

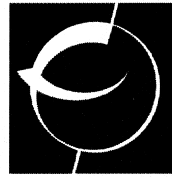
Australian Political Exchange Council
Annual Report 1999-2000

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ISSN 1039-2963

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Australian
Political
Exchange
Council

The Hon J W Howard MP
Prime Minister
Commonwealth of Australia

The Hon J D Anderson MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Leader of the National Party of Australia

The Hon K Beazley MP
Leader of the Opposition

Senator M Lees
Leader of the Australian Democrats

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Australian Political Exchange Council, I have pleasure in submitting the report of the Council for 1999-2000 that the Special Minister of State will present to the Parliament.

Margaret Guilfoyle
Chairman

4 October 2000

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Chairman of the Australian Political Exchange Council, the Hon Dame Margaret Guilfoyle DBE, with the Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Chris Ellison, who has ministerial responsibility for the political exchange program.

Chairman's Message

Since it was established in 1981, the Australian Political Exchange Council has sought to provide young political leaders from Australia and our exchange partners with targeted learning and development opportunities.

This year the Council sponsored 34 delegates to study the political systems and cultures of our overseas political exchange partners. Delegations visited the People's Republic of China, the United States of America, Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany and Vietnam.

The Council was also pleased to host three high calibre delegations from our exchange partners: the People's Republic of China, the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Many former delegates have supported the Council's activities this year and have substantially contributed to the success of delegations visiting Australia. I would like to record my deep appreciation to former delegates and my hope that they will continue to champion our shared purpose into the future.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the members of the Council for their guidance and support throughout the year, and to the Leaders of the Parliamentary Parties and the Special Minister of State for their continuing interest in the Council's activities. The energy and commitment to the program, shown by the Council's Secretariat is also appreciated.

The year ahead will be a very exciting one for the Council, which celebrates its 20th Anniversary in 2001. A number of events are planned to mark this achievement and I look forward to the involvement of those former delegates and friends of the Council who have participated in our programs over the years.



Margaret Guilfoyle

4 October 2000

Introducing the Council

Council Background

A political exchange program was established in December 1981 by the then Prime Minister, with the support of the leaders of the major Parliamentary political parties, to arrange visits of young political leaders between Australia and other countries. An Interim Committee was established with the leaders of the four federal Parliamentary parties as its Principals.

The program of exchange visits was modelled on the system of exchanges between the United States and other countries which was established in 1966 under the management of the American Council of Young Political Leaders.

With the agreement of the Principals, the Interim Committee became the Australian Political Exchange Committee in August 1983 and subsequently the Australian Political Exchange Council in September 1991.

The activities of the Council are funded through an annual appropriation to the Commonwealth Department of Finance and Administration, and from donations in-kind from organisations and individuals. The Minister responsible for the program is the Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Chris Ellison, Senator for Western Australia.

The Council has regular exchange programs with the People's Republic of China, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Papua New Guinea, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. It also sponsors delegates' participation in a range of individual study tours and international forums overseas.

Membership of the Council

The Council is comprised of a Chairman and six Members nominated by the Principals of the Council. The Principals of the Council are the Parliamentary Leaders of the four major political parties - the Hon John Howard MP (Prime Minister and Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia), the Hon Kim Beazley MP (Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Australian Labor Party), the Hon John Anderson MP (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party of Australia) and Senator Meg Lees (Leader of the Australian Democrats).

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition nominate two Council Members and the Leaders of the National Party and the Australian Democrats each nominate one Member. The Prime Minister also nominates an independent Chairman.

Council Chairman



The Hon Dame Margaret Guilfoyle DBE

Dame Margaret was appointed Chairman in August 1996.

Council Members (in order of appointment)



The Hon Alan Cadman MP, Federal Member for Mitchell

Mr Cadman is a representative of the Prime Minister, appointed in December 1981.



Ms Sam Hudson, National Secretary of the Australian Democrats

Ms Hudson is the representative of the Leader of the Australian Democrats, appointed in June 1990.



Mr Gary Gray, Ex-National Secretary of the Australian Labor Party (Executive Director of the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research)

Mr Gray is a representative of the Leader of the Opposition, appointed in June 1993.



Senator Sue West, Deputy President of the Senate and Senator for New South Wales

Senator West is a representative of the Leader of the Opposition, appointed in May 1996.



Mr Lynton Crosby, Federal Director of the Liberal Party of Australia

Mr Crosby is a representative of the Prime Minister, appointed in May 1997.



Mr Paul Neville MP, Federal Member for Hinkler and National Party Whip

Mr Neville is the representative of the Leader of the National Party, appointed in November 1998.

The Council's Purpose

The Council's purpose is to provide opportunities for young Australians involved in politics to study the political systems of other countries as well as to offer a unique insight into the Australian political system to young people from participating exchange countries.

The following Terms of Reference, endorsed by the Principals of the Council, govern the Council's operations:

1. Arrange **regular exchange visits** for either individuals or groups of young people, drawn from the Parties of the Principals, with the potential to make a significant contribution to political life, between Australia and other countries;
2. Provide learning experiences through **study tours** of Australia for young political leaders from countries important for trade or strategic reasons;
3. Arrange related activities which provide **developmental opportunities** for the rising generation of Australian and other political leaders; and
4. Arrange for **regular reporting** on the Council's activities to Parliament, the Principals and sponsors.

Outgoing Australian Delegations

The Council considers delegate nominations put forward by the Federal Directors/ National Secretaries of the Parties of the Principals. Nominees are young Australians considered by their respective parties to have the potential to make a significant contribution to political life.

To maximise the development opportunities, the Council composes delegations that comprise a representative, broadly based group of Australians. Delegates are selected from a range of political backgrounds including:

- members of Federal and State Parliaments;
- party organisations, both professional and voluntary;
- industry organisations;
- trade unions;
- members of ministerial and electorate staffs; and
- local government representatives.

Delegates are required to be party members, Australian citizens and between the ages of 25 and 46 (age limit for US exchange is 40).

All delegates are expected to continue to be involved in the Council's activities after their study tour by participating in or assisting in organising programs for incoming delegations and by promoting the program among colleagues and in the broader community. Indeed, former delegate participation in incoming exchanges provides a depth and degree of warmth that is invaluable to the success of the programs.

Incoming Delegations to Australia

The Council operates on a system of political exchange study tours, and receives delegations from its exchange partners. The aims for incoming delegations are to provide an understanding of Australia and our political system. Each itinerary contains the following three general components:

- An overview of the Australian political system incorporating Federal, State and Local government, and party organisations;
- Networking through meeting high-profile Australian political and business leaders, as well as former delegates of the Council's programs;
- An insight into Australian culture through community organisations and cultural activities.



The eighteenth United States delegation to visit Australia, led by Mr Chester Culver, with Federal Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Kim Beazley MP.

Outgoing Australian Delegations for 1999-2000

At 30 June 2000, 416 young Australians had taken part in 57 overseas study tours.

Many of these are now in prominent political positions, including as members of Federal and State Parliaments, leaders in political and government organisations, trade unions and corporate Australia (a list is available in Appendix A).

In 1999-2000, the Australian Political Exchange Council sponsored 34 young Australian political leaders on overseas delegations to the People's Republic of China, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

- Eighth Australian Delegation to China - 10 to 20 July 1999;
- Eighteenth Australian Delegation to the United States of America - 18 September to 1 October 1999;
- Eighth Australian Delegation to Japan - 24 October to 2 November 1999;
- Fifth Australian Delegation to Germany - 8 to 18 November 1999; and
- Fourth Australian Delegation to Vietnam - 3 to 12 May 2000.



The eighth Australian delegation to China, led by the Hon Judi Moylan MP, at the briefing day in Canberra, with Mr Zhang Jungsai, Charge D'Affaires, Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

Eighth Australian Delegation to China
10 to 20 July 1999

Delegates

- **The Hon Judi Moylan MP** (Liberal Party of Australia), Federal Member for Pearce - *Delegation Leader*
- **Mr Ian Macfarlane MP** (Liberal Party of Australia), Federal Member for Groom
- **Mr Kim Wells MLA** (Liberal Party of Australia), Member, Victorian Parliament (Wantirna)
- **Mr David Solly** (National Party of Australia), Victorian President, Young Nationals
- **Mr Nathan Niven** (Australian Labor Party), Elected organiser and Federal Industrial Officer, Transport Workers' Union
- **Ms Alison Byrnes** (Australian Labor Party), Executive Assistant for the Shadow Minister for Defence, the Hon Steven Martin MP
- **Ms Marianne Dickie** (Australian Democrats), Queensland State Secretary, Australian Democrats.

As a key aim of the Australia-China exchange is to promote greater understanding and ties of friendship between the two countries, the eighth Australian delegation to travel to China had a collective interest in learning more about a considerably different culture and system of government. This was catered for with a ten-day program, incorporating Guangzhou, Chengdu, Sichuan Province and Beijing.

Learning began in Canberra with the briefing day, and the cultural differences quickly became apparent when the delegation arrived in Guangzhou. The first day of the program incorporated a number of cultural visits to sites such as Yue Xiu Mountain, Zhong Shan Memorial Hall and the Tomb of Nan Yue Wong, and also included a guided tour of the Bai Yun Vocational Training Centre.

The second day of the program provided an opportunity to see differences in local government and the delegates explored Guandong Province from an economic perspective. They visited the Guangzhou Economic and Technological Development District, the most developed of China's six Free Trade Zones.

Delegates were impressed to learn of the district:

'It covers an area of 24.4 square kilometres and consists of 1200 enterprises, 217 of which are high tech. The export value of the zone is US\$76 million. The largest container port is in this zone and it includes department stores, schools and hospitals. Investors come from 30 countries including US, Germany, UK, Taiwan, Switzerland and Australia' (K. Wells).

