

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee:

I am writing in relation to the upcoming Senate Inquiry into Australia's relationship with Mexico.

I think it is excellent that Australia is looking at opportunities to enhance relationships with Mexico. I kindly request the committee to also include in this inquiry the reference to the Work and Holiday Agreement between Australia and Mexico.

As per a joint report between Mexico and Australia<sup>1</sup>, ***"The Australian Government has invited Mexico to consider entering into a reciprocal Work and Holiday agreement with Australia. The agreement would allow a limited number of Mexican students to take a year out from their studies to work and travel in Australia. Mexican students would need to be aged between 18 and 30 years and either have completed, or be studying toward, a tertiary qualification. They would also need to demonstrate some English language ability and have the support of their Government. There would also be opportunities for young Australians to work and travel in Mexico under similar conditions. The Mexican Government is currently considering the agreement."***

Unfortunately, due to different reasons it seems that the negotiations of such Work and Holiday agreement have not been completed. As recently as November 2012 'more agreements were in the pipeline, such as the expansion of the programme with Indonesia and ongoing negotiations towards arrangements with Uruguay and Mexico.'<sup>2</sup> NB - The Uruguay - Australia working holiday agreement commenced on 1 April 2013.

According to the DFAT, in 2014, more than 71,000 Australians travelled to Mexico and around 8,100 Mexicans visited Australia<sup>3</sup>. I personally believe that a work and holiday visa would definitely increase the number of Mexicans traveling to Australia. I also believe that reaching such an agreement would benefit both countries economically and culturally.

As per the above reasons, I kindly request the committee to review this and propose a target date of a Work and Holiday agreement between Australia and Mexico.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Mexico Joint Experts Group on Strengthening Bilateral Economic Relations Joint Report'1 (page 22/62) [http://dfat.gov.au/geo/mexico/Documents/australia\\_mexico\\_jeg.pdf](http://dfat.gov.au/geo/mexico/Documents/australia_mexico_jeg.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> More countries offering working holiday agreements, <http://monitor.icef.com/2012/11/more-countries-offering-working-holiday-agreements/>

<sup>3</sup> Mexico country brief <http://dfat.gov.au/geo/mexico/pages/mexico-country-brief.aspx>