



PARLIAMENT
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Levels G - 8, Tower D
The Port-of-Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road, Port - of - Spain

Report

Parliamentary Delegation Visit to Australia February 19-25, 2015



*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Table of Contents

Delegation.....	2
Approval, Travel Details & Courtesies.....	3
Delegation’s Arrival in the City of Melbourne	4
Delegation’s Visit to the City of Sydney.....	7
Delegation’s Visit to Australia’s Capital City of Canberra.....	11
Appendix	I
Appendix	II
Appendix	III

*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Delegation

The Delegation comprised:

- Hon. Wade Mark, MP - Speaker of the House and Leader of the Delegation
- Dr. Delmon Baker - MP for Tobago West
- Dr. Lester Henry - Opposition Senator
- Mr. Brian Caesar - Marshal of the Parliament and Secretary to the Delegation

By letter dated September 25, 2014 the Acting High Commissioner, Her Excellency Tracey Haines delivered to the Hon. Wade Mark MP, Speaker of the House, a letter; from the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Senator the Hon. Stephen Parry, President of the Senate, Parliament of Australia; inviting a visit to Australia accompanied by Members of a Parliamentary Delegation. The covering letter and letter of invitation are attached at Appendix I and Appendix II respectively.

*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Approval, Travel Details & Courtesies

Cabinet Vide Minute No. 249 of January 29, 2015 approved the attendance of the Hon. Wade Mark, MP, Speaker of the House and a delegation on an official visit to Australia from February 19 -25, 2015. The delegation's itinerary is at Appendix III.

The purpose of the visit was therefore to allow the delegation to:

- Share and gather information on best practices in parliamentary procedures;
- Discuss and consider programmes for the professional development of Parliamentarians;
- Gather information on the modernization of parliamentary systems;
- Share and gather information on the impact and differences in decision making at the legislative level;
- Discuss and consider approaches of a comprehensive orientation and induction programme, for newly elected Members of Parliament; and
- Promote further cooperation between the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Parliament of Australia.

Delegation's Arrival in the City of Melbourne

The delegation commenced the visit to Australia in Melbourne, which is the capital and most populous city in the state of Victoria, and is the second most populous city in Australia with a total of 4,442,918, inhabitants commonly known as Melbournians.

Melbourne has a highly diversified economy with its core strengths in finance, manufacturing, research, information technology, education, transportation and tourism. Whilst in that city, the Hon. Speaker together with the other members of the delegation met with the CEO of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC). The IBAC is an independent arm of the state established for the purpose of ensuring public accountability and integrity in public affairs amongst public officials, and public sector functionaries.

IBAC's principal objectives and functions are set out under the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011 (VIC), and in summary these are as follows:

- provide for the identification, investigation and exposure of serious corrupt conduct, and Police Officers' misconduct;
- assist in the prevention of corrupt conduct and misconduct;
- facilitate the education of the public sector and the community about the detrimental effects of corrupt conduct and police personnel misconduct on public administration and the community, and the

*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

ways in which corrupt conduct and police personnel misconduct can be prevented; and

- assist in improving the capacity of the public sector to prevent corrupt conduct and police personnel misconduct.

Whilst in Melbourne, Speaker Mark and the delegation were hosted at the Victorian Parliament by the Hon. Telmo Languiller MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, and the Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC, President of Legislative Council. The discussion that ensued centered on parliamentary accountability and autonomy. The host Presiding Officers complimented Speaker Mark on the initiative being undertaken in T&T Parliament towards an autonomous Parliament. The delegation was well received and felt at home in the company of the Presiding Officers of the Victorian Parliament.



*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Later that day the delegation was hosted to a tour of the Melbourne Museum & the Bunjilaka Indigenous Culture Gallery. This visit consisted of a rich exhibition of the history and culture of Victoria's first peoples, from creation to the present day. The exhibition was complete with portrayals of ceremonies, customs, laws and resilience, before and after the arrival of Europeans.



*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Delegation's Visit to the City of Sydney

Day two (2) of the visit commenced in Sydney, and began with officials from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). The delegation was introduced to the State Manager of the Australian Electoral Commission, and to the Commissions primary responsibilities which include, conducting federal elections, by-elections and referendums, as well as maintaining up-to-date electoral records.