A meeting with the Chairman of the Guangdong Federation of Youth, Madame Xu Ping Hua, Member of the Standing Committee of Provincial Congress, was an important part of the program. The meeting involved a detailed discussion of the role of the exchange host organisation, the All-China Youth Federation (ACYF). A delegate explained:

'The main tasks of the ACYF are multi-faceted, and they include the right to maintain and represent the interests and rights of youth and to ensure the construction of unity and stability of the Nation through the role of youth in the economic development of China, and through community and cultural work... The Youth Federation organises young people with expertise in areas such as medicine, engineering and the environment, to go to underdeveloped areas where their skills are needed to build communities' (M. Dickie).

The day ended with a dinner and dialogue hosted by Mr Wang Jun, Deputy President of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Guangdong Province.

The third day of the program saw the delegation travel to Chengdu, in the Sichuan Province, following a friendly morning tea with representatives from Guangdong Youth Federation and Guangzhou City Youth Federation. Here delegates met with Mr Yang Chonghui, Vice Secretary Sichuan Provincial Committee CPC, for dinner and a discussion.

Day four brought one of the highlights of the trip, according to the delegates - an all-day youth forum focusing on issues under the theme of Sino-Australian Relations towards the 21st Century. Leaders of the Provincial CPC Committee and Provincial People's Congress, as well as a delegation of young Chinese leaders attended the forum. Members of the Australian delegation were invited to present at the forum along with the Chinese speakers. Topics covered included political challenges, economy, trade and investment prospects, agricultural exploration and prospects, and the role of young leaders in our two countries. A member of the delegation commented:

'The Sino-Australian Young Leaders Dialogue was particularly beneficial in promoting and building relationships. The Chinese delegation was very impressive and I'm sure that some of them will have very long and senior political careers. We met a number of young Chinese businessmen who are already in charge of large companies within China' (N. Niven).

Day five of the visit was spent at E'Mei Mountain, where the delegation met with the Mayor of Leshan Municipal People's Government and the Sichuan Province Federation of Youth. Meishan Province was visited on day six and the delegation met with the Vice-Chairman of the Youth Federation of Meishan Province.



Members of the eighth Australian delegation to China, led by the Hon Judi Moylan MP, with young Chinese leaders at the Sino-Australian Young Leaders Dialogue in Chengdu.

The last four days of the program were spent in Beijing. The delegation met formally with Mr Bayin Chaolu, President of the All-China Youth Federation and Leader of the 1999 Chinese delegation to Australia. Other meetings in Beijing were with Mr Zheng Yi, Deputy Director of Foreign Affairs National People's Congress (NPC), and Mr Yang Jiechi, Vice Minister for the Foreign Minister. The delegation also visited organisations such as the China Academy of Social Science, China Central Television (CCT), and the newspaper, *The China Daily*, where they discussed issues such as editorial freedom, censorship and the impact of CNN and the internet on news services.

In between meetings, the delegation visited key cultural sites such as the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China. The Australian Ambassador to China, HE Mr Richard Smith AO, hosted a welcome for the delegation which provided an opportunity for delegates to informally chat with Embassy staff.

After ten busy days the delegates returned home to Australia. Here they reflected upon the trip and were able to identify a number of key benefits:

'The trip enabled me to focus on political issues and foreign affairs issues without the day to day distractions of work etc. I rarely have discussions with MPs from other parties, that are not adversarial in nature. It is refreshing to have the opportunity to learn what motivates the other side. It was also a great way to learn about protocol' (N. Niven).

'At a personal level this visit provided me with an opportunity to build on my knowledge and understanding of China and in particular gave me an excellent insight into the political system and the interaction of the All China Youth Federation with Government at the central, provincial and local levels.. It was very useful to examine the Central Government role in relation to the Provincial and Local Government and to view the results of special economic zones after several years of successful operation and to see how these zones are now informing policy decisions for other provincial areas' (J. Moylan).

Eighteenth Australian Delegation to the United States of America
8 September to 1 October 1999

Delegates

- **Mrs Peta Seaton MP** (Liberal Party of Australia), Member, New South Wales Parliament (Southern Highlands) - *Delegation Leader*
- **Mr Marc Dale** (Liberal Party of Australia), Federal President, Young Liberal Movement
- **Mrs Helen Kroger** (Liberal Party of Australia), Liberal Party Victorian State Council Delegate
- **Mr Michael Duff** (National Party), Immediate Past President, Queensland Young National Party of Australia
- **Ms Kate Crowle** (Australian Labor Party), ACT Branch Secretary/Treasurer, Australian Labor Party
- **Mr Bernard Finnigan** (Australian Labor Party), Communications Officer, Shop Distributive and Allied Employees' Association
- **Ms Renee Gamble** (Australian Labor Party), Member, Administrative Committee, Australian Capital Territory Branch, Australian Labor Party
- **Mr Paul Sekhon** (Australian Labor Party), Organiser, Australian Services Union
- **Ms Sam Hudson** (Australian Democrats), National Secretary, Australian Democrats - Australian Political Exchange Council Representative

The exchange between Australia and the United States has produced many strong friendships and shared understandings between political leaders in these two countries. The eighteenth Australian delegation to travel to the United States received a warm welcome in each State visited.

Washington DC was the first destination, and the delegation considered it a very important part of the visit:

'The Washington visit afforded extremely high levels of access to senior Washington decision makers, and was a very valuable start to the tour as it covered the key institutions and structures, and enabled delegates to get a fast overview of the Federal context and current issues' (P. Seaton).

Highlights of the first day included a tour of the city and a welcome dinner hosted by former delegate to Australia Mr Robert Pettit, Attorney at Law, Wiley, Rein and Fielding. The dinner allowed the delegates to meet their American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) counterparts and begin forming friendships across the two countries. All former ACYPL delegates to Australia were invited to the dinner, contributing to the strong bonds being formed through the exchange.

The second day of the visit brought a number of high level and interesting meetings. The delegates were impressed after meeting Mr Frank Fahrenkoph of the American Gaming Association, for a discussion on Federalism:

'Our first meeting was with Frank Fahrenkoph, and we could not have hoped for a more energetic, incisive and inspirational first encounter! He set a high standard for the rest of the program - and no one was at all disappointed' (P. Seaton).

Following the discussion with Mr Fahrenkoph, the delegation spent time with Laguen, Hamburger & Stone, a company involved in political media projects.



The eighteenth Australian delegation to the United States of America, led by Ms Peta Seaton MP, with Republican National Committee Chief of Staff, Mr Tomas Cole.

Another highlight of the trip was the opportunity to learn about Republican politics and political strategy with the Republican National Committee Chief of Staff, Mr Thomas Cole.

A meeting with Ms Shari Yost, Finance Director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, began what was to be a very busy and informative third day. Commissioner Danny McDonald of the Federal Electoral Commission discussed funding and disclosure with the delegation, followed by a meeting on sustainable development in urban districts with Mr Jeffrey A Finkle, President of the Council for Urban Economic Development.

The delegation then met with the staff of Senator Herb Kohl, Senator for Wisconsin, followed by a discussion with Congressman Roy Blunt (Seventh District, Missouri), Ms Seaton commenting - 'all gave excellent presentations and were frank, open and welcoming of our genuine questions.'

The fourth day of the program brought the delegation to the White House for a tour and a discussion on the Presidency and the executive cabinet. The delegation then travelled to Madison, Wisconsin, for a very interesting part of the visit:

The hospitality of our hosts in Wisconsin was matchless. I feel confident I could now give a half hour dissertation on the economy, history and government of Wisconsin without stumbling and covering most angles even from our brief stay there. Perhaps my interest in Wisconsin stemmed from it sharing much with South Australia in terms of its relative place within the national economy and its pressures from globalisation (B. Finnigan).

The program in Wisconsin incorporated a "State Government Day" and a "Local Government Day". The State Government Day provided an introduction to the State Assembly and a discussion of the legislative process. The Local Government Day brought the delegation to Sauk County for a study of rural Wisconsin. The delegation appreciated the high degree of access to senior legislative officers, including Senator Bob Welch, State Senator Dave Schultz, Representative Steve Freese, Representative Antonio Riley and Representative Sheryl Albers, and consequently gained extensive knowledge of the economy, history and government of Wisconsin.

The delegates then traveled to Las Vegas, where they experienced the hospitality of ACYPL alumni. Following time spent at sites such as the Red Rock Canyon, the delegation returned to an intensive day filled with detailed talks with officials and elected representatives at City, County and State level. Key areas covered in these meetings included road building, water, waste disposal, customer service, education, police and 'rapid response'.

The delegation was also guest of honour at a reception attended by representatives of the Nevada Legislature. The delegation commented:

'It was interesting to learn that nearly half of the representatives in Nevada are women! The reception was a good chance to speak to elected representatives about campaign methods and costs, the type of duties they perform, and to be able to compare their experience and conditions to those in Wisconsin (which is a full-time, not part-time legislature)' (P. Seaton).

The eleventh day of the program looked at gambling. A visit to the Las Vegas Visitor Convention Centre provided a perspective on the economic benefits of gambling to the state and city, and the evolution of gaming based attractions from pure gaming, to the current entertainment/shopping/theme/sport and convention attractions that do not necessarily involve gaming.

The afternoon was spent with a visit to the Hoover Dam. This was yet another highlight of the program and the delegation heard presentations on the water-sharing arrangements along the Colorado River between four states, and visited the water treatment plant that supplies Las Vegas.

Carson City, the State Capital, was the next destination, where the delegation met with the Governor of Nevada, Mr Kenny Guinn, for a discussion on school and tertiary education. Attorney General Frankie Sue del Papa was very welcoming of the delegation, hosting lunch and dinner and arranging for detailed briefings on water rights. The delegation also met with local American Indian Washoe Tribe Chairman, Mr Brian Wallace, for a talk on the sovereignty of native Americans on Indian reservations, an Indian perspective on water rights, and some important cultural information on Lake Tahoe, which the delegation visited afterwards.

