure that the United States has sustainable energy, a sustainable environment and sustainable economy. I was advised that the foundation has 400 active collaborations with Australia. 20 students per year go to Australia for summer activities. The foundation has seven such international locations and Australia joined in 2003. Whilst largely federally
funded it does leverage this funding with private sector research. A lot of research is being undertaken in the environmental space and one of the exciting areas is the conversion of cellulosic material to energy. Discussion was centred around the efficacy of carbon capture and storage and the likelihood of it being commercialised by 2020. The view was also expressed that it is not good policy to centralise all scientific research. It is important to have the capacity of different institutes pursuing similar things. But of course a balance is needed. I was kindly provided with the book “Science - the endless frontier” which celebrated the 40th anniversary of the National Science Foundation. I was able to read it on the various plane trips during the trip. I am greatly indebted to the National Science Foundation for sharing their knowledge with me.

2nd July Breakfast meeting with the Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the Solar Energy Industries Association

The goal of the association is to pass a national renewable portfolio standard that is designed to encourage the growth of all forms of renewable energy including all solar applications. The Solar Energy Industries grew to new heights in 2008 and many industry observers expect that growth to continue for a number of years to come. It grew by 1,265 mega watts in 2008, total capacity is now estimated at 9,183 mega watts. I was provided with printed materials which indicate a confidence and a predicted growth in this area.

Meeting with Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

I was provided with a very interesting booklet entitled “Reinventing the automobile, cleaner, safer, sustainable mobility”. The alliance acknowledged that auto bailouts polled very badly amongst the population. The likelihood of new money after the
recent bailouts was seen as unlikely. They believe that project based funding for innovation was a sensible way forward. It is the view that battery technology per unit volume will find it difficult to compete with gasoline. People will for the foreseeable future still want an independent mode of transport. It is therefore important for both the government and the auto sector to be investing in research and development. Lithium ion batteries are being developed but there has been a problem with spontaneous combustion of the batteries and engineering research is being done concerning this issue. It was acknowledge that China and India will pose threats in the future. A price of $10 per ton of carbon will translate to a cost of about 9cents per gallon. In brief the Alliance was very mindful of government support to date and the need for the sector to become less reliant on government support and to be more responsive to community demand.

**Meeting with President of TechAmerica.**

TechAmerica was formed from a merger of Information Technology Association of America and America Electronics Association. Having one top peak body allowed for greater input into policy discussions. It was considered innovation was fundamental to the future of the economy and therefore it was imperative for all organisations to deal together. There was a concern that universities were stalling in the area of technology transfer. There was also a very strong view that there should be no tax on the internet. It was the view that it is the government’s role to undertake basic research. Venture capital was seen as helping to shorten horizons. Government is being asked to fund development of a product and the view was that tax payers shouldn’t be funding this, and government funding the “valley of death” is inappropriate as well. Angel investors were finding each other via the internet.
TechAmerica has as its slogan ‘where the future begins’ and is the association of the companies driving innovation world wide. I was provided with documentation detailing a complete state by state overview of the high technology industry sector.

**Meeting with the Vice President of International Governmental Affairs Ford Motor Company**

This was an interesting meeting to get a better understanding of one of the United States’ big car manufacturers and one of the more successful ones. Ford is capitalised to produce for 25% of the market share but is only producing for 15%.

General discussion was had about labour contracts and the union deals that had been struck in the past. Ford had prepared themselves to a certain extent and were downsizing. Because of their shared supply base it was helpful for Ford for GM to survive however, there was a recognition that the supply base needs to be restructured and there had to be a rationalisation of suppliers. The car industry is very much an international operation and Ford is now operating in 35 countries in the world. A strong future was confidently predicted for the auto sector but with a caveat that important restructuring and changes were needed to be made especially in light of the developments in China and India.

**3rd July, Meeting with the Director, Policy and External Relations at the Canadian Space Agency**

The Canadian Space Agency has been able to obtain a substantial niche market for itself with its collaborations with the Europeans. Being able to visit the space agency and have brief discussions with some of its program managers was a very rewarding experience. Its mandate is to promote the peaceful use and the development of space to advance the knowledge of space through science and to
ensure that space, science and technology provides social and economic benefits for Canadians. It has an annual budget of about 300 million dollars of which about 65% is contracted out to industry and academia. It has about 625 employees with some 150 contractors. It also is now attracting domestic and export revenues which are of some considerable assistance to their total operation.

Internationally Brazil and Chile are getting involved in the space sector and it appears Russia is bouncing back. African countries are also becoming involved such as Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya. Even a country such as Spain is having a substantial input into the space area. The United States is still clearly the biggest spender followed by Japan, France, re-emerging Russia, Italy, Germany, India, UK, Canada and Spain. The Canadian Space Agency’s strategy includes targeting the young generation to pursue an academic path in Science and Engineering.

Tour of Biotech Research Institute (NRC)

This was also a most worth while visit, being able to discuss the interaction of government funding the private sector, universities, education facilities and innovation in this important area. The NRC is the only federally funded research council in Canada and deals with basic and applied research in Engineering, Health and it also has a Legislative Policy division. The NRC was first funded in World War 1 for military purposes and was managed by a General until the 1950/60’s. Only recently has it moved to reach out through Canada. The Federal government keeps intellectual property and keeps exclusive rights. It is not for start up. It does fund joint research. It has a very flexible approach dependant on each project. It provides funding for the Biotech sector until the beginning of clinical research. The Business Development Bank then assists funding for the clinical research proto type and proof of concept. In Canada venture capital is largely international but needs to be approved. A Canadian company has to be the leader in the financing and then
gets help through international funds. I was advised there were lots of “angels” in Canada.

The lack of attraction to the sciences by the younger generation, (the generation Y) is a matter of concern and it was expressed that possibly they want everything without hard work. There was a view that it is not easy to motivate bright young people into the sciences and if you do then they were often lost to the United States. The NRC has many exchanges and there are currently 26 different nationalities represented at the NRC. It was noted that overseas students can apply for ongoing visa rights to enable them to undertake further studies. The basic mission of the NRC is to undertake basic research but also to transfer the technology and sustain development of Canadian industry. There is a repayment scheme for successful companies of government monies, but this is negotiated on a case by case basis.

