

**THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

**Report of the Australian Parliamentary Delegation to  
Turkey and Ireland**

**17 – 28 October 2005**

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## MEMBERSHIP OF THE DELEGATION

### Delegation Leader

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Senator for South Australia  
*Liberal Party of Australia*

### Deputy Delegation Leader

**Senator Ursula Stephens**  
Senator for New South Wales  
*Australian Labor Party*

### Delegation Members

**Mr Phil Barresi, MP**  
Member for Deakin (Victoria)  
*Liberal Party of Australia*

**Mr Kerry Bartlett, MP**  
Member for Macquarie (New South Wales)  
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**Senator Andrew Bartlett**  
Senator for Queensland  
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**Senator Gavin Marshall**  
Senator for Victoria  
*Australian Labor Party*

### Delegation Secretary

Mr Elton Humphery  
Committee Office  
Department of the Senate

The Delegation was accompanied by Mrs Anne Ferguson, Mrs Christine Bartlett and Mr Bob Stephens.



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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report presents the details of the activities and observations of a Delegation from the Parliament of Australia that visited Turkey and Ireland in October 2005.

1.2 The members of the Delegation are listed on page iii and an outline of the Delegation's program is shown at Appendix 1.

### **Aims and Objectives of the Delegation**

1.3 The Delegation agreed on the following aims and objectives, which were formulated with advice from the Parliamentary Library and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

#### *Turkey*

- Renewing and strengthening relations with the Turkish Grand National Assembly;
- Gain an appreciation of Turkey's domestic social, economic and political issues;
- To obtain Turkey's views on regional political developments in Central Asia, the Middle East, in particular within Iraq and international terrorism;
- To obtain Turkey's assessment of its application for membership of the European Union, with particular reference to its relations with Greece over the problem of divided Cyprus; and
- To explore opportunities for increasing trade and commercial ties and people-to-people relations through cultural and other exchange programs.

#### *Ireland*

- Renewing and strengthening ties with the Irish Oireachtas (Parliament);
- Gain an appreciation of Ireland's domestic social, economic and political issues;
- To obtain Ireland's views on developments in Northern Ireland and within the European Union, since the rejection of the new European Union Treaty by some member states; and
- To explore opportunities for further trade and commercial ties as well as people-to-people relations through cultural and other exchange programs.

## **Acknowledgements**

1.4 The Delegation wishes to express its appreciation of the efforts of the many people who contributed to the smooth operation of the visit and who assisted in making it such an overall success. While many people are involved, the Delegation wishes to particularly acknowledge the following contributions:

### ***Canberra***

1.5 The Delegation received comprehensive oral and written briefings prior to its departure that proved to be of great assistance in preparing for and during the visit. The Delegation records its thanks to:

- His Excellency Mr M. Tansu Okandan, Ambassador for Turkey
- His Excellency Mr Declan Kelly, Ambassador for Ireland
- Officers from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Parliamentary Library Research Service.

1.6 The Delegation wishes to thank the staff of the Parliamentary Relations Office for their coordination of the visit and valuable travel and protocol advice, particularly Ms Fiona Way and Mr Andrew Templeton, and Ms Ingrid Zappe of the Senate Committee Office for her administrative assistance. The Delegation also thanks TQ3 Navigant at Parliament House for their assistance with the travel arrangements.

### ***Ankara and Istanbul***

1.7 The Delegation wishes to thank HE Ms Jean Dunn, Australian Ambassador to Turkey and Embassy staff Ms Jenny Hayward-Jones, Ms Elizabeth Petrovic and Ms Elif Barutcuoglu-Wade for their invaluable support and assistance provided during the visit. The professional interpreting skills of Mr Oytun Deliktas were greatly appreciated by the Delegation at official meetings.

1.8 The Embassy arranged an interesting and varied program for the Delegation that was ably assisted by Ambassador Dunn and Ms Petrovic who accompanied the Delegation during the visit and also attended the official meetings. A comprehensive briefing provided by the Ambassador and Embassy staff at the commencement of the visit was of great value in updating the Delegation on the current social, political and economic situation in the country.

1.9 The Delegation also thanks Senior Trade Commissioner Mr Damian Fisher for his advice and assistance while the Delegation was in Istanbul. Mr Fisher is working assiduously in promoting Australia and trade opportunities and particularly in providing contacts for Australian companies wishing to engage with Turkey.

1.10 The Delegation and accompanying spouses would like to thank Mr Brian Dunn for his enthusiasm in providing an enjoyable and interesting range of activities for the spouses while the Delegation was involved in official meetings.



1.11 The Delegation also extends its thanks to Mr Bulent Erten and officials from the protocol office of the Turkish Parliament for their assistance in ensuring the smooth conduct of the hearing program in Ankara and the Grand National Assembly.

### ***Dublin***

1.12 Many people combined to make the Delegation's visit to Ireland a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable occasion.

1.13 The Delegation would like to thank all who contributed to ensuring the success of the visit, but in particular Dr Rory O'Hanlon who hosted the Delegation to his home County of Monaghan, at Leinster House and who met with the Delegation officially and unofficially on many occasions; Mr Séamus Pattison for hosting the Delegation on its visit to County Kilkenny; Ms Cait Hayes and Ms Jackie Leavy of the Irish Parliamentary Association Office. Ms Hayes and her staff had prepared a very busy program for the Delegation with a balance of official meetings, interesting and informative visits and inspections, and social occasions; Ambassador Dr John Herron, First Secretary Mr Sean Singh and members of the Embassy staff for their professional advice, support and assistance during the visit and for the valuable oral briefing that outlined a range of current issues between Ireland and Australia that the Delegation was able to pursue during official meetings.