The program finished in California with a dinner hosted by Westfield Holdings. A delegate summarised the ways in which the program met their developmental needs:

'The program is hugely valuable for the potential it creates for building relationships. It ensures we make contacts and are given opportunities to develop friendships. The program was of great benefit for my professional and personal development. For those of us not elected to public office... it was a chance to understand how the dynamics of communication for such people work and develop skills of use to us in the future' (B. Finnigan).



The eighteenth Australian delegation to the United States of America, led by Ms Peta Seaton MP, with Wisconsin State Senator Bob Welch.

Eighth Australian Delegation to Japan
24 October to 2 November 1999

Delegates

- **Ms Nicola Roxon MP** (Australian Labor Party), Federal Member for Gellibrand - *Delegation Leader*
- **Mr Chris Fry** (Australian Labor Party), Adviser to Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Treasurer, the Hon Simon Crean MP
- **Ms Jacqueline Flitcroft** (Australian Labor Party), Adviser to the Shadow Minister for Employment, Training and Population, Ms Cheryl Kernot MP
- **Ms Natalie Sykes** (Australian Labor Party), Assistant Secretary, Victorian Trades Hall Council
- **The Hon Roger Nicholls MLA** (Liberal Party of Australia), Member, Western Australian Legislative Assembly (Mandurah)
- **Mr Peter Clarke** (Liberal Party of Australia), Chairman of Victorian State Council Agenda Committee
- **Ms Virginia Wallace** (Liberal Party of Australia), Chief of Staff to the Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Chris Ellison
- **Mr Doug Doyle** (National Party of Australia), Immediate Past President of the Young National Party of Australia
- **Mr Daryl Wight**, Secretary, Australian Political Exchange Council

The eighth Australian delegation to travel to Japan as hosts of the Japan Centre for International Exchange (JCIE) continued to represent a broad cross-section of Australian politics. Delegates came together from different Australian States, different political viewpoints and all the major political parties. The trip became a means for learning about different Australian political viewpoints as well as a joint discovery of Japan.

The journey for greater understanding of the culture and politics of Japan followed a well-planned and busy program, designed to stimulate the delegates' thinking and provide opportunities to meet political leaders in Japan. The success of the program is reflected in the comments and thoughts expressed by the delegates. From the moment the delegation arrived in Tokyo, delegation members were comparing and contrasting Japan and Australia:

'On first impressions, Japan is an extremely "Western" nation. Its buildings, roads, infrastructure, extreme cleanliness and an overwhelming number of men in business suits all are a stark contrast to the colour, bustle and sometimes, squalor of other Asian nations known for trading and living in the streets. The dignity, polite civility and, at times, deference of the Japanese, however, was very "unwestern", lacking the often brash and loud personalities we sometimes bring to the world' (N. Roxon).

Delegation members found themselves participating in a program designed to build bonds of friendship, as well as provide an understanding of the political system of another country. The first evening in Tokyo was spent in the home of Mr Hiroshi Takaku, Chief Program Officer of the JCIE, and his wife Chieko.

The in-depth analysis of Japanese politics began on the second day of the visit. The delegation had an opportunity to discuss issues of interest with New Komeito Members of the Diet (the Japanese Parliament), followed by a luncheon discussion with Members of the 1999 Japanese delegation to Australia, led by Mr Naoto Kitamura, Member of the House of Representatives (Liberal Democratic Party). These meetings provided time for the delegation to discover common interests with the Japanese representatives and build on the friendships already established through the exchange program.

Meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and an associate editor of the Political News Section of the *Asahi Shimbun* (a Japanese newspaper) further developed the delegation's understanding of the Japanese political system. A breakfast meeting on the third day of the program with Mr Akira Amari, Member of the House of Representatives for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), former Minister of Labor and Leader of the 1995 delegation to Australia, gave an insight into Japan's progress on industry, administrative and fiscal policy. One member of the delegation commented:

'The meeting with former Minister Amari was fascinating in that the issues that Japan is considering in the fields of industry policy and education are those that Australia has already started grappling with, at least to some extent... That Japan, a beneficiary of an incredibly successful industrial development policy over the last four decades, is now grappling with this issue and appears to be coming to the same conclusions implemented by Australia years ago was refreshing' (C. Fry).

The delegation met with the Leader and Members of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Secretary General and Members of the Democratic Party of Japan's (DPJ) Members of the Diet. Following these meetings, the delegation spent time with Mr Seiichi Ota, Member of the House of Representatives for the LDP, former State Minister and Director-General of the Management and Coordination Agency and Leader of the 1996 delegation to Australia.

The discussion with Mr Ota on the topic of administrative reform generated further comparison between Australia and Japan and saw the delegation draw some interesting conclusions:

'The structural administrative reforms being embarked upon in Japan go part of the way down the road that Australian governments of both major parties, both Commonwealth and State, have successfully trodden over the last decade and a half. The fact that the plans, before implementation, are more modest than the actual achievements in Australia show the enormous cultural obstacles that confront Japanese reformers in this quest' (V. Wallace).



The eighth Australian delegation to Japan, led by Ms Nicola Roxon MP.

The delegation enjoyed the hospitality of the JCIE throughout the program, and the third day concluded with a dinner hosted by JCIE President, Mr Tadashi Yamamoto and his wife Chiyoko, strong supporters of the exchange program between the Council and the JCIE.

Education was a strong element of the program and the fourth day commenced with a discussion on civil society development. This was followed by an examination of the key issues surrounding the Japanese constitution with particular emphasis on the effects of the constitution on Japan's international role. Delegation member Mr Doyle noted that Japan's peacekeeping capabilities are limited by Article 9 of their Constitution, which 'stipulates that Japan shall not be in any way involved with an invasive war.'

By the fifth day of the visit, the delegation was again tackling serious issues over breakfast. In this instance, it was a meeting about the need for educational reform with Mr Takashi Kosugi, Member of the House of Representatives (LDP), former Minister of Education and Leader of the 1992 delegation to Australia.

Day five also saw the delegates boarding Japan's high speed "bullet train" for travel to Gifu Prefecture. Here they learned about governance on a local level, meeting with Members of the Gifu Prefectural Assembly and meeting with a range of representatives from the Gifu Prefecture Government.

The visit to Gifu explored more than just the political climate. The delegation examined Japanese life through visits to various institutions. Softopia Japan provided an insight into information technology initiatives in the Prefecture, at the Higashi Junior High School the delegation considered educational reform from a different perspective, and the Ogaki Kyoritsu Bank provided further insight into Japan's economic position.

The sixth day of the program saw the delegation travel to Takayama City and they were greeted by a friendly dinner with Members of the Takayama Japan- Australia Association. The City of Takayama provided a wonderful chance for the delegation to learn more about Japanese culture, and the seventh day of the program involved a guided tour of the city, including a visit to an Asaichi (a morning street market), Takayama Jinya (the historical site of the Tokugawa shogunate government), Kusakabe Museum and other sites of interest. The day ended with a meeting of supporters of Mr Kazuyoshi Kaneko, Member of the House of Representatives (LDP), Chairman House Standing Committee on Finance, Leader of the 1997 Delegation to Australia. The delegation leader commented:

'One of the many highlights of the trip was attending a local supporters meeting in Takayama. The local LDP member, Mr Kaneko, was holding a regular report back meeting to the members of his supporters group and invited us to be guests for the evening... Liberal, Labor and National party delegates alike were all surprised at the familiar feel this meeting in a local hall had to branch meetings in their own electorates - particularly the quite elderly make-up of the group and the questions asked' (N. Roxon).

The seventh day of the program involved further cultural insights, including a visit to the National Cultural Festival. The afternoon was spent travelling to Kyoto for the eighth day itinerary which included a guided tour of the city.

This contributed significantly to the delegation's understanding of the Japanese culture, and Nicola Roxon referred to 'images of Kyoto, and an old Japan which has now passed into history.' The visit ended with a farewell dinner for the delegation.

The delegation returned home to Australia with a greater understanding of Japanese politics and the beginnings of many special friendships. A key benefit for the delegation was gaining an impression of the areas in which Australia and Japan are similar. One delegate was able to identify key similarities:

'In many of the speeches and presentations, both by our delegates and the Japanese representatives, the issue of shared values between our countries was raised time and time again. It was acknowledged that within the Asia Pacific region Australia and Japan enjoyed the most 'common ground', in respect to both government policies and people values. Values such as social equity, balanced capitalism, accessible education, commitment to the environment and desire to be industry leaders were all part of this 'common ground'. Being able to identify so many common values for countries with such diverse cultures is part of what made the trip so important' (N. Sykes).



Members of the eighth Australian delegation to Japan, led by Ms Nicola Roxon MP, enjoying a Japanese meal.

Fifth Australian Delegation to Germany

8 to 18 November 1999

Delegates

- **Ms Julie Bishop MP** (Liberal Party of Australia), Federal Member for Curtin - *Delegation Leader*
- **Mr Michael Barrett** (Liberal Party of Australia), Researcher, Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division)
- **Ms Stephanie Calder** (National Party of Australia), Policy Adviser to the Western Australian Minister for Transport
- **Mr Christopher Barrett** (Australian Labor Party), Speechwriter and Industry Adviser to the Federal Leader of the Opposition
- **Ms Melissa Horne** (Australian Labor Party), National Organiser, Australian Labor Party Secretariat
- **Ms Debra Butler** (Australian Democrats), Australian Democrats Tasmanian National Executive Representative
- **Ms Debbie Lewis**, Executive Officer, Australian Political Exchange Council

The fifth delegation to Germany was privileged to visit at a memorable time in Germany's history - the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. This significant event presented the delegation with a unique opportunity to 'observe and discuss national and local issues that went to the heart of the national psyche', according to Ms Bishop.