6th July, Meeting with the Canadian Forest Service

A wide ranging discussion was had about forestry exchanges between Canada and Tasmania, illegally harvested timber and renewable energy. Many comparisons were to be found between Canadian Forestry and Australian Forestry in as much as native forest harvesting was a vitally important aspect given our huge forest reserves. Certification schemes and the robustness of them was also discussed. Canada is the world’s largest exporter of forestry products accounting for 11.5% of its global exports. There are 5 key sectors in the industry mainly, lumber, panels, pulp, newsprint and printing and writing papers. Over a quarter of a million Canadians obtain their direct jobs through the forest sector. Like other forest sectors the Canadian sector is facing challenges from the strong Canadian dollar, increased energy and fibre costs and the decline in the US demand due to the global financial
crisis. The government is supportive of transformative technologies including providing funding for building solutions that may allow for the building for six storey buildings made of wood. Also, the development of Bio fuels from wood waste. As an aside whilst in Montreal on the previous weekend, I took myself to the botanical gardens and found within it a huge display promoting the environmental benefits of the forestry sector and the use of forest products. This mature and sensible approach to the use of forest and forestry products in Canada was rewarding to observe.

Meeting with Deputy-Governor, Bank of Canada

The Bank of Canada is Australia’s equivalent to the Reserve Bank, A general discussion was held concerning government policies, the wisdom of certain approaches, the International Monetary Fund, the difference between the Australian and Canadian banking systems albeit, it was agreed that both were sound and robust. Canada has a bank guarantee in place which has been in place for some 40 years; it has a limit of $100,000. Discussing general economic issues in Canada I was astounded to learn that the manufacturing sector and in particular the car industry in Canada is 2 1/2 times more important to Canada’s GDP than the car industry is in the United States. 70% of Canada’s auto production is exported. Forestry is also a substantial sector of their economy. Canada seems to pursue a policy of price level targeting rather than inflation targeting, a discussion was also had about the impact on any emissions trading scheme for the medium and the long term.
Meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister, Industry Canada Department of Industry

Most of the discussion centred around the automotive sector and the Canadian Automotive Innovation Fund which dealt with Tier one suppliers and leveraging with in the industry. It was interesting to learn that Ontario is a province that is more reliant on the motor vehicle industry than the state of Michigan in the United States. The Canadian government has taken to guaranteeing the warranty of certain cars purchased after a certain date. This will be a fairly narrow period as it was seen as being important to avoid loss of consumer confidence. It was noted that the highly unionised companies in the United States and Canada are those that are struggling financially and they of course are the older ones. It was interesting to learn that components for motor vehicles cross the border between Canada and the United States six times before they are placed in a completed motor vehicle. This shows the extent of the integration between the US and Canadian auto motive sectors. Components suppliers have had their prices cut badly and an approach rather than of outsourcing may need to be considered such as nurturing. Manufacturing represents about 17% of the economy and the auto motive sector represents about 20% of that 17%. Ontario is highly reliant on the car industry. The government is moving away from grants to repayable loans so that the government is seen as a partner and the repayments are required to be made with interest. The old style industry subsidies are now gone. Grants for research and development pre commercial are funded and supported but in the event that something becomes commercially viable the tax payer is refunded. There was a concern that whilst Canada is in science investment terms through universities only behind Sweden there is not enough investment being placed in commercialisation. A most generous tax system has been developed which allows for refunding or cash back for your
research and development even if no profit is made. There is a National Development Bank, a Business Development Bank of Canada and it has a direct investment into companies and funds them with a commercial mandate. This is seen as being relatively successful. I was provided with documentation dealing with mobilising science and technology in Canada which was the new government’s policy in 2007 together with a progress report of 2009.

Meeting with the Canadian Council of Chief Executives

The Council of Chief Executives is similar to the Business Council of Australia. The Canadian Council of Chief Executives claim that the Business Council of Australia was largely based on their model. A number of issues were discussed including renewable energy targets, forestry, industry welfare and stimulus packages and emissions trading schemes. A frank discussion occurred about our government’s policies and approaches which were most informative.

Meeting with the President of the Forest Product Association of Canada

There is a lot of support for the forest industry in Canada including because of the employment opportunity that it provides. If downstream processing and the spin off were to be taken into account it would be well over 1 million jobs. There is the debate within Canada of what an “intelligent” country is doing pursuing a timber industry. However, it was considered that as we manage carbon the issue of wood products would become very important given their carbon sequestration capacity and of course their carbon neutral footprint as opposed to plastics, concrete, etc. The view the forest sector is promoting is that the closer you are to nature the better and therefore natural forest harvesting is in fact a very good way to live in harmony with our environment. To be a member of the Forest Products Association
of Canada one needs to have one's product certified. One of the issues that the
Canadian Forest sector is dealing with is that the provinces own the forests and
therefore there is a tendency for governments to provide a saw mill in every town.
It maybe a good social policy but it does not necessarily work in a global market
context. In Canada plantations account for a very small amount of the harvest, 91%
of the original forest cover remains in Canada. Forest fires and catastrophic fires
were discussed. Like Australia catastrophic fires are needed for regeneration. It was
thought that the South American plantations will be diverted for bio fuels in the
future. Agricultural land will be needed for protein and for bio fuels and therefore
those areas that are of less agricultural value will be sought after for timber
products.

Meeting with associate Deputy Minister Environment Canada

A number of issues were discussed including emissions trading. Canada is revisiting
its approach to an emissions trading scheme on the basis of the developments in the
United States and the current economic situation. A lot of analysis and consultation
is taking place to determine Canada's fully elaborated approach for Copenhagen.
Canada is hugely exposed to the United States and therefore they do need to look to
the US as well as globally in determining their emissions trading scheme to ensure
the protection of Canadian industry. Carbon capture and storage is seen as being a
vitally important issue and there is a trial in Saskatchewan. One billion dollars has
been allocated to research carbon capture and storage. The province of Alberta has
also invested heavily as it is a high producer of coal, oil and natural gas. All phases of
carbon capture and storage need to work and be commercially viable and again the
theme was that the actual capture of it would be the most expensive and difficult
task. Nevertheless, it was seen as an important bridge to a lower carbon economy.
Meeting with Bob Delaney, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister for Research and Innovation

A general discussion was had in relation to the encouragement of research and innovation and the role that government can play along with the private sector. Ontario has co-investment programs dealing with the next generation of jobs namely innovative jobs. Ontario has an innovation agenda which was released in 2008 and it aims to achieve a sustainable level of prosperity and healthy communities in Ontario ones that provide high quality jobs and better lives. Ontario is looking at exploiting and seizing global opportunities in a range of areas including health technologies. Ontario’s biopharmaceutical cluster is a case in point where the Ontario government is focusing government investments on research and industries. Where Ontario has a global competitive advantage such as biopharmaceuticals it is streamlining and modernizing government programs and processes to move faster/at the speed of business. It seeks to partner with business to better communicate Ontario’s research strengths and innovation success stories to the world. The agenda is underpinned by funding commitment of nearly 3 billion dollars over 8 years. I was provided with interesting and informative documentation as to how Ontario is achieving its agenda.