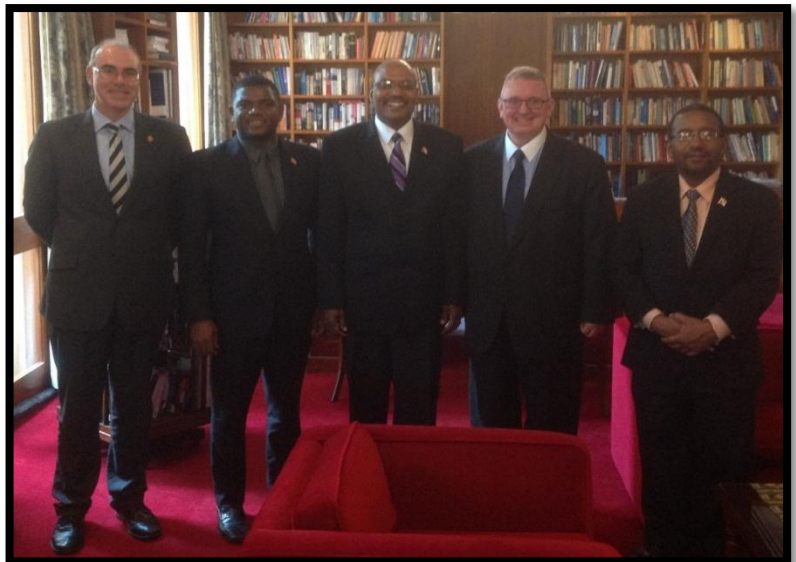
The AEC publishes detailed election results and follow-up on electors who fail to vote. The AEC is also responsible for monitoring the activities of registered political parties, including receiving returns from parties of donations and expenditures; and they are also responsible for publishing the information.



*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

The AEC's disburse public funding to political parties and answers to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters of the Parliament of Australia. The agency must report on how elections were conducted and the success and challenges of the elections in general. The AEC plays a vital role in electoral education; educating citizens about the electoral process and how representatives are elected; and the process by which the Australian Constitution is changed.

Whilst in Sydney the delegation was hosted at the New South Wales Parliament, by the President of the Legislative Council the Honourable, Don Harwin MLC. As occurred in Victoria, the discussions focused on parliamentary accountability



and autonomy, and there was agreement at the conclusion, that both the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament and the Parliament of New South Wales would continue to share and learn from each other.

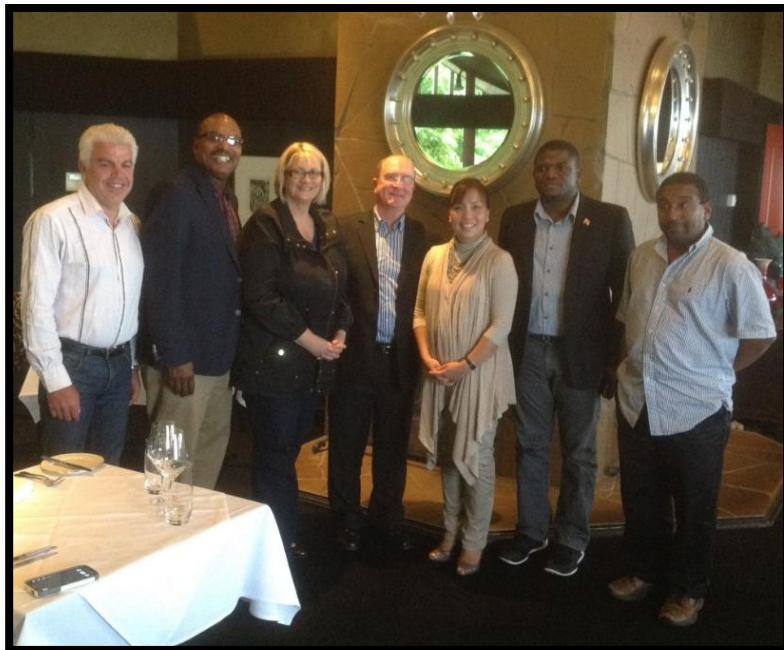
The delegation during its stay in Sydney visited the University of Sydney and met with Professor Anne Twomey, a professor of Constitutional Law and Director of the Constitutional Reform Unit, Sydney Law School. There, the issue of federalism was discussed.