During the visit, the delegation enjoyed a ten day program incorporating cities in the former East and former West Germany - Berlin, Potsdam, Dresden, Bochum and Frankfurt.

The delegation had a memorable three days in Berlin. A walk around the city preceded a luncheon briefing with the Australian Ambassador to Germany, HE Mr Paul Sullivan, and representatives of the Australian Embassy, followed by a tour of the historical building being restored to become Australia's Embassy in Berlin.

The second day of the program covered a range of pertinent issues for the delegation. Discussions with Members of the German Bundestag (Parliament) from different parties gave delegates a clear understanding of key issues facing German politicians. For example, Ms Horne identified the following issues important to the Social Democratic Party:

'Part of the success of the SPD (Social Democratic Party) at the recent Federal Election must be attributed to a shift in the Party's policy to one more closely aligned with centrist politics. Tackling the issues of national debt, high unemployment and introducing taxation reform are part of the party's platform that they have been attempting to implement with varying degrees of success' (M. Horne).

One of the high points of the visit was attendance at the official reception in the Reichstag to mark the 10th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. One delegate stated:

'We watched from seats in the public gallery as the Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, and then George Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev and Helmut Kohl addressed the audience, recalling the remarkable events of ten years previously' (C. Barrett).

In the evening, the delegation joined tens of thousands of people under the Brandenburg Gate for the public concert and speeches. As Mr Chris Barrett continued, 'the impression did not escape any of us on that night that ten years (and one day) earlier, we would have been standing in the middle of no-man's land on the wrong side of the Wall.'

The third day in Berlin brought the delegation a tour of the *Reichstag* and a welcome by the Bundestag Vice-President Rudolf Seiters, Member of the German Bundestag from the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) parliamentary group. German-Australian relations then became the focus, with a meeting with the Director for Asian Affairs at the Federal Foreign Office, Dr Cornelius Sommer. The discussion covered the situation in the Australian-Indonesian area, including East Timor and regional organisations in the Asian-Pacific area.

A stimulating meeting for the delegation involved representatives of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union on European-Australian economic matters:

'From our briefings and discussions, it became clear that, although the European Union represents a unique opportunity for Germany to exert its strength as an economic power, decisions being made at the EU are having an impact on the day to day lives of the German people. In particular, the movement toward common policy across the EU in areas such as justice, domestic affairs, and social (employment) policy. This complexity is something Australia has not experienced. At a time when the costs of reunification in Germany, particularly infrastructure spending in Berlin and the east, are taking their toll on the economy, the Government of the day is experiencing the electoral realities of the development of the common European political and monetary unions' (S. Calder).

The third day in Berlin ended with a chance to network. The delegation was invited to dinner with members of the German-Oceania Parliamentary Friendship Group, providing delegates with an excellent opportunity to meet parliamentarians in a more relaxed environment.



The fifth Australian delegation to Germany, led by Ms Julie Bishop MP, with Professor Dr Karl-Heinz Hornhues MdB, Member of the German Bundestag.

Day four was spent outside of Berlin, in Potsdam. The delegation met with the President of the Parliament of Brandenburg, Dr Herbert Knoblich and spoke with Members of the Parliament of Brandenburg about structural change in industrial enterprises in Brandenburg. A visit to the Australia Centre of the University of Potsdam ended the first three days of the program, and Ms Bishop remarked 'We soon realised that there was much to learn and absorb about Germany and her central role in European politics.'

The delegation then travelled to Dresden for days five and six of the program. The Parliament of Saxony welcomed the delegation and provided a discussion with members from all parliamentary groups on structural change in industrial enterprises in Saxony. Dresden was also the home of many cultural sites and the delegation visited places such as the Albrecht Castle, the Meissen Factory, the vineyard *Schloss Proschwitz*, and the Semper Opera.

The seventh and eighth days of the program were spent in Bochum, in the heart of the Ruhr Valley. The delegation visited Bochum Transport Services to meet with board members and to observe the manufacture of heavy steel carriages and support equipment for rail systems. As a contrast to the traditional heavy industries of the area, the delegation visited the Bochum Technology Centre, an innovative and entrepreneurial centre designed to enhance the IT industry in the Ruhr Valley.

A highlight of the Bochum visit was attending an SPD party conference of the Bochum county association. The delegation commented, 'Our ALP delegates felt that only the language set it apart from an Australian counterpart!'

The final destination was Frankfurt. Here delegates were introduced to the third tier of German Government through meeting members of the Frankfurt City Council. The delegation learned much about administration at a local level, discussing environmental concerns such as forestry, waste disposal, urban planning and law and order issues.

The European Central Bank then provided an informative session on the structure of the Bank, the objectives of its Governing Council and the Eurosystem. This was followed by a briefing with Austrade representatives, highlighting trade relations and opportunities.

The delegation returned home with greatly enhanced knowledge and understanding of Germany and its political system. In the words of the delegation:

'The program in Germany was excellent. We enjoyed access to representatives of all major political parties, which greatly enhanced my understanding of contemporary German politics. Opportunities to meet both Federal and State parliamentarians enabled us to glimpse the strengths and weaknesses of German Federalism. Our visit to former East German States gave us first-hand experience of the massive challenge that is German reintegration. Meetings with Dr Cornelius Sommer of the German Foreign Ministry, and meetings with Australian diplomats in Germany, cast light on German-Australian relations. Our visits to German businesses were also essential to my understanding of contemporary Germany' (M. Barrett).

Fourth Australian Delegation to Vietnam

3 to 12 May 2000

Delegates

- **Mr Jody Fassina** (Australian Labor Party), Adviser to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate - ***Delegation Leader***
- **Ms Zoe Bettison** (Australian Labor Party), Secretary, Australian Labor Party - Northern Territory
- **Mr Grant Muller** (Liberal Party of Australia), President Queensland Young Liberals
- **Ms Gemma Allman** (National Party of Australia), Member, National Party and Young National Party
- **Ms Gail Kelly** (Australian Democrats), Australian Democrats State President, Western Australia
- **Ms Debbie Lewis**, Executive Officer, Australian Political Exchange Council

The Australian delegation travelling to Vietnam in May admitted to only a very general knowledge of the country and its political system. Therefore the visit became an important learning experience in terms of Vietnamese politics and culture. The program took account of this by incorporating a number of visits to sites of cultural importance.

Ms Kelly explains the importance of this cultural understanding:

'Australia has a large Asian population and the visit has reinforced for me the need to be aware of the cultural differences between different Asian populations. This is relevant in both my professional life and my political dealings' (G. Kelly).

The program consisted of political meetings interspersed with visits to sites of cultural significance. The visit began in Hanoi, and continued through the program, incorporating Ha Long Bay and Hochiminh City. The delegation first attended the Hochiminh Mausoleum before meeting with the leadership of Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly. This meeting provided an opportunity to learn about the political system of Vietnam, community participation in a state system, and social structure.

The afternoon comprised a visit to the Temple of Literature and a reception hosted by the Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, HE Mr Michael Mann.

The third day of the visit began with a meeting with the leadership of the Office of the Government of Vietnam, to discuss topics such as institutions of government and community participation in a governmental system.

The delegation learned a great deal about how Vietnam is governed:

'Vietnam is one of the world's five remaining one party communist states. The political system comprises, the Politburo, the Central Committee and the National Assembly. The National Assembly (NA) is comprised of 450 members elected every five years from approved party lists.. It is via the NA members that the Communist Leadership in effect keeps tabs on the mood of the people and can therefore be in a position to react accordingly' (J. Fassina).

A visit to a historical museum preceded a meeting with the leadership of the Ministry of Justice, and a meeting with the leadership of the Ministry of Industry. Topics covered included the structure, operation and regulation of the Vietnamese electricity industry and renewable energy projects.

Saturday brought the delegation to Ha Long Bay, and opportunities to network with young Vietnamese leaders. Members of the Quang Ninh Provincial Committee of the Hochiminh Communist Youth Union took the delegation for a boat cruise in the Bay. This provided a great opportunity to discuss differences between party and government structures with Youth Union members. The briefing continued into the evening with a formal meeting and dinner hosted by the Youth Union.

The delegation returned to Hanoi, and this time it was the Central Committee of the Hochiminh Communist Youth Union who hosted the delegation. The Director General of the International Youth Development Cooperation Center (CYDECO), Mr Loi (who is also Vice President of the Vietnam Youth Federation) spoke with the delegation. The broad-ranging discussion was considered one of the highlights of the visit.

Economic issues were the focus of the sixth day, and the program began with a meeting with the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Topics discussed included foreign investment, regulations of business and investment and operation of markets in the Vietnamese economy. To complement this, the delegates then attended a meeting with the leadership of the Ministry of Trade for talks on tax, the financial market, the retail sector, regional development and Asian-Australian trade links.

The delegation was interested to learn about effects of the doi moi policy:

'During our numerous meetings the policy of doi moi in the context of the opening up of the Vietnamese economy was continually referred to and its position as the third largest exporter of rice, pointed to as one of the outstanding successes of the policy.' (J. Fassina).



The fourth Australian delegation to Vietnam, led by Mr Jody Fassina, with Mr Tran Dac Loi, Director General of CYDECO and Vice President of the Vietnam Youth Federation and members of CYDECO and the Hochiminh Communist Youth Union Central Committee.

The next day the delegation met with the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to discuss rural development policies. A visit to the Museum of Anthropology provided a good introduction to a discussion on Vietnamese cultural experiences and the impact of sport and media on Vietnamese society, when the delegation met with the leadership of the Ministry of Culture and Information. The day ended with a delightful water puppetry show.

The eighth day of the visit brought the delegation to Hochiminh City. Here the delegation visited the Hochiminh City People's Council, where much was learned about planning issues for a city of six million.