Meeting with Canadian Bankers Association

This is the private sector banks organisation. Canada has six big banks but has 50 banks all up. Canada often looks to Australia for benchmarks because of the parallels. With small business lending it was noted that the Bank of Canada cut interest rates by 425 basis points of which 400 had been passed on to consumers and the small business sector. This was because the market cost of getting money is not necessary reflected in the Canada Bank rate. Also a margin needs to be placed
for risk. The Canadian government has a business credit availability program where
the government has put in place the Business Development Bank and the Export
Development Bank of Canada. In recent times they have received more funds and
instructed to work with banks to make more credit available. The Canadian deposits
insurance corporation insures deposits up to 100,000 dollars. This happens
automatically and banks pay the premium. It covers federal deposit taking
institutions. Business as usual meant a lot of confidence. Their deposit insurance
had been around since the 1960’s and given that Canada didn’t change its policy
during the financial crisis this was seen as a huge vote of confidence. Credit unions
and other organisations have there own insurance schemes. All are on basically
equal footing albeit at different levels. Discussion also surrounded around a
parliamentary budget office and the automotive sector.

Meeting with Steve McIntyre

My meeting with Steve McIntyre would have been one of the most interesting
meetings of the trip. Mr McIntyre is the person who exposed the IPCC hockey stick
graph on global warming as being intellectually unsustainable. Mr McIntyre’s
background is substantial and his mathematical and statical analysis very robust. His
website receives a huge number of hits and his appearance before Congressional
committees has put under huge question the approach of Dr Michael Mann. It is
interesting Mr McIntyre did not seek to involve himself in the discussion of global
warming. His only concern was the misrepresentations that had occurred with the
IPCC’s hockey stick graph which he is now of the view of being thoroughly exposed.
He was concerned that there was no due diligence approach to Mann’s study
amongst other things. In asking for the raw data so that he could rework the figures
he was confronted with obfuscation and stone walling which was beyond belief. The
response to Mr McIntyre was that Mann claimed that the wrong data set had been used but in fact the data set that was used by Mr McIntyre was that which was downloaded from Mann’s website. Whilst not pretending to fully understand the dispute it is quite clear that a lot of the assertions made in relation to the IPCC hockey stick graph are at best questionable. Anybody interested should visit Mr McIntyre’s website.

Tour of the MaRS Discovery District

The MaRS Discovery District is part of the approach to innovation which is so evident in Ontario. Once again many handouts were provided. The vision is to drive social and economic prosperity by leading Canada’s innovation mission. They aim to help to create successful global business from Canada’s science and technology. Their values are optimism, entrepreneurialism, excellence, science, independence, collaboration, community together with a Canadian identity. The MaRS Discovery District is located in a precinct, where there is a cluster of university, teaching hospitals, industry and cultured sectors. It started as a private project with private citizens committed to making Ontario more productive. An example of great citizenry, 12 people putting in 1 million dollars each. This helped start up companies in an incubator setting of about 30 at any given time. It includes patent lawyers and venture capital suppliers and banks. The district and discovery centre is designed to connect people. Their next phase of development which is under construction is being funded by a Californian company which wishes to build laboratories on a commercial basis. MaRS attracts 100,000 people per annum through their collaborative centre which creates a “buzz” but also importantly revenue. It is now a public private partnership with both prudential and federal support.
Meeting with the President of the Canadian Vehicle Manufactures' Association

The challenges for the Auto sector were discussed including climate change, carbon price, the entry of China and India into the market as well as the global financial situation. Like Australia Hyundai has been enjoying increased sales in both Canada and the United States, Hyundai faces a 6.1% tariff in Canada. A lot of the auto manufacturing sector included the truck market which collapsed virtually overnight. This represented 40% of revenue for some companies. When the banks responded with a credit crunch, things became very difficult and the problems moved over into the car sector. As home equity which previously had been used to buy cars and trucks was no longer possible the car manufacturing sector had huge difficulties. Too many dealers were serving the same market and were undercutting each other. Under existing franchise laws it is not very easy for manufacturers to undo their contacts with dealers. Things such 0% finance agreements and union contracts where unions workers were paid 95% their wages while sitting around also made things difficult. The Japanese government provided a 0% financing of 2billion dollars for Toyota for auto financing in the United States. On reflection it appears many auto makers in an effort to avoid strikes made deals they probably should not have entered into. Unions are now recognising the importance of restructuring.

Unionised plants have high quality products and substantial productivity benefits. Canadian policy in the auto sector has to be in lockstep with the US government because of the cross border issues. It is assumed the production in the future will be about 2million units per annum where as previously it was 3 million per annum. The United States is down from 4million from a high of about 16 – 17 million. It is assumed that it will take over a decade to get back to previous levels. The multiplier
effect for a motor vehicle job is seven to one. I was provided with substantial documentation supporting the case for investing in Canada’s auto sector.

Meeting with the President of the Automotive Part Manufacturers Association

The auto motive sector does go through cycles albeit this one is the worst that has been experienced. The sector is no longer as nimble as it used to be and it is important for the government to share the risk of innovation. Dispute the difficulties the auto industry is growing world wide and other countries are supporting their auto industry. There is no one solution for the world but there is a need for auto technologies. Auto21 is a network centre of excellence for automotive research which has been established. This is designed to manage auto research and link up companies with professors and researchers. There is the matching of funds between government and companies. Auto21 has been funded federally. There is also the auto innovation fund. There is not surprisingly a strong emphasis on advanced manufacturing being part of Canada’s future.

8th July Forestry tour courtesy of Forestry Innovation Investment Limited

There are many similarities of British Columbia’s forestry sector with the Tasmanian sector. Many of the issues that have arisen in Australia have also arisen in British Columbia- from a government regulation point of view, environmental groups, and the heavy reliance on old growth or virgin forest logging. The integration of the forest sector is important but its reliance on the US markets seems to be the vital ingredient. There are cross border issues in relation to the value/cost that is then embedded in the timber product given that a royalty is paid to the province as opposed to the cost of growing the tree in a plantation such as in the United States. I
was able to observe forest harvesting the placement of roads and saw mill and pole manufacturer and the fascinating holding bay of logs on the water with little tug boat machinery moving the logs in the water.

I express my genuine and sincere appreciation to DFAT and its officers for their assistance. We are well served by them.