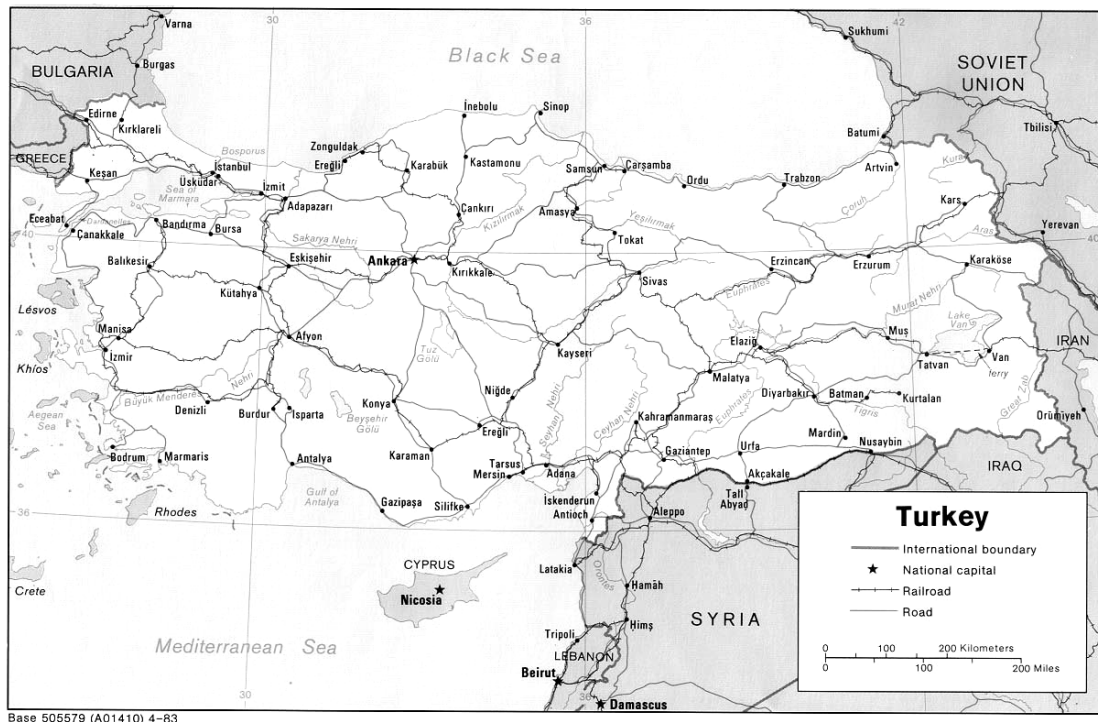


*The Delegation members in the Chamber of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, from the left: Mr Kerry Bartlett, Senator Gavin Marshall, Senator Andrew Bartlett, Senator Alan Ferguson (Delegation Leader), Senator Ursula Stephens and Mr Phil Barresi.*



## CHAPTER 2

### TURKEY



Source: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle\\_east\\_and\\_asia/turkey\\_pol83.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east_and_asia/turkey_pol83.jpg) [viewed 5.5.06]

### Background<sup>1</sup>

2.1 The Republic of Turkey was proclaimed on 29 October 1923 by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire after World War 1. As its first President, Ataturk, a military hero who had participated in the Gallipoli campaign, embarked on a radical modernisation program along Western lines. During Ataturk's time as President, a position he held until his death in 1938, Turkey underwent a great transformation that changed the religious, social and cultural bases of Turkish society as well as its political and economic structure. A secular, democratic political system was established with Turkey being the only Muslim country to have secularism written into its constitution.

2.2 Turkey occupies a key geo-strategic position between Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Middle East which has made it an important country for regional and international relations. It has a population of 74 million and a land area of

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1 Information in the early sections of this chapter is based upon written briefings from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and DFAT Country, economy and regional information at [www.dfat.gov.au/geo/](http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/)

approximately 775 000 square kilometres. Most of Turkey lies in Asia, but three percent is in Europe. While Ankara is the capital, Istanbul is the largest city with a population of around twelve million and serves as a 'bridge' between the continents of Europe and Asia.

### **Overview of Bilateral Relations**

2.3 Australia enjoys good relations with Turkey with particular emphasis on our ongoing cooperation to commemorate Anzac Day in Gallipoli each year and the large number of Turkish migrants who have settled in Australia following the signing of a bilateral agreement on assisted migration in 1967. Formal bilateral relations between Australia and Turkey commenced with the signing of this agreement and an exchange of Ambassadors in 1968. Since the early 1990s a mutual desire to boost trade and investment ties has led to the strengthening of the relationship.

2.4 The 1967 agreement commenced the formal migration program between Turkey and Australia. An Agreement on Economic Co-operation was signed in 1988. An Extradition Treaty has entered into force. An Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was signed in June 2005 to protect investments in either country by ensuring that such investments enjoy fair and equitable treatment and progress is well advanced towards finalising a Double Tax Agreement. A Work and Holiday Visa Arrangement to facilitate travel by young people between the two countries and an MOU on agricultural cooperation were signed in December 2005. Australia is negotiating a Framework Agreement on Defence and Military Cooperation with Turkey to provide greater scope to develop defence relations, including a defence materiel and procurement agreement. Dialogue continues on political and security matters, particularly focussing on counter-terrorism, Iraq and the Middle East.

### **Community Links/Immigration**

2.5 As noted, Turkey and Australia signed a bilateral agreement on assisted migration in 1967. In contrast to the Turkish guest-worker schemes in Europe, Australia offered migration to whole families and wanted permanent migrants. Most early migrants intended to return to Turkey, but decided to remain in Australia due to adverse economic conditions in Turkey. The 2001 Census records 29 821 Turkey-born migrants and overall community size, including second and third-generation, as 54 596. Other estimates suggest the Turkish community in Australia could be as large as 100 000 people.

2.6 Both Australia and Turkey regard the 1915 Gallipoli campaign as an event of particular significance in their modern histories. Every year a growing number of Australian and Turkish citizens attend commemorative services at Gallipoli, with an estimated 14 000 Australians attending the 90th Anniversary Commemorative Services in 2005.

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## High-Level Visits

2.7 While the shared experience of Gallipoli remains fundamental to the relationship, Australia is seeking to broaden the relationship beyond the Anzac Day commemorations, especially by increasing high level political and trade visits between the two countries.

2.8 Prime Ministers Howard and Erdogan met in Istanbul on 26 April 2005 and discussed ways of further developing the relationship. They agreed on an Australian-funded exchange scholarship program to assist students and scholars from both countries to advance their studies in areas of mutual interest, and to look at a working holiday arrangement for young Turkish and Australian citizens. They also agreed on joint projects to strengthen cooperation in the conservation and preservation of sites and the environmental and historical values of the Anzac area at Gallipoli.

2.9 Prime Minister Erdogan visited Australia from 7 to 11 December 2005, during which a Work and Holiday Visa Arrangement and an MOU on agricultural cooperation were signed. Recent high level visits have included:

### *To Turkey -*

**2005:** To attend Anzac Day Commemorations: Mr John Howard, Prime Minister; Ms De-Anne Kelly, Minister for Veterans' Affairs; Mr Steven Bracks, Premier of Victoria; Mr Paul Lennon, Premier of Tasmania, and eight other federal MPs.

Mr Mark Vaile, Minister for Trade in May.

Senator Sandy Macdonald, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, in November 2005 for the Joint Economic Committee on trade, economic and technical cooperation.

**2004:** Senator Robert Hill, Minister for Defence.

**2003:** Mr Peter Costello, Treasurer.

**2002:** Governor-General Dr Peter Hollingworth; Mr John Anderson, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services.

**2001:** Mr Alexander Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Senator Richard Alston, Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

**2000:** Mr John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia; Mr Bruce Scott, Minister for Veterans' Affairs; Senator Amanda Vanstone, Minister for Justice; Mr Philip Ruddock, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

### *To Australia -*

**2005:** December: Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey; Mr Besir Atalay, Minister of State; Mr Ali Babacan, Minister of State for Economic Affairs;

Mr Binali Yildirim, Minister of Transportation; and Mr Osman Pepe, Minister for Environment and Forestry.

August: Mr Osman Pepe, Minister for Environment and Forestry.

June: Mr Kursad Tuzmen, Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Trade.

May: Mr Bulent Arinç, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

March: Mr Mehmet Aydin, Minister for Religious Affairs and Overseas Communities.

February: Mr Suleyman Kamci, Canakkale Governor.