*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Professor Twomey shared the benefit of her knowledge and experience on the subject matter, and analyzed federalism in a Trinidad and Tobago context. On conclusion, she opined that because the circumstances, cultures and experiences of countries



are varied, countries would be well advised to give consideration to whatever system of integration it believes to be in its own best interest.

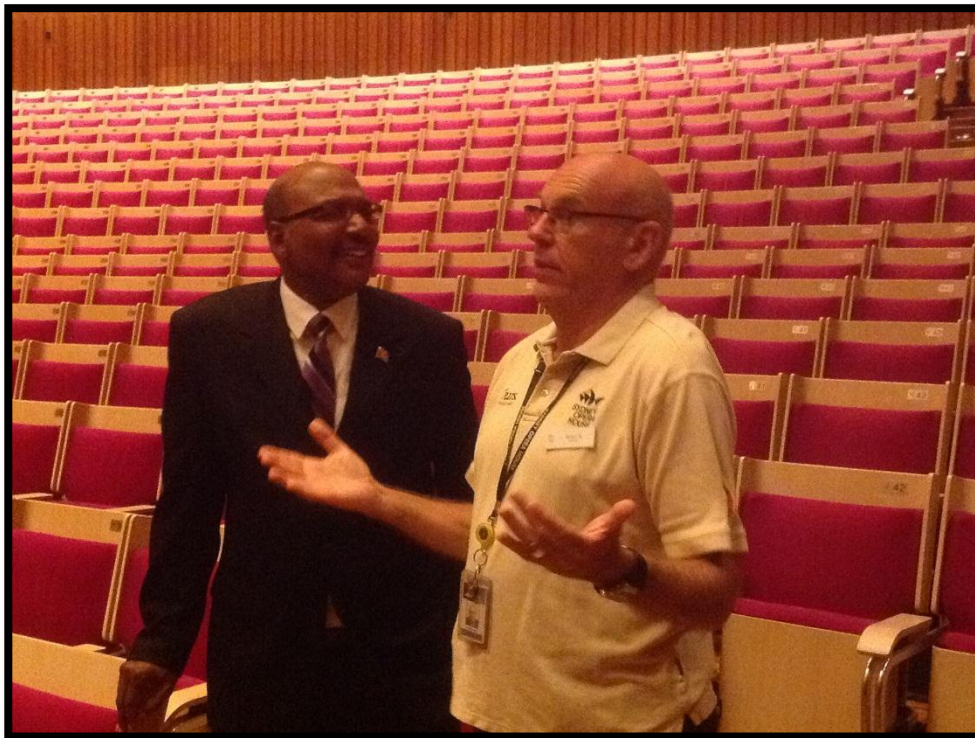


In Sydney, Mrs. Louise Markus, Member of Parliament for Macquarie, and Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration, hosted the delegation in the Blue Mountains Area, which is located in the areas that she represents in the

Parliament. She shared with the delegation the history of the area and its importance.

*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

The Sydney Opera House, described by many as an architectural masterpiece of the 20th century, was one of the global icons visited on day two in Australia. The Opera House stands as a great urban sculpture set in waterscape, at the tip of the Sydney Harbour and it hosts more than eight million visitors a year. The venue which is considered the center for Australia's pre-eminent culture, brought into sharp focus Trinidad and Tobago's ongoing discussion on the establishment of a cultural center, to facilitate the many cultural strings in our multi-ethnic, multi-religious society. The delegation considered the facility welcoming, and one response was that 'its design captures and excites the imagination'. It was articulated by members of the delegation, that the visit to the Opera House formed an important part of the visit to Australia, and as such the delegation was thankful to the host for including it, as part of the Australian experience.



*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Delegation's Visit to Australia's Capital City of Canberra

Old Parliament House opened in 1927 and served as the home of Federal Parliament until 1988. Over time, this impressive building became synonymous with some of the country's most important moments including Australia's declaration of war against Japan in 1941 and the dismissal of Gough Whitlam's Labor Government in 1975.