Yours sincerely

Eric Abetz

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate

Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

Liberal Senator for Tasmania
ITINERARY
As at 26/06/09

Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate
Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry,
Science & Research
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

United States of America
Canada

28 June 2009 – 10 July 2009
Sunday 28th June
Hobart – Sydney – Los Angeles - San Francisco

San Francisco, USA
Time Zone: PDT
GMT: -8 hours (currently -7 hours due to Daylight Savings)
17 hours behind Hobart

07:15  Mrs Abetz to take Senator to the Hobart Airport

08:50  Depart Hobart Airport
Virgin Blue (DJ1531), Premium Economy
Flight time 1hr 55mins

10:45  Arrive Sydney Airport, Terminal 2
Collect luggage
Make way to International Terminal
ALLOW TIME FOR CUSTOMS ETC

13:20  Depart Sydney International Airport, Terminal 1
Qantas Airways (QF11), Premium Economy – Upgraded to Business Class
Seat 013A
Flight time 13hrs 25mins

09:45  Arrive Los Angeles, Terminal B
?Collect luggage
Make way to Terminal 7
ALLOW TIME FOR CUSTOMS ETC

12:10  Depart Los Angeles Airport, Terminal 7
United Airlines (UA808), Economy
Seat 015A
Flight time 1hr 20 mins

13:30  Arrive San Francisco Airport, Terminal 3

13:45  SHUTTLE
PseudoTour Vendor
Depart San Francisco Airport to Larkspur Hotel
Confirmation Number 963100
ACCOMMODATION (28 June)
Larkspur Hotel Union Square
524 Sutter Street, San Francisco CA US
Phone (415) 421 2865
Fax (415) 398 6345
Confirmation Number: 963100
*Breakfast included.

**US Embassy has advised no appointments are possible over the weekend.
Monday 29th June
San Francisco

San Francisco, USA
Time Zone: PDT
GMT: -8 hours (currently -7 hours due to Daylight Savings)
17 hours behind Hobart

Contact for San Francisco Program
Consul General David Lawson
Phone: 1 (415) 536 1970
Address: 575 Market Place, Suite 1800, San Francisco

08:30 David Lawson (Consul-General) will pick Senator up from hotel and accompany to first appointment

09:30 Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories accompanied by Consul-General.
(Further details TBA)

Time TBC Transport/Taxi to next appointment

13:00-14:30 Group Business Luncheon – Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum accompanied by Consul-General.
Location: Hilton San Francisco
(Further details TBA)

14:30 Consul-General to take Senator to San Francisco Airport

16:24 Depart San Francisco Airport, Terminal 3
United Airlines (UA220) Economy
Seat 023F
Flight time 5hrs 14mins

ACCOMMODATION (29, 30 June, 1 July)
The Madison Hotel (A Loews Hotel)
1177 15th Street NW
Washington DC 20005
Phone (202) 862 1600
Fax (202) 785 1255
Confirmation Number: 963100
*Breakfast NOT included.
Tuesday 30th June
Washington DC

Washington DC, USA
Time Zone: PDT
GMT: -8 hours (currently -7 hours due to Daylight Savings)
17 hours behind Hobart

00:38 Arrive Washington Dulles Intl Airport

01:00 SHUTTLE
PseudoTour Vendor
Depart Washington IAD Airport to The Madison Hotel
Confirmation Number: 963100

ACCOMMODATION (29, 30 June, 1 July)
The Madison Hotel (A Loews Hotel)
1177 15th Street NW
Washington DC 20005
Phone (202) 862 1600
Fax (202) 785 1255
Confirmation Number: 963100
*Breakfast NOT included.

10:30 Meeting with Mr Jonathan Kolieb to review program.
Location: >>>> Hotel Lobby.

10:45 Depart hotel for 1225 New York Ave NW.
Car: DXZ-1272 Volvo XC70, 2007, Silver
Driver: Richard Nolte

11:00 –
11:45 Meeting with Ms Ann Wilson
Senior Vice-President for Government Affairs,
Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association
Location: 1225 New York Ave NW, Suite 300
Contact: Ann Wilson - (202) 413 9246.

12:00 –
13:45 Private arrangements
14:00 – 14:35  Meeting with **Mr Kenneth Green**
Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute
(US Energy and Climate Policy)
Location: 11th Floor, 1150 17th St NW
Contact: Abby Haddad (202) 862 7165

14:40 – 15:20  Meeting with **Mr Samuel Thernstrom**
Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute
(Codirector, AEI Geoengineering Project, Climate change policy)
Location: 11th Floor, 1150 17th St NW
Contact: Abby Haddad (202) 862 7165

16:00 – 16:50  Meeting with **Expert Staff of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee**
including:
**Joe Goffman**, Senior Counsel for climate change
**Eric Thu**, Professional staff member for climate
Location: Room 410, Dirksen Senate Office Building
Contact: Paul Ordal (202) 224 8832
Joshua Meltzer (Counsellor-Trade) to accompany

17:15 – 18:00  Meeting with **Mr Larry Lavender**
Minority (Republican) Staff Director,
House Financial Services Committee
Location: B301c Rayburn House Office Building
Contact: Larry Lavender (202) 225 7502

**Evening**
Private arrangements

**ACCOMMODATION (29, 30 June, 1 July)**
The Madison Hotel (A Loews Hotel)
1177 15th Street NW
Washington DC 20005
Phone (202) 862 1600
Fax (202) 785 1255
*Confirmation Number: 963100*
*Breakfast NOT included.*
Wednesday 1st July
Washington DC

Washington DC, USA
Time Zone: PDT
GMT: -8 hours (currently -7 hours due to Daylight Savings)
17 hours behind Hobart

08:40
Met in hotel lobby by Kellie Olsen (Treasury) and Jonathan Kolieb.
Depart >>>> hotel for International Monetary Fund.
Location: 700 19th Street NW

09:00 – 10:00
Meeting with International Monetary Fund experts
Michaela Schrader
Isabelle Mateos Y Lago, Advisor Strategy, Policy and Review Department
Marco E. Terrones, Deputy Division Chief, Research Department
Ray Brooks Division Chief,
Ben Hunt Deputy Division Chief, Asia and Pacific Department
Location: 700 19th Street NW
Contact: Kellie Olsen - (202) 641 3774

12:00 – 13:30
Lunch meeting with Mr Stephen Collins
President, Automotive Trade Policy Council
Location: Old Ebbitt Grill - 675 15th St NW
(202) 347-4800
Contact: Stephen Collins – (202) 789 0030

14:00 – 15:00
Meeting with leadership of the American Forest and Paper Association:
Ms Donna Harman – President and CEO
Bob Głowinski – Vice President, Forestry & Wood Products
Chip Murray – Director, Forest Resources Sector
Jake Handelsman – Senior Director, International Trade
Anne Divjak – Director, Government Affairs (cont...)
Location: 1111 19th Street NW, Suite 800
Contact: Sybil Laird, E.A. to President – (202) 463 5169

