

Delegation Report Germany to Australia

1 to 10 March 2000

This was the fifth visit by a delegation from Germany to Australia. The program included many opportunities to learn about Australia's political system as well as other aspects of Australia including immigration, the environment, local business and the economy.

The delegation was in Australia for 10 days and visited Sydney, Port Stephens, the Hunter Valley, Canberra and Melbourne.

The [Sydney](#) program included highlights such as:

- A meeting with the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon Bob Carr MP;
- A briefing on broadcasting regulation and lunch hosted by Mr Gareth Grainger, Deputy Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Authority;
- An overview of the Australian electoral system by the Australian Electoral Officer for New South Wales, Ms Frances Howat;
- A meeting with Mr Mark Arbib, Assistant General Secretary, NSW Branch of the Australian Labor Party, on campaigning issues;
- A meeting with the Hon Henry Tsang MLC, the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC and Mr Matt Brown MP;
- A luncheon hosted by the Deputy Speaker, the Hon John Price MP, at Parliament House, with former delegates;
- A briefing on industrial relations in Australia by Mr Ian Robertson (former delegate to Germany), Holding Redlich.

The Sydney program was organised with the generous assistance of two former delegates to Germany, Mr Ian Robertson (1997) and Ms Michelle Rowland (1997).

The delegation travelled to [Port Stephens](#) for the weekend, calling in on the way at the office of Mr Bob Horne MP, Federal Member for Paterson, who along with Melissa Horne (former delegate to Germany – 1999) arranged the weekend's program.

Highlights of the weekend program included:

- A visit to Browne's oyster barn to discuss the learn about the local oyster industry;
- A dolphin watch cruise;
- Dinner with the Mr Horne, the Deputy Mayor and a member of the Port Stephens Council; and
- A wine tasting at McGuigan's Vineyards and Cheese Factory on the return journey to Sydney.

Highlights of the delegation's visit to Canberra included:

- A briefing and a dinner with the German Ambassador, HE Dr Horst Bachmann;
- Briefings on the philosophy and structure of the Liberal Party of Australia and the Australian Labor Party;
- A lunch hosted by the President of the Senate and Patron of the Australian Political Exchange Council, Senator Margaret Reid;
- A meeting with the NSW Member for Monaro, Mr Peter Webb MP;
- Dinner at the home of Council Member Mr Gary Gray;
- A briefing on Australia's citizenship policy by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs;
- Meetings with the ACT Chief Minister, Ms Kate Carnell MLA and Mr Gary Humphries MLA;
- Meetings with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer MP, and the Minister for Trade, the Hon Mark Vaile MP;
- A meeting with the Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Meg Lees; and
- An informal dinner with Australian Political Exchange Council members and former delegates to Germany.

The delegate finished their program with a visit to [Melbourne](#). The Melbourne visit included:

- Attending a concert by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra;
- A meeting with Mr Ted Baillieu MP;
- A meeting with the Hon Candy Broad MLC and Mr John Lenders MP to discuss Upper House reform;
- A lunch hosted by the Consul-General;
- A briefing on the economy by the ANZ Band; and
- A visit to the Australian Grand Prix hosted by Philip Morris.

This was a successful visit with delegates having plenty of opportunities to learn about Australia's political system and to meet with senior as well as young political leaders. Former delegates played a large role in the program and this greatly benefited the program.