**2003:** Mr Ahmet Davutoglu, Senior Adviser to Foreign Minister, Mr Abdullah Gul.

**2002:** Mr Sabahattin Cakmakoglu, then Minister for National Defence and Mr Hunsu Yusuf Gokalp, then Minister for Agriculture.

**2001:** Prof. Sukru Sina Gurel, then State Minister.

## **Political Overview**

2.10 The Republic of Turkey has a unicameral parliament, the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA), with 550 Deputies. Executive power is vested in the Head of State (the President), who is chosen by the TGNA for a term of seven years. President Ahmet Necdet Sezer has held the office since May 2000. Legislative power is vested in the Head of Government (Prime Minister) and a Council of Ministers (Cabinet) which usually numbers around 35. The Deputies are elected on a first-past-the-post system for a five-year term. Political parties must achieve a national threshold of 10 per cent of the vote to gain representation in the TGNA. There is universal suffrage with a minimum voting age of 18.

2.11 At the last general election held on 3 November 2002, Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan's 'Justice and Development Party' (AKP), established in 2001, won a convincing victory over the mainstream parties. Gaining almost 35 per cent of the vote, AKP won 363 of the 550 seats in parliament, a majority which allows AKP to govern in its own right. At around 80 per cent, voter turnout for the election was high.

2.12 The only other party in the election to exceed the 10 per cent threshold of votes required for parliamentary representation was Mr Deniz Baykal's 'Republican People's Party' (CHP). With around 20 per cent of the vote, CHP gained 178 seats.

2.13 The AKP Government has worked within the framework of Turkey's secular constitution and continued Turkey's traditional pro-Western stance (Turkey is a member of NATO). The AKP Government has also accelerated efforts aimed at securing EU membership for Turkey, and worked cooperatively with the IMF (which provides financial assistance to help stabilise the country's economy) and the World Bank. Turkey entered into accession negotiations with the European Union on 3 October 2005.

2.14 The separatist Kurdish Workers's Party (PKK) called a truce to its 15 year insurgency when its leader, Abdullah Ocalan, was captured in February 1999. The Turkish Government eased restrictions on the public use of the Kurdish language in 2004 and an appeal court released a prominent Kurdish politician - Leyla Zana - from jail in June 2004. However, there has been resurgence in PKK terror attacks, including on tourists, since the PKK called off a five-year long cease-fire in mid-2004. Another unilateral cease-fire was announced from 20 August to 3 October 2005.

### **Foreign Policy Overview**

2.15 Traditionally, Turkey's foreign relations have been structured around pro-Western alliances, its geo-strategic position, and cultural and historical ties. The United States is a key foreign policy and security partner for Turkey. The current government has seen a particular role for itself in promoting East-West links supporting an "Alliance of Civilisations" initiative in the UN with Spain and recently organising the first high level meeting ever between Israel and Pakistan. A particular foreign policy focus for Turkey is its complex relationship with neighbouring Greece. Issues include the divided island of Cyprus, disputed territorial claims in the Aegean, the extent of the continental shelf (Turkey has declined to sign the Law of the Sea Convention), the treatment of ethnic Turks in Greece, and issues relating to Turkish laws governing religious minorities.

2.16 Turkey regards Cyprus as an important national security issue and maintains a military presence in northern Cyprus. Turkey was supportive of the efforts of the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to bring about a negotiated and peaceful settlement to the dispute in Cyprus and was disappointed with the results of the April 2004 referenda where Turkish Cypriots supported the plan while Greek Cypriots rejected it.

2.17 Turkey maintains strong relations with Russia, Georgia, Bulgaria and other Black Sea countries and is a leader in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation forum. Turkey acts as an important link in the East-West Energy Corridor bringing the Caspian energy to Europe and world markets.

2.18 Turkey participates strongly in UN peace keeping operations. It contributed police to the transitional administration for East Timor (UNTAET). Turkey has twice led NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. Turkey is providing some assistance to the US-led Coalition in Iraq.

2.19 Turkey is a member of other multilateral political, security and economic organisations, including the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Council, the OECD, the IMF, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation. Turkey is also an associate member of the West European Union.

2.20 Turkey supported the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and has ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention. It has joined the Missile Technology Control Regime. It joined the Australia Group in 2000.

## **EU Accession**

2.21 Turkey has long sought full entry into the European Union and achieved a Customs Union with the EU at the beginning of 1996. In December 1999 at the Helsinki Summit, Turkey was declared a candidate for membership. At the EU Copenhagen Summit in late 2002, it was agreed that, pending a successful review in December 2004 of Turkey's progress in meeting its EU responsibilities, Turkey could commence EU accession negotiations in 2005. The EU decided in December 2004 to enter into accession negotiations with Turkey, which formally commenced in early October 2005.

## **Economic Overview**

2.22 Turkey has changed rapidly from a rural to an industrialised economy and ranks as the world's 21st largest economy with a GDP of over \$US 300 billion. However, although manufacturing overtook agriculture in the 1980s as the major contributor to GDP, the Turkish economy still retains a strong rural character with agriculture accounting for around 11 per cent of GDP and 34 per cent of employment. There is a substantial unregistered economy, with estimates of its value ranging from 20 per cent to 50 per cent of economic activity.

2.23 Unemployment and underemployment are major problems and there is a large wealth gap between the relatively prosperous major cities and rural areas, particularly those in the east of the country. The unemployment rate in 2005 should stand at around 10 per cent (EIU 2005 forecast).

2.24 European Union countries, with which Turkey has a customs union, take over 50 per cent of Turkey's exports and provide just fewer than 50 per cent of imports.

2.25 The Turkish economy experienced an economic crisis in 2001 when the economy contracted by 9.5 per cent. This contraction was followed by a cycle of economic boom and the economy grew by 7.9 per cent, 5.8 per cent and 8.9 per cent respectively in 2002, 2003 and 2004 (EIU Viewswire figures), though economic growth was expected to moderate to around 5 per cent in 2005.

2.26 The current account deficit has increased over the last two years from around 3 per cent in 2003 to an estimated 4.5 per cent in 2005. The increase has been driven mainly by increased world oil prices causing a surge in imports. The strength of the lira is also dampening export growth while strong domestic demand continues to draw in imports which offset stronger exports and record tourism.

2.27 Despite its economic challenges, the Erdogan government has persisted with economic reform and successfully concluded a new three-year stand-by arrangement with the IMF. The arrangement, covering the period May 2005 - May 2008, provides for \$US 10 billion of financial support from the fund which will be disbursed in 11 instalments.



2.28 Reduction in inflation in Turkey has been a major achievement in the past few years, with the annual average rate of inflation declining from around 80 per cent in the 1990s to the current level of around 8 per cent.

2.29 Banking, social security and taxation reforms continue. Social security reform aims to reduce the pension deficit to less than one per cent of GNP over the long term. Turkey recently reduced the corporate tax rate from 30 to 20 per cent. Further tax reforms including personal income tax, VAT, corporate tax and financial intermediation tax, aim to improve efficiency, reduce incentives to remain in the informal economy, and offset the expected structural decline in revenues as interest rates and revenues from financial intermediation taxes decline. Financial sector reforms include adoption of a new banking law, strengthening of banking regulatory and supervisory authority, and restructuring and privatisation of state banks.