15:30
Depart for National Science Foundation

16:00 –

16:45
Meeting with Dr Arden Bement
Director, National Science Foundation
Location: 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230
Contact: Kay Rison, Assistant to the Director
Tel: (703) 292 8000

Evening
Private arrangements

ACCOMMODATION (29, 30 June, 1 July)
The Madison Hotel (A Loews Hotel)
1177 15th Street NW
Washington DC 20005
Phone (202) 862 1600
Fax (202) 785 1255
Confirmation Number: 963100
*Breakfast NOT included.
Thursday 2\textsuperscript{nd} July  
Washington DC - Montreal

Washington DC, USA  
Time Zone: PDT  
GMT: -8 hours (currently -7 hours due to Daylight Savings)  
17 hours behind Hobart

08:00--  
09:15  
Breakfast meeting with:  
- Mr John Stanton  
Executive Vice-President and General Counsel, Solar  
Energy Industries Association  
- Mr Matt Horowitz  
Manager of Government Affairs,  
Solar Energy Industries Association  
Jonathan Kolieb to accompany  
Location: Poste Restaurant, Hotel Monaco  
700 F Street NW  
Contact: John Stanton – (202) 682 0556 ext 2870

09:30 –  
10:30  
Meeting with Mr Shane Karr  
Vice-President, Government and International Relations,  
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers  
Location: 1401 I Street NW, Suite 900  
Contact: Sandra Faccioli (Asst.) - (202) 326 5517

11:00 –  
11:45  
Meeting with Mr Phillip Bond  
President, TechAmerica  
(formed from merger of Information Technology Association of America and American Electronics Association)  
Location: 601 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,  
North Building Suite 600  
\textbf{NOTE: Entry is on Indiana Avenue - between 6th and 7th Streets.}  
Contact: Denise Robanos (Asst.) – (202) 682 7441

12:00 –  
13:45  
Private arrangements
14:00 -
14:30 Meeting with Mr Stephen Beigun
Vice-President of International Governmental Affairs,
Ford Motor Company
Location: 1350 I Street NW, Suite 450
Contact: Holly Fort (202) 962 5374

14:45 Depart for Washington Dulles Airport

16:58 Depart Washington Dulles Intl Airport
United Airlines (UA7870) Economy
Seat 005F
Flight time 1hr 42mins

18:40 Arrive Pierre Elliott Trudeau Intl Airport Montreal
ALLOW TIME FOR CUSTOMS ETC

TAXI Airport to Hotel

ACCOMMODATION (2, 3, 4 July)
Delta Centre-Ville Hotel
777 University Street
Montreal, Quebec H3C
Phone (514) 879 1370
Fax (514) 879 1831
Confirmation Number: 969575
*Breakfast NOT included.
Montreal, Canada  
**Time Zone:** EDT  
**GMT:** -5 hours (currently -4 hours due to Daylight Saving)  
14 hours behind Hobart

09:45  Taxi from hotel to Canadian Space Agency

10:30-11:30  Mr Hugues Gilbert, Director, Policy & External Relations, Canadian Space Agency  
Location: 6767 route de l'Aeroport, St-Hubert  
Contact: +1 (450) 926 4304

11:30  Taxi from Space Agency to Hotel

13:15  Mr Louis Bron (Austrade District Manager, Quebec) will meet Senator at hotel and transport to Biotech tour  
(Louis Bron contact: (450) 448 5176 / mobile: 514 290 9773)

14:00-15:30  Tour of Biotech Research Institute  
Location: 6100 Royalmount Avenue, Montreal  
Contact: Marie-Odile Martin +1 (514) 496 6374

15:30  Depart Biotech Institute for hotel

**ACCOMMODATION (2, 3, 4 July)**  
Delta Centre-Ville Hotel  
777 University Street  
Montreal, Quebec H3C  
Phone (514) 879 1370  
Fax (514) 879 1831  
Confirmation Number: 969575  
*Breakfast NOT included.*
Montreal, Canada
Time Zone: EDT
GMT: -5 hours (currently -4 hours due to Daylight Saving)
14 hours behind Hobart

All Day Private Arrangements

ACCOMMODATION (2, 3, 4 July)
Delta Centre-Ville Hotel
777 University Street
Montreal, Quebec H3C
Phone (514) 879 1370
Fax (514) 879 1831
Confirmation Number: 969575
*Breakfast NOT included.
Sunday 5th July
Montreal - Ottawa

Montreal, Canada
Time Zone: EDT
GMT: -5 hours (currently -4 hours due to Daylight Saving)
14 hours behind Hobart

Ottawa, Canada
Time Zone: EDT
GMT: -5 hours (currently -4 hours due to Daylight Saving)
14 hours behind Hobart

All Day Private arrangements

Time TBC Taxi Hotel to Airport

17:45 Depart Pierre Elliott Trudeau Intl Airport
Air Canada (AC8979) Economy
Seat 005F
Flight time 0hrs 39mins

18:24 Arrive Ottawa

Time TBC Taxi Airport to Hotel

ACCOMMODATION (5 July)
The Westin Ottawa
11 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa ON K1N 9H4
Phone (613) 560 7000
Fax (613) 234 5396
Confirmation Number: 963100
*Breakfast NOT included.
Monday 6th July
Ottawa - Toronto

Ottawa, Canada
Time Zone: EDT
GMT: -5 hours (currently -4 hours due to Daylight Saving)
14 hours behind Hobart

08:20 Met at hotel by Melissa Fransen (Australian High Commission) for transport to 580 Booth St.