Mr Fassina describes some of these issues:

'As an indicator of the type of social planning issues the Council faces they informed the delegation that each year the city must deal with demand for an extra 100,000 school places. Hospitals which are already overcrowded are required to meet the needs of an extra 100 new patients per day which then extrapolated equates to an extra 36,500 new patients per year' (J. Fassina).

The final day in the program concluded the Vietnam experience with visits to the Museum of War, the Cu Chi Underground Tunnels and the Thanh Nien Newspaper (a youth newspaper). This was another highlight of the trip and the delegation was interested to learn about the role of the press in Vietnam and the differences between "free press" in our two countries.

In farewell, the delegation met with the Hochiminh City Youth Union (HCYU) and the Vietnam Youth Federation, and attended dinner hosted by the leadership of the HCYU. The delegation returned home with a greatly expanded understanding of Vietnam, as Ms Bettison explains:

'This visit enabled me to experience up close and personal with members of the Vietnamese political system... During our visit we learnt in detail how the parliamentary system of Vietnam operated. We spoke about the issues that affect Vietnam's future and how the policies since 1986 (doi moi) have changed and opened up the country. After the visit my understanding of Vietnam's political system has been enhanced enormously. In the future I will follow the development of the Vietnamese political and economic changes with interest. The visit was of great value to foster understanding between Australia and Vietnam' (Z. Bettison).



The fourth Australian Delegation to Vietnam, led by Mr Jody Fassina, at Ha Long Bay with members of the Quang Ninh Provincial Committee of the Hochiminh Communist Youth Union.

Incoming Delegations to Australia for 1999-2000

In 1999-2000, the Council received three delegations from its exchange partners. This means that at 30 June 2000, the Council has hosted 428 overseas delegates on 54 study tours. The delegations hosted were:

- The Eighth Chinese Delegation to Australia - 26 August to 2 September 1999
- The Eighteenth United States Delegation to Australia - 11 to 24 November 1999
- The Fifth German Delegation to Australia - 1 to 10 March 2000

A list of activities organised by the Council for each delegation is available on the Council's website: www.polexchange.org.au



The eighth Chinese delegation to Australia, led by Mr Bayin Chaolu, with Federal Shadow Minister for Education, the Hon Michael Lee MP (leader of delegation to China 1986).

Eighth Chinese Delegation to Australia
26 August to 2 September 1999

Delegates

- **Mr Bayin Chaolu**, Member, Standing Committee, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee, President, All-China Youth Federation - *Delegation Leader*
- **Mr Tang Benyuan**, Deputy Secretary General, All-China Youth Federation - *Secretary General of the Delegation*
- **Mr Dai Kewei**, Director General, Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China
- **Mr Zhan Shaomin**, President, Fujian Provincial Youth Federation
- **Ms Cao Ping**, Deputy Secretary, CPC Hai Bei Prefecture Committee, Quinghai Province
- **Mr Kuai Zhe**, Vice President, Chinese Research Institute of International Trans-National Corporations, Chairman, Board of Beijing Kuaishi Group
- **Mr Liu Shulin**, Section Director, Training Center of Chinese Advanced Official of Personnel and Management
- **Ms Zhang Shan**, Member, All-China Youth Federation, Member, Chinese National Shooting Team
- **Mr Wu Wei**, Program Officer, All-China Youth Federation

The delegation from China represents a long friendship between the Australian Political Exchange Council and the All-China Youth Federation (ACYF). The ACYF is a central organisation in China, composed of all the country's youth organisations. The Council was honoured this year to welcome a delegation led by the President of the ACYF, Mr Bayin Chaolu. To provide a comprehensive and enjoyable learning experience for the Chinese delegation, the program included Melbourne, Wollongong, Canberra and Sydney.

The Melbourne program contained highlights such as a welcome dinner hosted by Council Chairman, the Hon Dame Margaret Guilfoyle DBE, lunch hosted by the Chinese Consulate and meetings with Parliamentary Secretary to the Victorian Premier, the Hon Bill Forwood MP, and Mayor of Knox City Council, Mayor Karin Orpen. The delegation visited a Primary School, a High School and a Youth Referral Centre and also attended an AFL game. Special thanks must go to former delegates Mr Kim Wells MP (China 1999), Mr Nathan Niven (China 1999) and Mr John Donovan (China 1998) for their assistance in planning the Melbourne program.

The Wollongong program was developed with the help of former delegate Ms Alison Byrnes (China 1999) and included a tour of the BHP steelworks accompanied by Federal Member for Throsby, Mr Collin Hollis MP. The delegation also had lunch with the Federal Shadow Minister for Defence and Member for Cunningham, the Hon Stephen Martin MP (former delegate to Canada 1985).



Leader of the eighth Chinese delegation to Australia, Mr Bayin Chaolu, with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer MP (leader of delegation to USA 1986) and with the Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Meg Lees (delegate to China 1986).

The delegates were guests at a barbeque hosted by the Mayor of Kiama, Ms Joyce Wheatley, and attended a dinner hosted by the Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Mr David Campbell. A cultural activity included in the program was a visit to an Australian wildlife sanctuary.

The Canberra program was very busy and the delegation met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer MP (leader of delegation to USA 1986); Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Chris Ellison; Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Meg Lees (former delegate to China 1986); the Hon Judi Moylan MP (leader of delegation to China 1999); Federal Director of the Liberal Party of Australia, Mr Lynton Crosby (former delegate to China 1986); National Secretary of the Australian Labor Party, Mr Gary Gray (former delegate to USA 1989); and Shadow Minister for Education, the Hon Michael Lee MP (leader of delegation to China 1986).

The Chinese Ambassador to Australia hosted a dinner for the delegates to welcome them to Australia. He also hosted a photographic exhibition and cocktail reception to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, which the delegation attended.

While in Canberra the delegation visited the Australian War Memorial accompanied by Mr Kevin Rudd MP; attended Question Time in the House of Representatives and the Senate; visited the Parliamentary Library; and was briefed by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

The Sydney program included highlights such as a luncheon hosted by the President of the New South Wales Legislative Council, the Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann MLC and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon John Murray MP, as well as a meeting with the Minister assisting the New South Wales Premier on Youth and Minister assisting the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt MLC. The New South Wales Consul-General of the People's Republic of China also hosted a dinner for the delegation.

Eighteenth United States of America Delegation to Australia
11 to 24 November 1999

Delegates

- **Mr Chester (Chet) Culver** (Democrat), Iowa Secretary of State
- *Delegation Leader*
- **Mr Greg Carter** (Democrat), St. Louis Board of Alderman
- **Ms Marissa Castro** (Democrat), Public Affairs, Region Manager
Southern California EDISON
- **Ms Adina Glover** (Democrat), Administrative Coordinator,
ACYPL
- **Mr Andre Bauer** (Republican), South Carolina State Senator
- **Ms Mary Jo Fox** (Republican), Communications Director Policy
Advisor/Legislative Liaison to Governor Marc Racicot (Montana)
- **Ms Karla Boyce** (Republican), Monroe County Legislator Monroe
County, New York
- **Mr Ashley Taylor** (Republican), Deputy Attorney General State of
Virginia
- **Mr Gregg Thompson** (Escort), North Carolina State
Representative

The exchange between the Australian Political Exchange Council and the American Council of Young Political Leaders dates back to the Council's first ever exchange in 1982. This year saw the continuation of this relationship with a nine-member delegation visiting Australia for 14 days. While in Australia, the United States delegation visited Sydney, the Southern Highlands, Perth, Melbourne and Canberra.

Former delegates played a supportive role by assisting in organising activities for the program. Those who contributed to the Sydney program included Mr Barry O'Farrell MP (USA 1996), the Hon Warwick Smith (China 1986), Mr Jason Falinski (USA 1998), Ms Renee Gamble (USA 1999) and Mr Gary Gray (USA 1989). Highlights of this program included a meeting with the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon Bob Carr MP and a luncheon hosted by the Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, the Hon John Murray MP and the Deputy President of the Legislative Council, the Hon Anthony Kelly MLC. The delegation was also briefed by Saatchi and Saatchi on political advertising, the Macquarie Bank on the Australian economy and by the Australian Electoral Commission on the Australian electoral system.

Leader of the eighteenth Australian delegation to the United States, Ms Peta Seaton MP (1999), welcomed the delegation into her home in the Southern Highlands and assisted in organising cultural activities for the delegation.

Australian Political Exchange Council

The Perth program was organised by former delegates to the United States in 1997, Mr Dean Smith and Mr Bruce Campbell-Fraser, and included lunch with the Premier of Western Australia, the Hon Richard Court MLA, a meeting with the Leader of the Western Australian Opposition, Dr Geoff Gallop MLA (former delegate to UK 1997) a meeting with the Lord Mayor of Perth, a visit to the Town of Vincent Council Chambers, a discussion with Mr Peter Robinson of the Conservation Council of Western Australia and a briefing by the Aboriginal Legal Service.

Former delegate Mr Pierre Harcourt (USA 1997) assisted in organising a Melbourne program which featured a dinner hosted by Council Chairman, the Hon Dame Margaret Guilfoyle DBE and briefings related to the Children's Court and the Juvenile Justice System.

The Canberra program included a range of meetings with high profile former delegates such as the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon John Anderson MP (USA 1985); Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer MP (leader of delegation to USA 1986); Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Meg Lees (China 1986); Federal Director of the Liberal Party of Australia, Mr Lynton Crosby (China 1986); and National Secretary of the Australian Labor Party, Mr Gary Gray (USA 1989). Other highlights of the Canberra program included meetings with Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Chris Ellison; Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Kim Beazley MP; and Shadow Treasurer, the Hon Simon Crean MP. Following a luncheon hosted by President of the Senate and Patron of the Australian Political Exchange Council, Senator the Hon Margaret Reid, the delegation attended Question Time in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The delegation was also briefed by Mr Tony Nutt (former delegate to USA 1989, UK 1995), Principal Advisor to the Prime Minister, and Mr William Bellamy, Deputy Chief of Mission, United States Embassy.