### **Bilateral Economic and Trade Relationship**

2.30 Two-way trade between Australia and Turkey for 2004-05 was around \$644 million. Australian exports totalled \$279 million, and imports \$365 million.

2.31 Australia's exports to Turkey are largely commodity-based, and include sales of non-monetary gold, coal, cotton and wool. There have been some successes in diversifying exports, including with the sale of eight fast ferries to the Istanbul municipality. In November 2005 the Western Australian based company Austal ships won a contract to supply two further fast vehicle-passenger ferries to the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.

2.32 Turkey maintains high tariff protection and support for many agricultural and food products to discourage imports and to encourage consumption of local products. Nonetheless, Australia has traditionally been one of the leading exporters of wheat to Turkey, which is amongst the highest per capita wheat consumers in the world. The Joint Economic Committee on trade, economic and technical cooperation met in Ankara on 15 November 2005 and identified good prospects for growth in bilateral trade and investment in agriculture.

2.33 Australia's imports from Turkey are dominated by cargo vehicles, dried fruit and nuts, rubber tyres and electrical household items especially televisions. Exports of wheat have shown strong growth since 2000, iron ore exports have remained steady, while textile and fibre exports have fluctuated but shown a general downward trend.

2.34 The level of two-way investment between Australia and Turkey is small. A number of Australian companies are currently pursuing investment opportunities, particularly in energy, infrastructure (eg port development and highways), and mining. A number of Australian companies have also won tenders for development projects in Turkey. Australia and Turkey signed an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement in June 2005.

## **Export Opportunities**

2.35 Austrade has operated a post based in Istanbul since 1990. A number of key growth areas in Turkey have been identified as providing opportunities for Australian companies including infrastructure projects; oil and gas exploration and production; education and training; information and communication technologies; health care and medical products; and food and beverages.

2.36 Turkey is rich in a wide range of natural resources, but relies heavily on imports for its energy needs. Imports of LNG, coal and oil will be needed to meet up to two-thirds of requirements by 2010, although Turkey is hoping that the Southeast Anatolian project (GAP - Turkish acronym), which envisages a \$US 32 billion investment in infrastructure, including construction of 22 dams and 19 power stations, may provide up to 50 per cent of the country's electricity requirements.

2.37 New laws on mining and foreign investment have made the mining sector in Turkey a more attractive market for Australian investment. Turkey encourages foreign investment in the energy sector and growth rates suggest that there is strong potential for further development of Australian minerals exports.

2.38 Turkish agricultural reform and its endeavour to promote agriculture in the southeast through the GAP Southeast Anatolian project may also create opportunities for Australian agricultural businesses and expertise.

2.39 There is potential for greater services trade, particularly Australian participation in the education and training sector in Turkey. A number of Australian educational institutions are interested in entering the Turkish market and are being assisted by Austrade.

## **The Delegation's Program – Summary of meetings, visits and inspections**

2.40 A number of issues were discussed across the range of meetings with the Delegation. The tenor of these discussions demonstrated that Australia and Turkey share common values and aspirations in respect to these issues.

2.41 It was regularly emphasised that the bilateral relationship between the countries is strong and that great importance is placed on the relationship. Recent high level visits to the respective countries demonstrate the intention to further strengthen and develop the relationship and in particular facilitate opportunities for enhanced trade and other exchange programs.

2.42 The shared experience of Gallipoli is fundamental to the deep friendship and strong relationship that now exists between the countries. It is regarded as a unique situation that from a battlefield where opposing forces regarded each other with honour and respect, a strong and vibrant relationship emerged and developed between the two newly emerging independent nations.

2.43 The famous words of Kemal Ataturk spoken in 1934 to the first group of Australians, New Zealanders and British to visit the Gallipoli battlefields and which are engraved on a stone memorial above Anzac Cove at Ari Burnu cemetery, were constantly referred to in discussions. The full inscription on the memorial reads:

THOSE HEROES THAT SHED THEIR BLOOD  
AND LOST THEIR LIVES...  
YOU ARE NOW LYING IN THE SOIL OF A FRIENDLY COUNTRY.  
THEREFORE REST IN PEACE.  
THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE JOHNNIES  
AND THE MEHMETS TO US WHERE THEY LIE SIDE BY SIDE  
HERE IN THIS COUNTRY OF OURS...  
YOU, THE MOTHERS,  
WHO SENT THEIR SONS FROM FAR AWAY COUNTRIES  
WIPE AWAY YOUR TEARS,  
YOUR SONS ARE NOW LYING IN OUR BOSOM  
AND ARE IN PEACE.  
AFTER HAVING LOST THEIR LIVES ON THIS LAND  
THEY HAVE BECOME OUR SONS AS WELL.



*The Delegation at the Ari Burnu Beach Memorial*

2.44 There is strong Turkish recognition of the importance that Gallipoli plays with the emerging nationhood for Australia and New Zealand and which has become fundamental to the national psyche. However, the Gallipoli peninsula battles and the struggle to retain control of the Straits of the Dardanelles were also a defining moment in Turkish history, playing an equally important role in the nationhood of the emerging Turkish Republic.

2.45 The Delegation Leader, Senator Ferguson, commented on a number of occasions that the Delegation acknowledged that while the fundamental importance of Gallipoli to the relationship must be recognised, we cannot always focus only on the past but must move forward with trade and other measures to strengthen the relationship and develop into the future.

2.46 With formal agreement to proceed with the accession negotiations between Turkey and the EU having occurred in the week prior to the Delegation's arrival, the subject was topical to many discussions. Senator Ferguson expressed the Australian view that was supportive of Turkey in these negotiations. Discussions centred on the various phases of negotiations. It is recognised that such negotiations are complex and time consuming, covering some years. Turkey has already implemented a number of reforms to meet EU criteria.

2.47 A view often expressed to the Delegation was that the negotiation process will provide a valuable opportunity for Turkey to undertake further developments in areas including human rights, infrastructural developments, economic and social reforms. Reference was also made to the ultimate benefits of full membership for Turkey, for Europe and for broader international implications.

2.48 The Delegation held a number of valuable meetings in the Turkish Grand National Assembly and at a number of Ministries at which a range of issues of mutual concern were discussed. The Delegation was impressed with the positive moves arising from the Parliamentary Friendship Group's activities in raising the profile of Australia-Turkey issues and the increasingly regular high level visits between the two countries.

2.49 A number of people meeting with the Delegation expressed a keen interest in the Australian parliamentary system and its comparison with the Turkish political system. Debate often followed as the Delegation explained the structure of the Australian parliamentary system, its bicameral configuration and the respective roles of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the operation of major political parties and the role of minor parties, the operation of parliamentary committees and the Australian electoral system.