08:50-09:45 Canadian Forest Service – Industry & Trade Division
Bob Jones, Director, Industry & Trade Division
Peter Besseau, Director, International Affairs Division
David Tuck, Communications Manager, Public Affairs & Portfolio Management
Location: 580 Booth St (Room 7-A-1), Ottawa
Contact: Deviah Aiama +1 (613) 943 1633

09:45-10:00 Mr Tom Rosser, Director General, Canadian Forest Service
Location: 580 Booth St (Room 7-C7-3), Ottawa
Contact: Deviah Aiama +1 (613) 943 1633

10:15 Depart for Bank of Canada

10:30-11:15 Mr John Murray, Deputy Governor, Bank of Canada
Location: 234 Wellington Street, Ottawa
Contact: +1 (613) 782 8111

11:15 Depart for Industry Canada

11:30-12:00 Mr Robert Dunlop, Assistant Deputy Minister, Industry Canada (Department of Industry)
Location: 235 Queen Street, Ottawa
Contact: Elaine +1 (613) 947 3023

12:00-13:30 Free/Depart for Canadian Council of Chief Executives
13:30-14:30  Mr David Stewart-Patterson, Executive VP, and Mr John Dillon, VP, Regulatory Affairs – Canadian Council of Chief Executives  
Location: 99 Bank Street (Suite 1001), Ottawa  
Contact: Monique Raymond-Dube +1 (613) 238 3727

14:40  Depart for Forest Products Association

14:45-15:30  Mr Avrim Lazar, President/CEO of Forest Products Association of Canada  
Location: 99 Bank Street (Suite 410), Ottawa  
Contact: Nicole LeBoeuf +1 (613) 563 1441

15:35  Depart for Environment Canada

16:00-16:45  Mr Mike Beale, Associate Deputy Minister, Environment Canada (Department of the Environment)  
Location: 351 St Joseph Boulevard, Gatineau  
Contact: Anisa +1 (819) 956 9290

16:45  Depart for Westin (collect luggage if necessary)  
Depart for Airport

20:00  Depart Ottawa (AC467)

21:00  Arrive Lester B Pearson Intl Airport Toronto

Taxi Airport to Hotel

**ACCOMMODATION (6 July)**

Bond Place Hotel  
65 Dundas Street East  
Toronto, Ontario M5B 2G8  
Phone (416) 362 6061  
Fax (416) 360 6406  
Confirmation Number: 96411  
*Breakfast NOT included.*
Tuesday 7th July
Toronto - Vancouver

Toronto, Canada
Time Zone: EDT
GMT: -5 hours (currently -4 hours due to Daylight Saving)
14 hours behind Hobart

08:30 – 17:30
TRANSPORT
Graystone Limo with driver (accepts Visa & Mastercard)
Total cost: CA$648 (AU$697.91), broken down as follows:
9 hours (0830 to 1730) @ $60
5 per cent GST
Gratuity (15 per cent)
Booking number: 3397079
Contact: (416) 410 7305

Check out and bring luggage
08:30
Travel to Ministry of Research & Innovation

09:00
Mr Bob Delaney MPP, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister for Research & Innovation
Mr Tony Rockingham, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry for Research & Innovation
Location: 56 Wellesley St West, 7th Floor, Toronto
Contact: none given

09:45
Depart for Canadian Bankers' Association

1000 – 1100
Ms Nancy Hughes-Anthony, President and CEO of the Canadian Bankers' Association
Location: 199 Bay St (Commerce Court), 30th Floor, Toronto
Contact: Kim +1 (416) 362 6092

11:00
Depart for 130 Adelaide St West

11:15 – 12:00
Mr Steve McIntyre
Location: 130 Adelaide St West, 27th Floor, Suite 2700, Toronto
Contact: stephen.mcintyre@utoronto.ca
(awaiting phone number via email)

12:15 – 13:30
Free/with Mr McIntyre/Depart for 101 College Street
13:30 –
14:30 Tour of MaRS Discovery District
   Location: 101 College Street, Suite 100, Toronto
   Contact: Kevin Downing +1 (416) 673 8143

14:30 Depart for Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers’ Association

15:00 –
15:40 Mr Mark Tantais, President of the Canadian Vehicle
       Manufacturers’ Association
       Location: 170 Attwell Drive, Toronto
       Contact: Barbara Browne +1 (416) 364 9333

15:40 Depart for Automotive Parts Manufacturer’s Association

1600 –
1630 Mr Gerald Fedchun, President of the Automotive Parts
       Manufacturers’ Association
       Location: 10 Four Seasons Place, Suite 801, Toronto
       Contact: Janet Soutar +1 (416) 620 4220

16:30 Depart for Pearson International

20:00 Depart Lester B Pearson Airport Toronto, Terminal 1
       Air Canada (AC1169) Economy
       Seat 012F
       Flight time 5hrs 02mins

22:02 Arrive Vancouver, Terminal M
       Taxi Airport to Hotel

ACCOMMODATION (7 July)
Ramada Ltd Vancouver Downtown
435 W Pender Street
Vancouver BC V6B 1V2
Phone (604) 488 1088
Fax (604) 488 1090
Confirmation Number: 963100
*Breakfast included.
Wednesday 8th July
Vancouver – San Francisco

Vancouver, Canada
Time Zone: PDT
GMT: -8 hours (currently -7 hours due to Daylight Savings)
17 hours behind Hobart

Time TBC  TRANSPORT – not yet determined as awaiting further details from HC.

Site tour being organised by Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.
More details to follow. (JK or BS will advise)

Time TBC  TRANSPORT/Taxi to Airport

17:25  Depart Vancouver, Terminal M
United Airlines (UA787) Economy
Seat 019F
Flight time 2hrs 26mins

19:51  Arrive San Francisco, Terminal 3

ALLOW TIME FOR CUSTOMS ETC

22:40  Depart San Francisco Airport International Terminal
Qantas Airways (QF74) Premium Economy
Seat 024A
Flight time 14hrs 40mins
Thursday 9th July
Travelling

(Miss this day due to travel and crossing dateline).
Friday 10th July
Sydney – Hobart

06:20  Arrive Sydney International Airport, Terminal 1
       Collect luggage
       ALLOW TIME FOR CUSTOMS ETC
       Make way to Domestic Airport
       Check luggage for Virgin Blue flight

08:35  Depart Sydney Domestic Airport
       Virgin Blue (DJ634) Premium Economy
       Flight time 0hrs 55mins

09:30  Arrive Canberra Airport

10:00  Depart Canberra Airport
       Virgin Blue (DJ1201) Premium Economy
       Flight time 1hr 30mins

11:30  Arrive Hobart Airport

11:30  Mrs Abetz to pickup Senator from Hobart Airport
THE HON FRAN BAILEY MP

Portugal, Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom and Singapore
30 June – 5 August 2009
Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig
Special Minister of State
GPO Box 2477
Brisbane Qld 4001

Report on Overseas Study Tour July 2009

Following the Black Saturday bushfires on 7th February with the loss of life of 173 people with all but 4 of these people my constituents, the loss of approximately 2000 homes, hundreds of businesses and the destruction of the natural environment and the animals who inhabited that environment, there was not just a spontaneous outpouring of generosity by Australians but also an almost universal proclamation that this was the worst disaster in Australia's history and that this level of disaster must never be allowed to happen again.