The eighteenth United States delegation to Australia, led by Mr Chester Culver, with Premier of New South Wales, the Hon Bob Carr MP.

Fifth German Delegation to Australia

1 to 10 March 2000

Delegates

- **Ms Birgit Roth MdB** (Social Democratic Party - SPD), Member, German Bundestag (Land list of the Rhineland-Palatinate) - *Delegation Leader*
- **Mr Kartsen Schoenfeld MdB** (Social Democratic Party - SPD), Member, German Bundestag (Constituency 303- Gera-Stadt-Eisenberg-Gera-Land I)
- **Mrs Katrin Dagmar Goering-Eckhardt MdB** (Alliance 90/The Greens), Member, German Bundestag (Land list of Thuringia), Parliamentary Secretary of the Alliance 90/The Greens
- **Mr Axel E. Fischer MdB** (Christian Democratic Union - CDU), Member, German Bundestag (Land list of Baden-Wuerttemberg)
- **Mrs Sylvia Bonitz MdB** (Christian Democratic Union - CDU), Member, German Bundestag (Land list of Lower Saxony)
- **Mr Frank Fischer** (Free Democratic Party - FDP), Personal Assistant to the Chief Whip of the FDP, Mr Jorg van Essen MdB
- **Mr Daniel Bartsch** (Party of Democratic Socialism - PDS), Assistant (public relations) to the party executive committee of the PDS

The fifth German delegation to visit Australia as guests of the Australian Political Exchange Council was sponsored by the German Oceania Parliamentary Friendship Group, and consisted mostly of members of the German Bundestag (Parliament). The delegation experienced a program that provided 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 ten days in Australia were spent visiting Sydney, Port Stephens, the Hunter Valley, Canberra and Melbourne.

The Sydney program was developed with the assistance of former delegates to Germany in 1997, Mr Ian Robertson and Ms Michelle Rowland. Highlights included a meeting with the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon Bob Carr MP, a luncheon hosted by the Deputy Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, the Hon John Price MP, and a lively discussion with members of the New South Wales Parliament, the Hon Henry Tsang MLC, the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC and Mr Matt Brown MP.

Port Stephens and the Hunter Valley were incorporated into the program with the assistance of former delegate to Germany Ms Melissa Horne (1999). Highlights included a dinner with Federal Member for Paterson, Mr Bob Horne MP, Deputy Mayor of the Port Stephens Council, Councillor Geoff Robinson and Councillor John Nell, and a visit to a local oyster farm.



The fifth German delegation to Australia, led by Ms Birgit Roth MdB, following a luncheon hosted by the Deputy Speaker, the Hon John Price MP, other members of the New South Wales Parliament and guests.

The Canberra program saw many former delegates meet with the German delegation, including Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer MP (leader of delegation to USA 1986); Federal Minister for Trade, the Hon Mark Vaile MP (UK 1995); Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Meg Lees (China 1986); Australian Capital Territory Chief Minister, Ms Kate Carnell MLA (USA 1994); Australian Capital Territory Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Gary Humphries MLA (Japan 1992); and Federal Director of the Liberal Party of Australia, Mr Lynton Crosby (China 1986). The delegation also met with Federal Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Infrastructure, Transport and Population, the Hon Martin Ferguson MP (arranged by Mr Chris Barrett, former delegate to Germany 1999); visited the electorate office of New South Wales Member for Monaro, Mr Peter Webb MP; and was briefed by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs on Australia's citizenship policy.

While in Canberra, the delegation also enjoyed warm hospitality. President of the Senate and Patron of the Australian Political Exchange Council, Senator the Hon Margaret Reid, hosted a luncheon for the delegation, Council Member Mr Gary Gray (former delegate to USA 1989), welcomed the delegation into his home for dinner and the Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, HE Dr Horst Bachmann, hosted a dinner for the delegation.

The Melbourne program included highlights such as meetings with Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources, Minister for Ports and Minister assisting the Minister for State and Regional Development, the Hon Candy Broad MLC (arranged by Mr Chris Barrett, Germany 1999) and Victorian Shadow Minister for Tertiary Education and Training, Mr Ted Baillieu MP (former delegate to Japan 1993), as well as attendance at a concert by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and a visit to the Grand Prix as guests of Phillip Morris (Australia) Ltd.

Other Activities Sponsored by the Council

In 1999-2000, the Council assisted in providing developmental opportunities for young Australian political leaders. These opportunities included sponsoring delegates on individual study tours.

The Council also recognised the contribution made to the Japan-Australia exchange by Mr Hiroshi Takaku over a long period of time.

Individual Study Tours

At 30 June 2000, the Council has sponsored 37 young Australian political leaders to participate in individual study tours. Four of these travelled during 1999-2000, with two delegates taking part in congressional study tours to the United States of America, and two delegates attending the Asia-Australia Institute Young Leaders' Forum.

Congressional Study Tours to the US

The congressional study tours provide an opportunity for participants to work in the office of a Member of Congress or relevant political organisation and is designed to broaden a participant's political experience and networks. Each year the Council sponsors two congressional study tours, and in 1999-2000 these tours were funded for Ms Roxanne Crouch (Liberal Party of Australia) and Ms Wendy Guest (Australian Labor Party).

Ms Roxanne Crouch, Corporate Relations Manager for the Liberal Party of Australia, worked closely with the Republican National Committee (RNC) in Washington DC during August/September 1999. Her study tour enabled her to gain experience in the operations of another political party and learn from the approaches used by that party. Ms Crouch found the experience extremely rewarding, commenting 'the opportunities regarding experiences and opportunities to share knowledge are enormous'.

Examples of particular learning opportunities enjoyed by Ms Crouch included an RNC Legal Development Seminar, focusing on the legal requirements for communications and campaign finance and a National Convention 2000 site visit to assist in preparation for the next year's convention.

Ms Wendy Guest, Media Advisor to the Australian Labor Party, undertook a placement with Congresswoman Janice Schakowsky, 9th Congressional District, Illinois, during March/April 2000. The program provided an opportunity to observe politics at the grass roots in the US. In particular, Ms Guest worked on key political themes such as the 2000 Census and immigration. She observed first-hand, an example of a crucial issue to the Congresswoman:

'If Chicago loses just 30,000 in population according to the 2000 census, it will probably lose a congressional district at the redistribution which follows the federal election. Jan's district is the most vulnerable for redistribution.'

'I travelled with Jan and her staff visiting high schools, elementary schools and Chicago Housing Authority seniors' buildings (high rise public housing for the elderly) as she delivered her census message. I also assisted in writing out material for handouts on the census' (W. Guest).

Asia-Australia Institute Young Leaders' Forum

In November 1999, the Asia-Australia Institute held a three-day forum in Hong Kong, bringing together emerging and existing young leaders to examine key issues in the region. The topic was "e-Asia: Technology, Culture and Identity (Who Leads Who?)" and covered a range of issues including internet regulation, 'globoculture' and regional culture.

The Council sponsored two delegates to the 1999 forum - Ms Cindy Little-Clare, Assistant to State Secretary, National Party of Australia, and Mr John Cherry, Deputy National President, Australian Democrats. Mr Cherry observed, 'The net is opening up major opportunities for political discourse and campaigning which is still in its infancy in Australia.'

Mr Cherry found the forum of particular benefit, stating:

'To discuss a topic as fascinating as the IT revolution with some of the leading young professionals from private and public sectors across the region was a privilege indeed. My mind came back from Hong Kong brimming with new ideas and perspectives which I look forward to further exploring' (J. Cherry).

Reception in Honour of Mr Hiroshi Takaku

Mr Hiroshi Takaku's retirement from the position of Chief Program Officer to the Japan Center for International Exchange was announced in early 2000. Mr Takaku had been heavily involved in the Australia-Japan exchange since its inception in 1991, and very supportive of the exchange. He travelled to Australia with Japanese delegations on six occasions, and with his wife Chieko, has welcomed many Australian delegations into his home in Japan.

To honour Mr Takaku's contribution to the program, the Minister responsible for the Council, Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Chris Ellison, hosted a reception, and Council Member and Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Sue West, hosted a dinner for the Takakus. Many former delegates and friends of the Council attended the reception and dinner to honour Mr Takaku, who was presented with an Australian myrtle drawer box and an Australian Wallabies Rugby Union jersey as mementos.



Council Member Mr Gary Gray with Mr Hiroshi Takaku and his wife Chieko.



Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Chris Ellison, and former delegates to Japan, Minister for Community Services, the Hon Larry Anthony MP (1994) and Senator Grant Chapman (leader of delegation 1992) acknowledge the friendship formed with Mr Takaku during his time with the JCIE.

Reporting on Council Activities

Part of the Council's success in providing developmental opportunities for young political leaders can be attributed to the networks which operate between the Council and the groups and individuals involved.

Annual Report

The Council's annual report provides a means for regular reporting on Council activities for each financial year to the Principals of the Council. The report is forwarded to the Minister responsible for the political exchange program, the Special Minister of State for tabling in Parliament and it is also made available to former delegates and friends of the Council.

Website

An initiative undertaken in 1999-2000 was the development of a website for the Council. The website provides current information on the Council's activities and features a database of the Council's exchanges and a listing of former delegates. To help maintain networks for former delegates, the website also features Delegate Network webpages, with information tailored especially for former delegates.

The address for the Council's website is www.polexchange.org.au



The eighteenth United States delegation to Australia, led by Mr Chester Culver, at dinner hosted by Lynton Crosby (former delegate to China 1986) and his wife Ms Dawn Crosby (former delegate to Germany 1993), with other guests.