The delegation's first official engagement in Canberra involved attending the Senate Estimates Hearings on Finance and Public Administration. The President of the Senate, the Hon. Stephen Parry, together with the Clerk of the Senate, Dr. Rosmary Laing, appeared before the committee and was questioned on issues of expenditure as it relates to the Senate. The Members of the Committee were very thorough in their questioning and in their oversight and scrutinizing responsibility, they pressed for answers and clarity when required.

The delegation later met with the Hon. Steven Ciobo MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who substituted at the meeting for the Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The discussion focused on the Small Arms Trade Treaty and the role that both Trinidad and Tobago and Australia can play in furthering the objectives of the treaty.

A similar discussion was held with the Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and he was open to the views expressed by the members of delegation, on the particular subject matter.

*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Later that day, the delegation visited the Sitting of the House of Representatives and observed the Prime Minister's Question Time (Q and A). The exchanges were rigorous, and the Q and A session even featured government MPs asking questions of Prime Minister, Tony Abbot. Later in the proceedings the Speaker of the House, the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop announced the presence of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation in the person of Speaker Wade Mark, Minister Delmon Baker, and Senator Lester Henry. The Members of the House acknowledged the presence of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation.



*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Day five (5) of the visit also involved a meeting between the Trinidad and Tobago Delegation, led by Speaker Mark, and the Presiding Officers of the Australian Parliament. At the meeting Speaker Mark reminded of the six major objectives that informed the visit. Namely:

- To share and gather information on best practices in parliamentary procedures;
- To discuss and consider programs for the professional development of Parliamentarians;
- To gather information on the modernization of parliamentary systems;
- To share and gather information on the impact and differences in decision making at the legislative level;
- To discuss and consider approaches of a comprehensive orientation and induction programme, for newly elected Members of Parliament; and
- To promote further cooperation between the Parliament of Australia and the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago.

Additionally, Speaker Mark spoke of the possibility of embarking on an arrangement to facilitate working visits between our two (2) parliaments; the establishment of a parliamentary academy to facilitate training of parliament staff; and the accessing of up-to-date programming content for the Parliament Channel in Trinidad and Tobago, from the Parliament of Australia. The Presiding Officers of the Australian Parliament responded positively to the points raised and there was agreement that there will be further discussion on the respective subject areas.

*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Speaker Mark also facilitated an interview with the House of Representatives Community Outreach Unit, on the following:

- The Transformation Agenda of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago;
and
- Similarities and Differences between the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Parliament of Australia.

The link for the interview is as follows: www.aph.gov.au/international

The delegation departed Australia on February 25, 2015.

*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Appendix I



HIGH COMMISSIONER

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
PORT OF SPAIN

25 September 2014

The Honourable Wade Mark MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives
Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Dear Honourable Speaker

It is my pleasure to enclose a letter from the Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP and Senator the Hon Stephen Parry extending an invitation to you to visit Australia as a guest of the Australian Parliament. I would like to provide further information on the proposed visit for your consideration:

- The Parliament of Australia would pay for "in-country" costs in Australia only, such as accommodation, meals, domestic ground transport and flights (business class where available) for:
 - the Speaker, your spouse (if accompanied) and an adviser
- The length of the official visit would be for a period of around 5-6 days
- The visit may entail visiting up to three cities in Australia, including Canberra and possibly Sydney.
- Please note that costs for international flights to Australia and incidentals would not be covered.

An officer from the International and Parliamentary Relations Office would accompany you and your delegation (if accompanied) throughout your visit.

The Parliamentary Relations Office would develop a program of appointments and would be particularly interested to know about your interests in Australia.

As background, programs vary widely depending on the visitor's interests. The Canberra program would usually include a call on the Presiding Officers and a dinner hosted by them, attendance at Question Time in both Chambers, a meeting with the Parliamentary Friendship group for the relevant country or region, meetings with Ministers and Parliamentary Committees (where available and depending on interests), and potentially visits to cultural attractions such as the War Memorial.

Elsewhere in Australia the program could include community events, visits to State Parliaments, cultural attractions and pursuit of any particular policy interests, for example in education or trade.