The harsh reality however is that if we continue to manage risk in relation to bushfire in the same way in which we currently do, with particular regard to the lack of national fuel reduction programs by both state governments and local government authorities and the failure of our emergency services like the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria and the NSW Rural Fire Service to incorporate early fire detection technologies, the sad reality is that other disasters of this magnitude will occur.

For these reasons, I chose to travel overseas and investigate 3 main areas of study:-
(1) Fuel Reduction
(2) Early detection of smoke
(3) Dynamic method of fire weather forecasting using the latest generation of super computers.

I began my study leave in Portugal because Portugal had suffered similar bushfires to Victoria in 2003 and 2007 with the death of 19 of their citizens and hundreds of thousands of hectares burnt with severe loss of property and devastation of the natural environment.

I received detailed briefing on their Geofogo Project, their main response to their bushfires. This is a combined project that incorporates the use of the latest computer technology and satellite technology provided by the EU where information is regularly updated and disseminated by electronic means to communities detailing the level of threat. It is interesting to note that while there is still debate in Victoria about the Stay or Go policy, Portuguese people are well informed and there appeared to be general acceptance that people must leave if a threat was broadcast as extremely dangerous. There was an awareness by communities that they must listen to both their radio and TV stations for current information. All levels of Government stressed the importance of communications.
In Victoria, particularly at many local government levels, fuel loads have been allowed to build up to dangerous levels. By way of example, scientific experts like David Packham, senior scientist with the CSIRO for 19 years, maintains that the fuel load in the Yarra Valley should not exceed 4 tonnes per acre but currently that fuel load is 40 tonnes per acre. This has been allowed to build up to this level because of deliberate policies implemented at the local level which prevent people clearing around their homes and prevent any fallen trees or branches being removed from roadsides. In fact, there currently exists "fire access routes" that have been declared conservation zones and have been blocked to any access by vehicles.

I was therefore eager to be taken throughout the forested areas of Sintra, in Portugal a World Heritage-listed area by the region's fire chief to examine first hand their rigorous fuel reduction program. At the time of my visit, it was high summer so all fuel reduction was being implemented by hand by thousands of volunteers and by equipment deep in the heart of the forested areas. Prescribed burning is also used to reduce fuel but obviously not in summer.

All of the roads throughout the forest in this World Heritage-listed area are cleared of undergrowth to a minimum of 10 metres on either side of the road and in some cases a distance of 30 metres. Following their bushfires, as the fire chief explained to me, they realised that even with the latest fire fighting equipment, they could not suppress wildfire. They realised that they needed to implement an ongoing fuel reduction program if they were to have a chance of controlling bushfires. They therefore introduced a national volunteer program where thousands of volunteers manually clear the undergrowth. I witnessed Scouting groups, members of garden clubs and everyday citizens working in the forest. It was interesting to note that machinery followed their efforts and collected the material, mulched it, compacted it, converting it into briquette like blocks that could be sold as winter fuel with the financial proceeds returned to assist in management of the forests.

This was a simple program but very effective and was underpinned by a realisation that unless the fuel load was constantly monitored, it posed a threat to human life and was simply bad environmental management. Throughout all of the previously fire affected regions, fire chiefs and local government authorities used a combination of GeoFogo and rigorous fuel reduction and ensured an adequate budget to maintain these programs. As one fire chief said to me, "We learned our lesson. Human life is what matters."

Portugal developed a public awareness campaign for forest fire prevention under the slogan, "Portugal without forest fires depends on all of us"

This program consisted of 5 main strategies:-
1. National Awareness Campaign in the media warning of risky behaviour (arson)
2. Information sessions to target groups in co-operation with forest owners and farming organisations
3. Forest education through information sessions and activities in schools
4. "Tree Parade 2007", a national contest for schools
5. "Florestarte", an exhibition held in several major cities depicting thousands of posters with information about the importance of forest conservation.
It is also interesting to note, and in stark contrast to what happens in Victoria, that Portugal and other European countries introduced legislation to ensure vegetation clearance around houses and roadsides with penalties able to be imposed on the local authorities who failed to comply with the new laws.

In addition to these practices, Portugal has embraced an integrated system for forest and large area surveillance called Ciclope. At this stage, 37 surveillance towers and 11 control centres have been constructed. This is one of a number of automatic fire detection systems and this system relies on both infrared cameras and visible cameras.

Portugal has realised that if every precaution is to be taken to protect the lives of its citizens, it must embrace active and efficient fuel reduction programs as well as utilising the latest technology to minimise risk. It is interesting to note that Portugal reacted in this proactive manner following their 2003 and 2007 bushfires that while tragic were nowhere as severe as the Victorian Black Saturday fires.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) located in Brussels together with the Hadley Centre in the UK is at the forefront of dynamic weather forecasting using the super computers. This has all but replaced the historical, statistical method of weather forecasting. While Australia has only limited capacity in the use of the super computer, the WMO has now advanced and is using the super, super computer or the next generation of the super computer.

I was privileged to be able to spend far more than my original allocated time with the head of the WMO and to gain a better understanding of the importance of “ensemble forecasting” while it was outside the reasons for my appointments, climate change in terms of increasing chaotic weather patterns formed an important aspect of my discussions. The super computers using millions of mathematical computations have the ability with ensemble forecasting to essentially predict the most likely scenario given a set or range of conditions. This ability together with the more traditional identification of, eg, air pressure, humidity and wind speed as well as direction enable these weather forecasters to be far more accurate in predicting potential disasters.

It was interesting to note that at each appointment, whether it was with the chief meteorologist, the head of the European Space agency or the head of the European Department of the Environment, that each person was extremely well informed about the events of Black Saturday and was interested to know how my communities were recovering. On many occasions it really did feel as though we are all part of the one global village.

An added benefit was being briefed by Mr. Guido Schmuck, head of the Joint Research Centre of the Institute for Environment and Sustainability at the European Commission and Mr. Ernst Schulte of the Directorate – General Environment

The European Commission is currently examining in depth the issue of forest fires and forest protection. The EC of course has limited influence on forest management of a member state but has been providing funding to some member states by way of subsidising early fire detection equipment.
The Joint Research Centre maintains a close watching brief across its member states, particularly those with a history of multiple fires, namely the southern European member states. I was advised that a total of 575,531 hectares were burnt in the five southern member states in 2007 which is above average for the last 28 years. However, approx. 27% of these fires occurred in Italy and Greece and accounted for 79% of the area burnt in these five member states.

However, over the past 8 years, there has been a stabilising of fire in these member states and a decrease in some areas. This, I was told is as a result of improvements in fire prevention and fire suppression techniques as well as public information campaigns conducted throughout the region. It is worth noting that while Portugal suffered a drought throughout this period and meteorological forecasts predicted increased risk of bushfire, in fact since Portugal has introduced its fuel reduction regime and embraced early warning technology, there has been a decrease in the amount of land burned, 14% of the average of land burned over the past 5 years.