Chronology for 1999-2000

- 10 July 1999 to 20 July 1999 **Eighth Australian Delegation to China**
Led by the Hon Judi Moylan MP (Liberal Party of Australia), Federal Member for Pearce
- 26 August 1999 to 2 September 1999 **Eighth Chinese Delegation to Australia**
Led by Mr Bayin Chaolu, Member, Standing Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee, President, All-China Youth Federation
- 18 September 1999 to 1 October 1999 **Eighteenth Australian Delegation to the United States of America**
Led by Ms Peta Seaton MP (Liberal Party of Australia), Federal Member for Southern Highlands, Assistant to the Leader of the Opposition on Women
- 24 October 1999 to 2 November 1999 **Eighth Australian Delegation to Japan**
Led by Ms Nicola Roxon MP (Australian Labor Party), Federal Member for Gellibrand
- 8 November 1999 to 18 November 1999 **Fifth Australian Delegation to Germany**
Led by Ms Julie Bishop MP (Liberal Party of Australia), Federal Member for Curtin
- 11 November 1999 to 24 November 1999 **Eighteenth United States Delegation to Australia**
Led by Mr Chester Culver (Democrat), Iowa Secretary of State
- 1 March 2000 to 10 March 2000 **Fifth German Delegation to Australia**
Led by Ms Birgit Roth MdB, Member of the German Bundestag (Land list of the Rhineland-Palatinate)
- 3 May 2000 to 12 May 2000 **Fourth Australian Delegation to Vietnam**
Led by Mr Jody Fassina (Australian Labor Party), Advisor to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate

Acknowledgements

The Council is able to offer development opportunities to young political leaders from Australia and overseas with the assistance and support of a number of groups and individuals. In particular, former delegates and supporting organisations have assisted through being involved in, helping to organise, and/or sponsoring activities for the Council's incoming exchange programs.

Former Delegates

The Council would like to thank all former delegates who have been involved in activities for our incoming exchange programs. Their enthusiasm over the 1999-2000 year has contributed greatly to the year's success and their friendliness and warmth has helped make each incoming study tour a memorable experience for all involved.

Supporting Organisations

A number of activities are made possible through the support of private sector and organisations. The Council wishes to sincerely thank the following organisations for their generous support and participation in 1999-2000:

Australian Broadcasting Authority
Australian Hotels Association
Helm's Winery
Kiama Municipal Council
Knox City Council
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
Pharmacy Guild of Australia
Phillip Morris (Australia) Ltd
Town of Vincent (Local Government Authority)
Wollongong City Council

The Council would also like to thank the presiding officers of the Federal and State Parliaments, and participating embassy and consular officials around Australia for their continued enthusiastic support of the Council's programs. The generous support of all State and Territory governments continues to enhance the program.

Appendix A - Prominent Former Delegates

This appendix recognises prominent former delegates including Members of Federal Parliament, Members of State and Territory Parliaments, leaders of party and government organisations and leaders in trade unions and corporate Australia, as at 30 September 2000.

Members of Federal Parliament

- **Senator the Hon Eric Abetz** (Germany 1991, Vietnam 1996), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Senator for Tasmania
- **The Hon John Anderson MP** (USA 1985) Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the National Party, Minister for Transport and Regional Services, Member for Gwydir
- **The Hon Larry Anthony MP** (Japan 1994), Minister for Community Services, Member for Richmond
- **Senator Andrew Bartlett** (Germany 1995), Senator for Queensland
- **The Hon Arch Bevis MP** (Japan 1993), Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations, Member for Brisbane
- **Mr Bruce Billson MP** (UK 1999), Member for Dunkley
- **Ms Julie Bishop MP** (Germany 1999), Member for Curtin
- **Mr Ross Cameron MP** (Japan 1998), Member for Parramatta
- **Senator Grant Chapman** (Japan 1992), Senator for South Australia
- **Senator Stephen Conroy** (USA 1991), Shadow Minister for Financial Services and Regulation, Senator for Victoria
- **The Hon Peter Costello MP** (USA 1986), Treasurer, Member for Higgins
- **The Hon Alexander Downer MP** (USA 1986), Minister for Foreign Affairs, Member for Mayo
- **Dr Craig Emerson MP** (UK 1999), Member for Rankin
- **Mr Gary Hardgrave MP** (USA 1994), Member for Moreton
- **Mr David Hawker MP** (USA 1984), Member for Wannon
- **Senator the Hon Robert Hill** (Canada 1987), Minister for the Environment and Heritage (Leader of the Government in the Senate), Senator for South Australia
- **Ms Cheryl Kernot MP** (USA 1986), Shadow Minister for Employment and Training, Member for Dickson
- **Senator Sue Knowles** (Canada 1985), Senator for Western Australia
- **The Hon Michael Lee MP** (China 1986), Shadow Minister for Education, Member for Dobell

- **Senator Meg Lees** (China 1986), Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator for South Australia
- **Ms Kirsten Livermore MP** (China 1996), Member for Capricornia
- **Senator Joe Ludwig** (USA 1994), Deputy Opposition Whip, Senator for Queensland
- **Senator Kate Lundy** (Japan 1997), Shadow Minister for Sport and Youth Affairs, Shadow Minister Assisting the Shadow Minister for Industry, Innovation and Technology on Information Technology, Senator for the Australian Capital Territory
- **Mr Ian Macfarlane MP** (China 1999), Member for Groom
- **Senator Sue Mackay** (USA 1984), Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government, Senator for Tasmania
- **The Hon Stephen Martin MP** (Canada 1985), Shadow Minister for Defence, Member for Cunningham
- **Senator Julian McGauran** (Japan 1993), National Party Whip in the Senate, Senator for Victoria
- **Senator Jan McLucas** (USA 1994), Senator for Queensland
- **Senator the Hon Nick Minchin** (USA 1990), Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, Senator for South Australia
- **The Hon Judi Moylan MP** (China 1999), Member for Pearce
- **Dr Brendan Nelson MP** (UK 1997), Member for Bradfield
- **Senator Marise Payne** (Russia 1990), Senator for New South Wales
- **Mr Chris Pyne MP** (PNG 1993), Member for Sturt
- **Senator Aden Ridgeway** (UK 1999), Senator for New South Wales
- **The Hon Michael Ronaldson MP** (USA 1991), Chief Government Whip, Member for Ballarat
- **Ms Nicola Roxon MP** (Japan 1999), Member for Gellibrand
- **Senator the Hon Nick Sherry** (Canada 1992), Senator for Tasmania
- **Dr Andrew Southcott MP** (Japan 1996), Member for Boothby
- **Senator Natasha Stott Despoja** (UK 1995), Senator for South Australia
- **Mr Wayne Swan MP** (USA 1990, UK 1995), Shadow Minister for Family and Community Services, Member for Lilley
- **The Hon Andrew Thomson MP** (Japan 1995), Member for Wentworth
- **The Hon Mark Vaile MP** (UK 1995), Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia, Minister for Trade, Member for Lyne

- **Senator the Hon Amanda Vanstone** (USA 1989), Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator for South Australia
- **Senator Sue West** (USA 1986, UK 1999), Deputy President of the Senate, Senator for New South Wales, Australian Political Exchange Council Member
- **The Hon Dr Michael Wooldridge MP** (Russia 1992), Minister for Health and Aged Care, Member for Casey
- **The Hon Trish Worth MP** (USA 1988), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Member for Adelaide

Members of State Parliaments

- **The Hon Pam Allan MP** (Japan 1993), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Louise Asher MLA** (USA 1995), Deputy Leader of the Victorian Opposition, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Ted Baillieu MP** (Japan 1993), Victorian Shadow Minister for Tertiary Education and Training, Shadow Minister for Gaming, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Peter Batchelor MP** (USA 1993), Victorian Minister for Transport and House Manager in the Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Mark Birrell MLC** (China 1984), Victorian Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Shadow Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Member of the Victorian Legislative Council
- **The Hon Steve Bracks MP** (Canada 1992), Victorian Premier, Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon John Bradshaw MP** (China 1994), Western Australian Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism, Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly
- **Mr John Brogden MP** (USA 1994), New South Wales Shadow Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Shadow Minister for Sydney Water, Shadow Minister for Youth Affairs, Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Terry Cameron MLC** (USA 1992), Member of the South Australian Legislative Council
- **Mr Carlo Carli MLA** (Japan 1998), Victorian Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Infrastructure, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly
- **Ms Kate Carnell MLA** (USA 1994), Australian Capital Territory Chief Minister, Member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC** (USA 1993), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council

- **Dr Lesley Clark MLA** (Canada 1990), Queensland Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Robert Clark MP** (Japan 1995), Victorian Shadow Minister for Planning, Shadow Minister for WorkCover, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Ralph Clarke MP** (USSR 1990), Member of the South Australian House of Assembly
- **The Hon John Cowdell MLC** (USA 1985), Western Australian Chairman of Committees, Member of the Western Australian Legislative Council
- **Mr Paul Crittenden MP** (USA 1998), New South Wales Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Premier and the Attorney-General and the Minister for Industrial Relations, Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Cheryl Davenport MLC** (China 1986, PNG 1999), Member of the Western Australian Legislative Council
- **The Hon Dexter Davies MLC** (USSR 1990), Member of the Western Australian Legislative Council
- **The Hon David Davis MLC** (USA 2000), Victorian Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Scrutiny of Government, Member of the Victorian Legislative Council
- **The Hon Phil Davis MLC** (Germany 1997), Victorian Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and Energy, Shadow Minister for Ports, Member of the Victorian Legislative Council
- **The Hon John Dawkins MLC** (China 1993), Member of the South Australian Legislative Council
- **The Hon John Day MLA** (Japan 1996), Western Australian Minister for Health, Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Robert Doyle MP** (Japan 1996), Victorian Shadow Minister for Health, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Mike Elliott MLC** (Canada 1990), South Australian Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Democrats, Member of the South Australian Legislative Council
- **Mr Iain Evans MP** (China 1996), South Australian Minister for Environment and Heritage, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, Member of the South Australian House of Assembly
- **The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC** (Japan 1992), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council
- **Mr Gary Fenlon** (PNG 1993), Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Kevin Foley MP** (Japan 1995), South Australian Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Shadow Minister for Trade, Member of the South Australian House of Assembly