## Visit to Anitkabir – Ataturk's mausoleum and wreath laying

2.50 The Delegation commenced its formal program with a visit to Anitkabir, Ataturk's Mausoleum, which is located on a hill overlooking central Ankara and rises above a Peace Park formed from trees and plants received from all over the world. The Delegation members, accompanied by Ambassador Jean Dunn and representatives from the Turkish military services, participated in the ceremonial procession along the Lions Road and Ceremonial Ground before the Delegation Leader, Senator Ferguson, laid a wreath in the Mausoleum as a mark of respect to Kemal Ataturk. After the ceremony the Delegation visited the Anitkabir Ataturk Museum within the monument complex to view the display of Ataturk's personal items, medals and decorations, and dioramas including of the Gallipoli campaign.



*The Delegation with Ambassador Dunn and led by Senator Ferguson during the wreath laying ceremony in Ataturk's Mausoleum*

## Meeting with Mr Mehmet Dulger, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

2.51 The Delegation met with Mr Mehmet Dulger, Chairman and members of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

2.52 Mr Dulger referred to the strong relationship between Turkey and Australia with its historical links to Gallipoli. He commented that the Turkish soldiers had regarded the Anzacs as honourable and brave adversaries and referred to Ataturk's words bringing the two countries together. Mr Dulger emphasised that Turkey places great importance on the relationship with Australia which it wishes to further strengthen and develop.

2.53 The importance to Turkey of the commencement of negotiations with the EU was discussed. Australia's interest and support for Turkey in commencing these negotiations was greatly appreciated. Mr Dulger stated that a relationship between Europe and Turkey had broad ramifications on the global stage. He believed that by uniting representatives of western and eastern societies would provide the opportunity of bringing peace through the message of peace and sanctity of life that are at the base of Christian and Muslim teachings.

2.54 Mr Dulger emphasised that Turkey's geographical location is important strategically and that Turkey could provide a bridge to enable Europe to open to the Caucases and middle-Asia for cultural, trade and other exchanges.

2.55 Mr Dulger indicated that the negotiations for EU membership had domestic implications for Turkey as it raises standards especially in respect of human rights and their democratic institutions. It was natural that there may be some doubts and concerns expressed in the short term. However, Mr Dulger was certain that Turkey would overcome any initial concerns and historical prejudices as the negotiations progress.

2.56 The situation in Cyprus leading up to and following the 2004 referendum was discussed, especially Turkey's support for the UN endorsed Annan plan that was defeated at the referendum and disappointment at the embargos affecting Turkish Cypriots. Turkey remains committed to a comprehensive settlement for Cyprus and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul in May 2005 called for the lifting of all restrictions imposed on both sides of Cyprus. Turkey considers that lifting all existing restrictions is important to move negotiations forward so as to reach a comprehensive settlement and political compromise. It was hoped that Turkey's goodwill towards negotiating a resolution would be understood by all parties.

2.57 Mr Dulger also spoke of the need to be tough with Iran on nuclear issues. He noted the different approaches of European countries and the USA, whereby European intervention through countries such as the UK, France and Germany would force Iran to negotiate the situation which, though possibly being lengthy, was preferable to armed conflict.

### **Meeting with Dr Soner Aksoy, Chairman of the Industry, Trade, Energy, Natural Resources, Information and Technology Committee**

2.58 Introductory comments at this meeting focussed on the opportunity such visits between parliamentary groups, Ministers and other officials provide in bringing countries closer together through the exchange of information and ideas and, in particular, demonstrating the strength in trade and the desire to increase and develop trade relations between the countries.

2.59 Agriculture was a most important sector for the EU accession negotiations. While reforms will need to be undertaken, Dr Aksoy noted that Turkey has historically been able to adapt to changing circumstances and that reforms in the

agricultural sector have been undertaken. Turkey has oriented its trade to the west and is currently exporting to 150 countries.

2.60 The Delegation discussed a number of matters with Dr Aksoy including:

- Concerns that the spread of avian flu could impact on the poultry trade;
- Public support to small and medium manufacturing enterprises through convenient loans with low interest rates;
- Energy issues having strategic importance with no oil reserves but large hydro power plants and coal deposits and use of renewable energy. Boron is being developed and expected to be valuable for the future. Australia's uranium reserves were suggested as an opportunity to assist as an energy resource.
- Turkey's high tariff protection was discussed with ways of overcoming barriers to build trade between countries; and
- The recent Austal vehicle-passenger ferry contract with the Istanbul Metropolitan Authority.

### **Meeting with Mr Ismail Ozay, Chairman of the Turkish-Australian Parliamentary Friendship Group**

2.61 The Parliamentary Friendship Group has been established for two years though there had been some delays in Australia with the intervening elections and parliamentary recess. Mr Ismail Ozay, the Friendship Group's Chairman is a member for Canakkale. Other members of the Group in attendance at the meeting were Erol Tinastepe, Ahmet Kucuk, Siyan Kesimioglu, Serik Zergin and Mesut Deger. The Group discussed issues involving Australia that had been raised during debate in the National Assembly.

2.62 Gallipoli was a central issue of discussion including the main considerations that are taken into account when determining any development and construction that may occur within the Gallipoli Peace Park. There is recognition that the increasing number of visitors to the Peninsula require greater organisation. Numbers visiting are not balanced through the year. There are visiting programs for children, and for many other visitors the area is seen not as a tourist destination but a shrine where lessons are learnt from history. Other issues included water shortages within the peninsula with slow movement towards a dam. This was strongly related to agricultural development and fire control.

2.63 Progress with a number of bilateral agreements was discussed including the double taxation agreement and protecting investment, as well as scholarship arrangements and opportunities for younger Turks through working holidays. Mr Ozay noted there were concerns over distance and that improved information on accommodation, choice of schools and universities and opportunities would be of assistance. There was also a need for enhanced dialogue with universities, noting for example slow progress between the University of Canberra and the University of Canakkale.

2.64 Mr Ozay also noted that initiatives should be developed not just between politicians but from businessmen. The role of an Australian/Turkish Business Council would be of prime importance in this area.

### **Meeting with the Ankara Chamber of Commerce**

2.65 The Delegation met with Mr Salih Bezci, Vice President of the Board of Directors, Mr Ahmet Peker, Secretary General, and members of the Ankara Chamber of Commerce (Ankara Ticaret Odasi).<sup>2</sup>

2.66 The Chamber has 120 000 members and is very influential. It has been able to influence the adoption of sections in legislation to provide support to the community and cultural life. It has built convention centres and other facilities for the community. It was proud to be behind the bringing of a Formula 1 Grand Prix race to Turkey (which had Fosters as a major sponsor).

2.67 The Chamber noted that the construction industry was developing greatly, though skilled workers to meet demand was a problem. To address this issue the Chamber had established a private tertiary institution with an emphasis on trade and management issues and ensuring that graduates have guaranteed employment.

2.68 Mr Bezci, like many people the Delegation met, had visited Australia and commented on the opportunities for an increased business relationship with Australia and Australian companies. He described the growth in the Turkish economy emphasising that the economy was now sound after the early 2000s, inflation was controlled and unemployment had reduced in recent years. Tourism was rapidly gaining in importance and it was expected to double over the next decade, accelerated by new foreign investments coming into Turkey especially as a result of the EU negotiations. It was expected that the EU negotiations would lead to a further reduction of the agricultural population with increasing urbanisation.