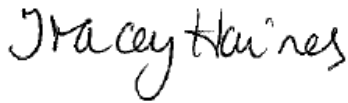
*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

There are no restrictions on when the invitation should be taken up, except that Parliament's preference is for visits to at least partially overlap with a Sitting Week of the Australian Federal Parliament to ensure the best success of a Canberra program. I enclose a copy of this year's sitting pattern for information.

I look forward to meeting you in person to discuss any questions you may have about this invitation and hope that you may be able to accept this invitation in 2014 or in the near future.

The Australian High Commission will continue to support the deep collaboration and relationship that has already been established between Australia and Trinidad and Tobago.

Yours sincerely,



Tracey Haines
Acting High Commissioner

*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Appendix II



Parliament of Australia

Speaker of the House of Representatives

President of the Senate

The Hon Wade Mark
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Levels G-7, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
Port of Spain
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Wade,

Dear Mr ~~Speaker~~

We have the honour to invite you to visit Australia as a guest of the Australian Parliament.

We believe that exchanges of this kind serve to strengthen ties between parliaments and assist in further developing bilateral relationships. We look forward to the opportunity that a visit by you will present to foster the relationship between the Trinidad and Tobago and Australia.

The Australian Parliament will be pleased to extend hospitality during your time in Australia.

If you are able to accept our invitation, we recommend that formal arrangements for the visit be pursued through diplomatic channels in consultation with the International and Parliamentary Relations Office of our Parliament.

We look forward to extending to you a very warm welcome to Australia.

Yours sincerely

THE HON BRONWYN BISHOP MP

SENATOR THE HON STEPHEN PARRY

*Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015*

Appendix III

**Programme of Events - Parliamentary Delegation from Trinidad and Tobago
(19 to 25 February, 2015)**

Thursday, February 19

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 09:40 | Depart hotel form Eureka Sky-deck 88 Riverside Quay, Southbank |
| 09:55 | Arrive Eureka Sky-deck 88 |
| 10:00 | Overview of Melbourne from Eureka Sky-deck 88 |
| 10:30 | Depart Eureka Sky-deck 88 for Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) Level 1, North Tower, 549 Collins Street |
| 10:55 | Arrive IBAC |
| 11:00 | Meet with Mr. Alistair Maclean, CEO, Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) |
| 12:00 | Depart IBAC for Parliament House |
| 12:25 | Arrive Parliament House |
| 12:30 | Attend luncheon hosted by the Presiding Officers of the Parliament of Victoria, The Hon Bruce Atkinson, MLC, President of the Legislative Council, and the Hon Telmo Languiller, MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly |
| 14:00 | Depart Parliament House for Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson Street, Carlton |
| 14:30 | Tour of Bunjilaka Indigenous Culture Gallery. Met on arrival by Mr. Patrick Green, CEO, Museum Victoria, and Ms. Caroline Martin, Bunjilaka Manager |
| 15:30 | Depart Melbourne Museum for Melbourne Domestic Airport |

***Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015***

Friday, February 20

09:40 Arrive Sydney Opera House. Met on arrive by Ms. Anna Yanatchkova, Protocol Officer

09:45 Tour of the Sydney Opera House

10:45 Depart Sydney Opera House for the Australian Electoral Commission Level 10, 59 Goulburn Street

11:10 Arrive Australian Electoral

11:15 Meet with Ms. Kathy Mitchell, Acting State Manager, (New South Wales) Australian Electoral Commission

12:30 Depart Australian Electoral Commission for Parliament House Macquarie Street

12:55 Arrive Parliament House

13:00 Attend luncheon hosted by the Hon Don Harwin, MLC, President of the Legislative Council Parliament of New South Wales

14:30 Depart Parliament House of University of Sydney Parramatta Road Entrance

14:55 Arrive University of Sydney

15:00 Meet with Professor Anne Twomey, Professor of Constitutional Law and Director of the Constitutional Reform Unit, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney Faculty Boardroom, Law School

16:00 Depart University of Sydney for hotel

16:30 Arrive hotel

18:40 Assemble in the foyer and depart hotel for dinner

19:00 Attend dinner hosted by the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia, The Dining Room, Park Hyatt Sydney

***Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015***

Saturday, February 21

09:00 Depart hotel for Featherdale Wildlife Park, 217 Kildare Road Doonside
09:55 Arrive Featherdale Wildlife Park
10:00 Private tour of Featherdale Wildlife Park
11:00 Depart Featherdale Wildlife Park for the Blue Mountains Echoes Boutique Hotel, 5-19 Lilianfels Avenue, Katoomba
12:25 Arrive Blue Mountains
12:30 Attend luncheon hosted by Mrs. Louise Markus, MP Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Migration and Member for Macquarie Echoes Restaurant
14:00 Depart luncheon for sightseeing in the Blue Mountains, including Scenic World and the Three Sisters
17:00 Depart Blue Mountains for hotel
18:30 Arrive hotel

Sunday, February 22

10:45 Depart hotel by bus for Circular Quay
10:55 Arrive Circular Quay
11:35 Depart Circular Quay by ferry for Watson's Bay
11:54 Arrive Watson's Bay
12:00 Lunch Doyles on the Beach
14:00 Depart Watson's Bay for Sydney Domestic Airport

Monday, February 23

08:40 Depart hotel for Parliament House, House of Representatives Entrance
08:55 Arrive Parliament House
09:00 Attend Senate Estimates Hearings – Finance and Public Administration (Parliament) Committee Room 2S1
11:00 Meet with the Hon Julie Bishop, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs M1 27

***Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015***

Monday, February 23

- 11:15 Meet with the Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite, MP, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Committee Room 1R4
- 11:45 Tour of Parliament House
- 12:30 Luncheon with representatives of the Australia-Americas Parliamentary Network, Chair: Mr. Dan Tehan, MP, House of Representatives Alcove
- 14:00 Attend Question Time in the House of Representatives
- 14:45 Interview with the House of Representatives Community Outreach Unit, Opposition Leader's Courtyard
- 15:15 Depart Parliament House for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, House of Representatives Entrance
- 15:30 Meet with Ms. Elisabeth Bowes, Head, Tobacco Plain Packaging Taskforce, Callistemon Room, Level 5, R.G. Casey Building, John Mc Ewen Crescent, Barton
- 16:30 Depart Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for hotel
- 16:40 Arrive hotel
- 17:55 Assemble in the rear foyer of hotel
- 18:00 Depart hotel for Parliament House Senate Entrance
- 18:10 Arrive Parliament House
- 18:15 Meeting with the Hon Bronwyn Bishop, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Senator the Hon Stephen Parry, President of the Senate parliament of Australia, President's Suite
- 18:45 Meeting concludes
- 19:00 Attend dinner hosted by the Presiding Officers of the Parliament of Australia the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Senator the Hon. Stephen Parry, President of the Senate, Speaker's Dining Room

Tuesday, February 24

- 08:55 Arrive Parliament House, House of Representatives Entrance
- 09:00 Meet with Dr. Rosemary Laing, Clerk of the Senate, and Mr. David Elder, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Committee Room 1R4
- 10:15 Meet with Ms. Sharon Dean, Director, Intelligence Management and Evaluation Executive and Foreign Intelligence Co-ordination Branch Office of National Assessments, Ms. Robyn McClelland, Clerk Assistant – Committees, Dr. Anna Dacre, Secretary, and Ms. Julia Searle, Inquiry

***Report of the Delegation - Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Visit to Australia
February 19-25, 2015***

Tuesday, February 24

10:15 Secretary, Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Security and Intelligence, Committee Room 1R4

11:15 Depart Parliament House for the Australian National University House of Representatives Entrance

11:40 Arrive Australian National University Frank Fenner Building, Daley Road

11:45 Meet with Mr. Ken Baldwin, Director, Australian National University Energy Change Institute Room F2, Forestry Building 48 (Ground Floor)

13:30 Depart Australian National University for Manuka Oval, Manuka Circle, Griffith

14:00 Attend ICC Cricket World Cup match, West Indies v Zimbabwe

15:30 Depart Manuka Oval for Canberra Airport

16:00 Arrive Canberra Airport

18:20 Arrive Melbourne
Depart Melbourne Domestic Airport for hotel
Accommodation

Wednesday, February 25

08:15 Assemble in the hotel foyer and check-out

08:30 Depart hotel for Melbourne International Airport

09:15 Arrive Melbourne International Airport

11:15 Depart Australia