- **The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC** (Canada 1987), New South Wales Shadow Minister for Education and Training, Shadow Minister for Juvenile Justice, Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council
- **Dr Geoffrey Gallop MLA** (UK 1997), Western Australian Leader of the Opposition, Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Sherryl Garbutt MP** (Japan 1994), Victorian Minister for Environment and Conservation; Women's Affairs, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Jennifer Gardiner MLC** (USA 1984), New South Wales Shadow Minister for Fisheries and Ports, Assistant Shadow Minister for Rural Health, Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council
- **The Hon Monica Gould MLC** (USA 1994), Leader of the Government in the Victorian Legislative Council, Victorian Minister for Industrial Relations; Minister assisting the Minister for WorkCover, Member of the Victorian Legislative Council
- **The Hon David Hamill MLA** (Canada 1987), Queensland Treasurer, Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Paul Henderson MLA** (Indonesia 1995), Northern Territory Shadow Minister for Health, Family and Children's Services, Shadow Minister for Housing, Shadow Minister for Defence Support, Shadow Minister for Work Health, Member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly
- **Mr John Hill MP** (USA 1991, Japan 1996), South Australian Shadow Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Shadow Minister for Water Resources, Shadow Minister for Southern Suburbs, Member of the South Australian House of Assembly
- **The Hon Helen Hodgson MLC** (Japan 1993), Member of the Western Australian Legislative Council
- **The Hon Phillip Honeywood MP** (Canada 1990), Victorian Shadow Minister for Education, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Monty House MLA** (Canada 1987), Western Australian Minister for Primary Industry, Minister for Fisheries, Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Barry House MLC** (USA 1992), Western Australian Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Member of the Western Australian Legislative Council
- **Mr Rob Hulls MP** (USA 1992), Victorian Attorney-General, Minister for Manufacturing Industry, Minister for Racing, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Andrew Humpherson MP** (USA 1997), New South Wales Shadow Minister for Housing and Corrective Services, Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly

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- **Mr Gary Humphries MLA** (Japan 1992), Australian Capital Territory Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Community Safety, Member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Mike Kaiser MLA** (UK election study tour 1997), Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Sandra Kanck MLC** (Vietnam 1994), Member of the South Australian Legislative Council
- **The Hon Anthony Kelly MLC** (USA 1987) New South Wales Deputy President of the Legislative Council and Chairman of Committees, Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council
- **The Hon Diana Laidlaw MLC** (China 1988), South Australian Minister for Transport and Urban Planning, Minister for the Arts, Minister for the Status of Women, Member of the South Australian Legislative Council
- **The Hon Robert Lucas MLC** (USA 1987), South Australian Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Member of the South Australian Legislative Council
- **Ms Alannah MacTiernan MLA** (Germany 1993), Western Australian Shadow Minister for Transport and Planning, Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Dr Denis Napthine MP** (Japan 1994), Leader of the Victorian Opposition, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Neville Newell MP** (Japan 1994), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Roger Nicholls MLA** (Japan 1999), Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Simon O'Brien MLC** (Japan 1998), Member of the Western Australian Legislative Council
- **Mr Barry O'Farrell MP** (USA 1996), Deputy Leader of the New South Wales Opposition, Shadow Minister for Transport and Information Technology, Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon John Olsen MP** (Canada 1990), Premier of South Australia, Minister for State Development, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Member of South Australian House of Assembly
- **Mr Ian Osborne MLA** (Germany 1997), Western Australian Cabinet Secretary, Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly
- **Ms Michelle Roberts MLA** (China 1988), Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly
- **Ms Marianne Saliba MP** (Japan 1997), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly

- **Mr Santo Santoro MLA** (USA 1993), Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly
- **Ms Peta Seaton MP** (USA 1999), New South Wales Shadow Minister for the Environment, Assistant to the Leader of the Opposition on Women, Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Lawrence Springborg MLA** (Japan 1995), Queensland Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Attorney-General, Shadow Minister for Justice, Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Bill Thomas MLA** (USA 1987), Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly
- **The Hon Marsha Thomson MLC** (USA 1997), Victorian Minister for Small Business, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Member of the Victorian Legislative Council
- **Mr Kim Wells MP** (China 1999), Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly

Other Prominent Former Delegates

- **The Hon Michael Beahan** (USA 1983), Former Chairman, Australian Political Exchange Council, (Currently Director, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Western Australian Branch)
- **Mr Rickard Beatty** (China 1996), President, Western Australia Branch of the National Party of Australia
- **Ms Zoe Bettison** (Vietnam 2000), Northern Territory State Secretary, Australian Labor Party
- **Ms Anna Booth** (USSR 1990), Member of Commonwealth Bank Board
- **Mr Ian Carson** (China 1996), President, Victorian Division, Liberal Party of Australia
- **The Hon Virginia Chadwick** (USA 1996), Chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- **Mr Terry Connolly** (USA 1993), Master of Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court
- **Mr Lynton Crosby** (China 1986, USA 1994), Federal Director, Liberal Party of Australia, Australian Political Exchange Council Member
- **Mr David Feeney** (USA 1998), State Secretary and Campaign Director, Victorian Branch, Australian Labor Party

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- **Ms Rosemary Follett** (USA 1990), Australian Capital Territory Discrimination Commissioner
- **Ms Emma Freebairn** (UK 1999), State Chair, New South Wales Young Nationals
- **Mr Gary Gray** (USA 1989), Ex-National Secretary, Australian Labor Party, (Currently Executive Director, Western Australian Institute for Medical Research)
- **Mr Pierre Harcourt** (USA 1997), State President, Victorian Young Democrats
- **Mr John Harvey** (USA 1984), Former Federal Director, National Party of Australia
- **Mr Brett Hogan** (PNG 1999), Federal President, Young Liberal Movement of Australia
- **Ms Linda Hornsey** (USA 1993), Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Tasmania
- **Ms Sam Hudson** (USA 1998), National Secretary, Australian Democrats, Australian Political Exchange Council Member
- **Mr Graham Jaeschke** (USA 1996), State Director, Queensland Division, Liberal Party of Australia
- **Ms Gail Kelly** (Vietnam 2000), Western Australian State President, Australian Democrats
- **Mr Michael Kroger** (Germany 1991), Director of the ABC Board
- **Commissioner John Lewin** (Canada 1987), Industrial Relations Commissioner, Victoria
- **Mr Scott Mitchell** (USA 2000), Federal President, Young Nationals
- **Mr Grant Muller** (Vietnam 2000), State President, Queensland Young Liberal Movement
- **Mr Russ Neal** (China 1988), CEO, Australian Seafood Industry Council
- **Mr David Price** (Japan 1997), State Secretary, Tasmanian Branch, Australian Labor Party
- **Mr Andrew Robb** (Japan 1993), Former Federal Director, Liberal Party of Australia, Former Australian Political Exchange Council Member (Currently Chief Executive, Acxiom Australia)
- **The Hon Warwick Smith** (China 1986), Executive Director, Macquarie Bank Limited

Appendix B - Financial Statement

Year 1999-2000

Income	\$
Commonwealth Appropriation	597,000.00
Expenditure	
Australia to China - July 1999	35,967.06
Australia to USA - September 1999	37,629.12
China to Australia - October 1999	41,758.00
Australia to Japan - October 1999	16,400.11
Australia to Germany - November 1999	27,626.39
USA to Australia - November 1999	57,395.54
Asia Australia Institute Young Leaders Forum - Hong Kong 1999	2,769.78
Germany to Australia - March 2000	32,842.65
Australia to Vietnam - May 2000	18,577.18
Australia to USA - July 2000 [advance payments]	3,049.21
US Congressional Study Tours	18,987.41
Carryover Expenditure from 1998-1999 exchanges	11,984.51
Council Communications	22,560.50
Administration	2,661.21
Total	330,208.67
Underspend for 1999-2000 financial year - Accrual	266,791.33

Note - Unexpended Funds in 1999-2000

The funds set aside for visits this financial year were under-utilised due to unforeseeable and unavoidable circumstances including the deferral of several delegation visits until 2000-2001.

Appendix C - Administrative Overview

Chairman's Remuneration

The Chairman receives a sitting fee when the Council meets and when she is engaged in business on behalf of the Council - in accordance with the determinations of the Remuneration Tribunal. Members of the Council do not receive any remuneration.

Meetings

The Council met formally on four occasions: 29 September 1999, 7 December 1999, 17 February 2000 and 8 June 2000. In addition, certain Council business was able to be progressed out of session.

Staffing

The Council Secretariat function is performed by staff of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Group of the Department of Finance and Administration. The Secretariat comprises two positions: an Executive Officer, Ms Debbie Lewis, and a Program Officer. Other staff who have assisted the Council during the year were Ms Tig Hall, Ms Jo Fryer, Mr Stephen Frost and Ms Tanya Hutchinson.

A Secretary to the Council, Mr Daryl Wight, was also appointed in September 1999.

Auditor's Report

The financial affairs of the Council are examined by the Australian National Audit Office.

Freedom of Information

No applications were received by the Council under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* in 1999-2000.

Appendix D - Contact Information

The Australian Political Exchange Council may be contacted through its Secretariat by contacting the Executive Officer.

Address: Executive Officer
Australian Political Exchange Council
PO Box 4860
Kingston ACT 2604
Australia

Telephone: (02) 6215 3248 or (02) 6215 3469

Fascimile: (02) 6215 3262

Email: auspol.exchange@dofa.gov.au