2.69 Discussion focussed on the small number of companies doing business with Australia, though Boron was one area of some involvement. The Chamber emphasised that it was interested in doing business with all parts of the world and saw that Australia provided much opportunity. A particular area was that Turkey used Australia and Canada as models for IT development and globalisation. However, there was a need for much greater dialogue and openness as many did not know of the opportunities that each can provide. Ambassador Dunn advised that there was a Joint Economic Commission meeting to be held shortly and invited the Chamber to be involved.

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2 For information on the ATO in English and Turkish visit <http://www.atonet.org.tr/>



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## **Meeting with Mr Nabi Sensoy, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

2.70 Mr Nabi Sensoy had recently been announced as the Ambassador designate to the United States. He was able to give the Delegation a forthright overview of not only Turkey's relations with Australia but also the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs position in relation to a number of crucial world situations and Turkish issues.

2.71 Mr Sensoy commented that the bilateral relationship was in excellent condition and that Turkey was looking at this mature relationship being developed in the future. The visits of Prime Ministers Howard and Erdogan to the respective countries during 2005, together with other high level visits emphasised the importance and development of the relationship.

2.72 There was a very good infrastructure to the relationship through a range of agreements and a number in the pipeline to build this infrastructure even further.

2.73 Trade development was an area that had scope for enhancement. While noting that distance can be a constraining factor it was anticipated that the Joint Economic Commission and Business Council would play an important role in increasing the trading relationships between the countries.

## **Meeting with Mr Osman Pepe, Minister of Environment and Forestry**

2.74 In welcoming the Delegation, Minister Pepe noted the importance of Gallipoli to the relationship between the countries, but noted that there were wider issues in the countries' friendship.

2.75 The Minister spoke warmly of his recent visit to Australia that included the Australian War Memorial. He explained that while Turkey understood the importance of Gallipoli to Australia and its nationhood, Gallipoli was also important for Turkey and its development into an independent nation. The Minister noted that while the peninsula had remained undeveloped for some years, progress is now being made in the development of the peninsula to recognise its important role for Turkey and Australia while respecting the area's historical and sacred nature.

2.76 The Delegation discussed a range of issues with Minister Pepe relating to his portfolio including environmental protection, salinity, water and land usage, and forestry. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry is responsible for the Gallipoli Peninsula Peace Park as part of its responsibility for national parks.

2.77 The Minister noted that:

- Increasing tourism to many regions of Turkey is being balanced with protection of the natural environment;
- There is serious ongoing work to address salinity with mitigation programs being conducted jointly with the agriculture ministry;

- Sustainable water usage is being addressed through large agricultural projects which aim to increase agricultural potential. While irrigation projects are important, the results could be improved as farmers need educating in correct equipment and water use;
- The Ministry is responsible for the management and development of forests and of the people living in forest areas. However, forest industry is within the private sector with a rapidly growing furniture industry having export potential. The Minister noted that his visit to Australia had provided a valuable exchange of information on policies regarding forests and related areas.
- Much research is being undertaken to improve water treatment and disposal from urban areas.
- Political activism of 'grass roots' environmental supporters has not been great in Turkey; though there is a growing sensitivity among the population and environmental issues are gaining wider media coverage.



*The Delegation accompanied by Ambassador Jean Dunn with Mr Osman Pepe, Minister for the Environment and Forestry*

## **Governorship of Istanbul**

2.78 The Deputy Governor described the operation, role and responsibility of the governorship and that governors are appointed by and represent the national government. The Delegation discussed the major areas of responsibility such as health, education, security, agriculture and tourism and their division between provincial and municipal jurisdictions.

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2.79 The Delegation expressed its pleasure at the recent decision by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality to award Austal ships the contract for two further vehicle-passenger ferries and was optimistic that this would lead to further significant investment and trading opportunities in the Istanbul region.

2.80 A range of issues were raised in discussions including:

- Balancing the heritage value of Istanbul with development and modernisation. Preservation of the heritage from former civilisations is very important and there is a cultural heritage preservation body that must approve any redevelopments. Restoration projects are expensive and assistance is sought through NGO's. It is also hoped that the EU might be a possible source of assistance.
- Impact of increasing tourism. Istanbul is addressing increased tourist numbers with developing infrastructure. Many tourists are at the budget end of the market, including many young Australians, with the other end of the market covered by boutique hotels. Packaged tourism and the increasing popularity of Aegean Sea resorts in Turkey are also important in increasing tourism numbers.
- Bosphorus and Black Sea. Shipping through the Bosphorus that connects the Marmara and Black Seas, especially with the former USSR bloc countries, has a positive impact on the economy. However there are environmental concerns with the large number of oil tankers and cargo carriers that traverse these waterways. Alternative oil piping arrangements are being examined. A number of bodies are involved in the management of environmental conditions in the Bosphorus and the Black Sea.
- Managing migration. With Istanbul being the 'gateway to Western Europe' large numbers of people are attracted to the city making the management of migration an important issue. The problem of illegal migration is more marked in border cities than Istanbul, especially through Bulgaria and Greece.

### **Visit to Gallipoli – 19 October**

2.81 The Delegation was honoured to visit the Australian commemorative and memorial sites at Gallipoli.<sup>3</sup> The national and heritage significance of the Gallipoli campaign in Australian culture is understood by all Australians. It is regarded as a symbol of our nationhood, national ethos and identity.

2.82 The Anzac area of the Gallipoli Peninsula is a small part of the 33 000 hectares that were designated a National Park in 1973, a Heritage site in 1980 and is now the Gallipoli International Peace Park.

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3 For further information on Gallipoli visit <http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/>

2.83 The day was a tranquil, peaceful late autumn day that enabled individual delegation members to quietly reflect and contemplate on the events of some 90 years earlier. The words from the diary of CEW Bean for the day that the Delegation visited provide a poignant precursor to the friendship that has developed between Australia and Turkey from the events of 1915:

October 19: Befriending the Turks

The Anzacs and Turks, who hadn't attacked each other for some time, now started befriending each other, initiating exchanges of bully beef, jam and cigarettes in the early morning...

Things had changed now and the privates probably felt they had more in common with the enemy privates than with their hard-hearted commanders back in the headquarters.<sup>4</sup>

2.84 The Delegation visited the Ari Burnu cemetery at the north of Anzac Cove where the dawn landings occurred; the stone monument with Ataturk's words reproduced in English; the Anzac Commemorative site at North Beach with its interpretive panels overshadowed by the steep ravines leading to the Sphinx and which is now the venue for the Dawn Service; Lone Pine and the moving inscriptions on headstones in the cemetery; and Chunuk Bair with the New Zealand National Memorial and statue of Ataturk not 50 metres apart and which overlook Suvla Bay. The Delegation also visited the Turkish 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment Memorial that is atop gullies with markers signifying the location of Turkish mass graves that contain some of the 87 000 Turks who lost their lives during the Gallipoli campaign.

2.85 The Delegation was provided with an historical perspective of the events at each site by the authoritative guide Mr Kenan Celik.