It is also interesting to note that in Portugal, eucalyptus globulus and pinus pineaster stands were the forest cover most affected by fires.

The analysis of the yearly trends in the number of fires and burned areas in Portugal shows a decrease in the last two years. I do not believe it is merely a coincidence that this period of decreased fire activity corresponds with the same period in which Portugal implemented its strong program of fuel reduction and early warning systems.

It is interesting to note that the Joint Research Centre specifically mentioned Portugal’s Forest Fuel Management in its report and further stated that in 2007, the Portuguese Forest Services in collaboration with the FORESTIS (National Forrest Owners Association) provided training courses to 80 foresters and 100 personnel of the specialised hand-crews in prescribed burning.

The Centre for German Aerospace is located in Berlin. One of its prime areas of research over the past 10 years has been mapping Mars. Given that it has been impossible to land man on Mars technology had to be developed to map the mountains and lakes of Mars from a great distance. German Aerospace developed a commercial application of its research of the long range optical sensors that it developed to achieve the mapping task by forming a partnership with a German IT company called IQ Solutions. This partnership produced under a licence agreement the product known as FireWatch.

There is no doubt that being afforded the privilege of being briefed by Professor Joubert at German Aerospace was a highlight of my study tour. There are literally hundreds of millions of dollars in research that sit behind the FireWatch system.

While hearing of the development of this technology from the German scientists was certainly impressive, I was keen to see how this technology worked under real conditions. To this end, I was fortunate in bring able to spend time with one of the biggest users of this technology, Land Brandenburg which to place this organisation in context would be the equivalent of the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment. Brandenburg is the most fire prone area of Germany and the time I spent with Land Brandenburg both at its Command HQ and out in forested areas coincided with the height of the German Summer.
Until 2001, fire management in Brandenburg consisted of 133 manned observation towers with information by trained forest workers transmitted by phone or walkie-talkie to the forest office and then followed up with a phone call to fire department.

The area managed by Land Brandenburg is 1,092,782 ha, with 36.5% of the land forest. Of this forested area, 76% are pine forests and 62% of all forested areas are younger than 60 years. The forest owners are 54% privately owned, 25% owned by Land Brandenburg, 7% owned by the German Government 6% owned by municipal authorities and the remaining 8% in various ownership. One of the problems faced by Land Brandenburg is the fact that large amounts of ammunition, a legacy of two world wars are scattered throughout the region. In addition to this particular hazard, the region is a high risk zone for forest fire with an average rainfall less than 500mm per annum and experiences high temperatures in early spring and summer.

Land Brandenburg, faced with these challenges and an increasing risk of forest fire decided to adopt a modern system for forest fire management and after exhaustive investigations decided on the FireWatch System, a new, early warning system that is terrestrial, digital, remotely controlled surveillance system, capable of closely observing large areas of land incorporating different topography.

The camera or optical sensor delivers images covering a 360 degree scan with the camera turning around every 6 to 8 minutes with the ability to detect more than 16,000 degrees of grey or smoke at a distance of up to 40kms depending on the topography.

During one of my visits to Land Brandenburg, I witnessed in real time, the scanners detect a plume of smoke 27kms in distance from the scanner. Not only was this identification cross referenced by another camera to pinpoint the accurate location but it was checked to determine it was actually a plume of smoke and not eg dust being kicked up by a vehicle travelling on an unmade road or smoke from a BBQ. This identification process was completed and transmitted to the Emergency Services HQ in 4 minutes. This system has the ability to not only provide the exact location but also the wind speed and direction and the air pressure and humidity, all vital information for fire fighters.

It goes without saying that the earlier the detection of the first sign of a fire, i.e. the first plume of smoke the greater the chances of suppressing the fire and the safer the conditions for the fire fighters and the greater level of safety for those people living or working in the fire area. Yet, I’m aware that both the CFA and its NSW equivalent have refused to meet with representatives of the FireWatch System. Additionally, while I have spoken publicly about this system and the importance of using contemporary technology to better manage risk and provide greater levels of security for both fire fighters and the general public since my return from Europe, not one Fire Services official has bothered to contact me seeking information. On the other hand, local residents and many local CFA members are wanting the information.
In general terms the attitude of public officials throughout my meetings in Europe demonstrated both a willingness to learn more and utilise technology that is sadly missing in Victoria. This, too, is reflected in the way in which they have been prepared to make it law that governments have a responsibility to ensure the protection of their citizens, whether that be a fuel reduction system or that private land owners must tolerate the erection and operation of surveillance systems on their land. Eg An extract from the forest law legislation in Germany clearly states: - “The state maintains a forest fire monitoring and early warning system in endangered forest zones. The forest owners have to tolerate the erection and operation of the surveillance system gratuitously”

It is interesting to note that European countries and California which is currently trialling the FireWatch System are constantly looking at how they can improve their systems. One such way is when the first plume of smoke is detected, that the operator in the control HQ has the ability to digitally draw a circumference of eg 20, 50 or 100 kms and every person registered as living or working in that defined area is digitally notified of a fire in their region.

This is what happens when responsible authorities are prepared to utilise the benefits of technology.

I won’t spend more time detailing the benefits of the super computer and its role at Hadley in the UK except to ask the question is Australia “putting all its eggs in the one basket” by following the Hadley model. This is a question that the meteorological scientists need to debate if Australia is to gain the most benefit from the limited role and use of our super computer resources. There is no doubt that we are behind Europe and the UK and it is only the ability of our Australian scientists “to punch above their weight” that enables Australia to be regarded as a serious player in this field.

Funding is always an issue but if Australia is to continue to benefit from collaboration at this international level, the issue of funding must be seriously addressed. UK scientists were particularly interested in Australia’s proximity to the Indian Ocean and the increasing importance of the Indian Ocean on our weather systems.

While the issue of emergency management modelling was not on my agenda initially, I was fortunate to be able to take advantage of learning more en route home in Singapore. In summary, it is accepted as conventional wisdom that the most appropriate model is based on the civil defence model. However, there is now a body of thinking following an analysis of Hurricane Katrina in the USA and the most recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean that this may not be the most appropriate model. Rather, we should be applying social science as the basis of a model designed for recovery and reconstruction. From what my own constituents have been telling me and what I have heard as evidence given to the Royal Commission, I think examining a new way to deliver post catastrophe is warranted and will lend itself to further detailed analysis.

Hon Fran Bailey MP
Member for McEwen

31st August 2009