2.86 The sharp increase in visitor numbers to the Anzac Day service since the mid 1990s especially by young people has been reflected by a growing nationalism among Turkish youth that has also seen a dramatic increase in Turkish visitors to Gallipoli (estimated at over one million per annum). This has put significant strain on the infrastructure of the peninsula which is being addressed through various activities including the upgrade of roads and construction of rest spots and new car parks.

2.87 The upgrading of the section of coastal road around Anzac Cove, Ari Burnu and North Beach had created much debate in the Australian media and been the subject of a report by a Senate Committee shortly before the Delegations departure.<sup>5</sup> The Delegation was able to view and travel along the section of road in question during its visit.

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4 Gallipoli: Untold stories from war correspondent Charles Bean and front-line Anzacs, Jonathan King and Michael Bowers, p.228.

5 Matter relating to the Gallipoli Peninsula, Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee, October 2005.



*Delegation members inspect the interpretive panels at the Anzac Commemorative site*

### **Meeting with Mr Suleyman Kamci, Governor of Canakkale**

2.88 The Delegation met with Mr Suleyman Kamci, Governor of Canakkale, which is the provincial authority which includes the Gallipoli peninsula. This meeting focussed on issues relating to Anzac Cove, Gallipoli, commemoration and the increasing number of visitors, especially Australian, to the peninsula and Canakkale.

2.89 The meeting opened with the involvement of local media who were interested in the debate occurring in Australia relating to the roadworks at Anzac Cove. Senator Ferguson responded that Australia acknowledged the area was sovereign Turkish land upon which the Turkish had generously permitted Australia to build commemorative memorials and had cared for the areas where Australian soldiers fought. The issue of the road was a small issue within the overall context of Australia's indebtedness to Turkish authorities and the strong friendship between Turkey and Australia.

2.90 The Delegation commented that interest in the care and protection of the peninsula raised by Australian media reflected not just the interest of the thousands of Australians who now visit the Anzac ceremonies but was recognition of the great importance of this area to all Australians. It is recognised that improved access assists visitors to the area and needs to combine the sensitivity of the memorial nature of the area and respecting its links to Australian traditions. The Governor also emphasised the important commemorative nature of the area for Turkey and that all fallen soldiers – Australian, New Zealand and Turkish – are to be honoured and they are thus highly respectful of the area.

2.91 Senator Ferguson also spoke of the special commemoration service for Anzac Day always being at Anzac Cove. He explained that all Australian towns and cities hold ceremonies, though replication of the Anzac Cove ceremony was not feasible in Australia because of its very special significance for Australia.

2.92 There was discussion on the large increase in visitor numbers attending the Anzac Service which swell each year and the expectations as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary moves closer. The Delegation spoke of a renewed interest among younger Australians in the Anzac story as they understand their nation's traditions and culture and make the pilgrimage to Gallipoli.

2.93 The Governor noted that there was a similar very high interest among the youth of Turkey. An education program is conducted during March-June which sees many young Turkish students visiting the peninsula.

2.94 The discussion moved to the infrastructural developments on the peninsula and at Canakkale to handle the increasing tourism. Roads were being improved on the peninsula with the inclusion of rest spots to enable easier movement of large tourist numbers. Any improvements are undertaken without impacting on the commemorative nature of the area and recognising that the peninsula is also a national park.

2.95 Canakkale has seen much growth, development and investment, with major projects including a new five star hotel and large shopping centre having been recently completed.

2.96 The Governor concluded by saying they were trying to encourage Australians to visit not just Gallipoli on Anzac Day but also other areas of Turkey and at other times of the year. He hoped that tourist operators would encourage Australians to enjoy the broader Turkish experience throughout the year, including the culture and heritage of the historical sites as well as the Aegean coastline and beaches to the south of Canakkale.

### **Cultural and Heritage Awareness**

2.97 The Delegation greatly appreciated the opportunity to gain an understanding of the culture, traditions and historical heritage of Turkey and its people by visiting a number of monuments and historical sites.

- The Museum of Anatolian Civilisations in Ankara with its remarkable collection of archaeological treasures from civilisations stretching over 1000's of years from the Palaeolithic, Neolithic and bronze ages and from the Assyrian, Hittite and Anatolian civilisations.<sup>6</sup>

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6 For further information visit [http://www.geocities.com/anadolu\\_muzesi/muze.html](http://www.geocities.com/anadolu_muzesi/muze.html)

- The ruins of the ancient city of Troy, near Canakkale at the mouth of the Dardanelles, which is not just about Helen and Paris, Hector and King Priam and a wooden horse immortalised through Homer's Iliad but requires a realisation that given its geographical and strategic importance Troy has a history of settlement from 3000BC to 600AD spanning nine distinct periods of occupation, destruction and rebuilding on the same site.<sup>7</sup> Mr Mustafa Askin provided an informative tour of the historical site explaining how the different areas within the ruins related to the different stages in the history of Troy.
- The magnificent city of Istanbul with its Byzantine and Ottoman Empires' history and monuments and especially the Sultanahmet district.<sup>8</sup> Ms Gamze Artaman skilfully guided the Delegation through some of the most spectacular highlights of Sultanahmet. The Delegation was particularly impressed with the inspiring Blue Mosque completed in 1616 and regarded as the largest and most elegant of the mosques constructed during the Ottoman Empire; the majestic Hagia Sophia consecrated in 537 and used as a church for over 900 years, then as a mosque for nearly a further 500 years before being opened as a museum in 1935; the amazing Underground (or Basilica) Cistern, a huge underground water storage 140m long with 336 columns, that was built in 532AD during the rule of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian; and the grandeur of the Topkapi Palace which was the administrative centre of the Ottoman Empire for nearly 400 years. Built in the 1470s, Ottoman sultans added new structures to the Palace over the centuries, many of which now operate as museums containing items of kitchenware, porcelain and clothing from daily palace life to the imperial treasury and holy relics.

2.98 The Delegation was pleased to meet informally over dinner arranged by Trade Commissioner Damien Fisher with members of the Istanbul arts and cultural community and discuss a range of more modern cultural issues. Present at the dinner were Mr Ozalp Birol, general Manager, Pera Museum; Dr Erdal Eren, Maltape University; Ms Azize Tan, Assistant Director, Istanbul International Film Festival; Mr Savas Karakas, documentary producer and Mr Selcuk Kolay, AE2 film project. The AE2 was an Australian submarine that penetrated the Dardanelles in April 1915 before being sunk in the Sea of Marmara on 30 April 1915.

### **Concluding comments**

2.99 The Delegation's aims and objectives for the visit to Turkey were successfully met through meetings and discussions at the Grand National Assembly, with provincial Governorships and at official functions hosted by the Ambassador and Senior Trade Commissioner. The Delegation was able to openly discuss a range of political and foreign policy issues including regional developments, Cyprus, Iraq and terrorism, and the application for EU membership. Trade and commercial

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7 For further information visit <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troy>

8 For information on these and other Istanbul highlights <http://www.guideistanbul.net/guide.html>

opportunities were explored as were broader cultural and other exchange possibilities including educational and working visa arrangements.

2.100 The Delegation is pleased to note that a number of important developments have occurred following its visit. Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan accompanied by four senior Ministers and a business delegation conducted a successful visit to Australia in December 2005 to explore commercial opportunities and pursue a range of political, trade and business issues. The Prime Minister held discussions with Prime Minister Howard in Canberra on 8 December.

2.101 The Australian government has announced that a consulate will be located in Canakkale to provide assistance to the growing number of Australian visitors to Gallipoli, the Canakkale region and much of western Turkey. The consulate will also provide an administrative base for the organisation of the annual Anzac Day commemorations.

2.102 At their meeting on 26 April 2005 Prime Ministers Howard and Erdogan had agreed to a joint engineering review to ensure that the roadworks, including measures to control erosion, in the Anzac Cove area are completed in a way as sympathetic as possible to the landscape. The Australian government is now working closely with the Turkish authorities on these roadworks and is providing financial assistance for remedial work to the road around the Anzac Cove and Ari Burnu area after severe winter weather caused subsidence.



## CHAPTER 3

### IRELAND



Source: <http://www.infoplease.com/atlas/country/ireland.html> [viewed 5.5.06]

### Ireland Overview<sup>1</sup>

3.1 The Republic of Ireland, has a population of approximately 4.1 million, of which 1.7 million live in the capital, Dublin. The country occupies 26 of the 32 counties that constitute the island. The remaining six counties in North-East Ulster are part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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1 Information in the early sections of this chapter is based upon written briefings from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and DFAT Country, economy and regional information at [www.dfat.gov.au/geo/](http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/)

3.2 Ireland was established at the conclusion of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921. The Constitution of 1937 and the Republic of Ireland Act 1948 severed Ireland's last formal links with the United Kingdom. Ireland remained neutral during the Second World War and does not belong to any military alliance. Ireland became a member of the United Nations in 1955 and joined what is now the European Union (EU) in 1973.

### ***Bilateral Relations***

3.3 Australia has had an Embassy in Dublin since September 1946. Australia and Ireland have a number of bilateral agreements covering a range of areas including taxation, social security and medical treatment for travellers.

3.4 The Irish were among the first settlers in Australia and contributed substantially to the development of contemporary Australian society and culture. Irish migration has been almost continuous throughout the period of European settlement of Australia. The first 155 Irish convicts (from County Cork) arrived in Sydney in 1791. In addition to convicts, more than 300,000 other Irish settlers migrated to Australia between 1840 and 1914. Approximately 30 per cent of Australians are believed to have some Irish ancestry. This important connection between our two countries is enhanced by regular cultural exchanges and large numbers of tourists and young people under working holiday arrangements travelling between Australia and Ireland.

### ***High Level Visits***

3.5 Government ministers have made regular visits in recent years, reflecting the strong people-to-people links between Australia and Ireland. Mr Downer visited Ireland for the second time in January 2004, meeting President Mary McAleese, Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Bertie Ahern and former Foreign Affairs Minister Brian Cowen. Ms McAleese first visited Australia in September 1998, her first State visit since taking office and revisited Australia in January 2003.

3.6 Mr Ahern visited Australia and East Timor in March 2000. During the course of his visit, he inaugurated Ireland House in Sydney, which incorporates a consulate as well as a trade office. In August 2001, the Tanaiste (Irish Deputy PM) Mary Harney visited Australia with an accompanying trade delegation aimed at boosting bilateral trade links between the two countries, especially in sectors such as IT, banking and telecommunications. An Irish parliamentary delegation visited Australia in August 2004, reciprocating an Australian visit in 2000. Mr Micheál Martin, Irish Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment visited Australia in March and November 2005 to discuss bilateral trade and investment opportunities between the two countries.

3.7 Since the delegation's visit, the Oireachtas Joint Transport Committee visited Australia in February 2006 followed by the Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen, in March 2006. Prime Minister, John Howard visited Ireland in May 2006 meeting the President Mary McAleese and addressing the Irish Parliament.

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### ***The Forum for Australia-Ireland Cooperation***

3.8 In addition to other well established formal and informal links that exist between our two countries, the Forum for Australia-Ireland Cooperation, launched in 2001 by Mr Downer and then Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Brian Cowen, provides a mechanism to review and support developments in the bilateral political, economic and cultural relationship through regular ministerial discussions.

### ***Cultural Relations***

3.9 Cultural exchanges between Ireland and Australia are facilitated through a range of activities, and underpinned by the frequent movement of young people between the two countries under a long standing working holidaymaker arrangement. In 2004, 1 878 Australian working holiday makers visited Ireland, and in 2004-05 12 585 working holiday visas were granted to Irish nationals. In 2004 170 000 Australians visited Ireland and 54 200 Irish travelled to Australia, making it our 17th largest source of tourists. This frequent movement of people ensures ongoing close people-to-people links between the countries.

3.10 Australia has contributed to the funding of the Chair of Australian History at University College Dublin (UCD) since 1976. UCD established an Australian Studies Centre in 1996, the same year that an agreement for the exchange of doctoral students between Trinity College Dublin and the Victoria University of Technology was established. The Delegation visited the Australian Studies Centre at UCD as part of its meeting program. The Director of the Dublin Theatre Festival visited Australia in February 2004 via a Cultural Awards Scheme grant in search of Australian productions for 2004/05 festivals.

3.11 Sporting links are strong with the Australian Rules/Gaelic football series between Ireland and Australia, inaugurated in 1984, soaring in popularity in recent years, and adding to the keen rivalry that exists between the two countries in Rugby Union.

## **Political Developments**

### ***Political System/Structure***

3.12 Ireland is a republic, with a system of parliamentary democracy. Under the Constitution, legislative power is vested in the Parliament (Oireachtas).<sup>2</sup> This consists of a President, who is head of state; the Lower House (Dail); and the upper house (Seanad or Senate). The President and Senate have limited functions and powers.

3.13 The President is elected by direct vote of the people for a term of 7 years, but can only be re-elected once. The Dail, which has 166 members (TDs) representing 42 constituencies, is the primary legislative body, and it selects the government. It is

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2 For information on the Oireachtas visit <http://www.oireachtas.ie/>

directly elected at least once every five years by a system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote in multi-member constituencies. The Senate, which has 60 members, is elected through a system of electoral colleges and its periods of office correspond with those of the Dail. Election to the Senate is often a precursor to election as a TD. The Prime Minister is known as the Taoiseach, and the Deputy Prime Minister is known as the Tanaiste. The Speaker or Chairperson of the Dail is the An Ceann Comhairle and the President or Chairperson of the Senate is the Cathaoirleach.

### ***Government***

3.14 The present Government was formed on 6 June 2002 after the general election. The Government is a coalition comprising Fianna Fail (81 seats) and the Progressive Democrats, founded in 1985, (8 seats) and has the support of a number of independents. The next general election is due by May 2007. President Mary McAleese was re-elected unopposed for her second seven year term in October 2004.

3.15 The major non-government party is Fine Gael with 31 seats. Other parties represented in the current parliament are Labour with 21 members, the Green Party 6, the Republican Sinn Fein party representation grew at the 2002 election from one seat to five, and other parties and independents with 14 seats.

### ***Major Parties***

3.16 The two main parties, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, do not divide on a right/left basis on political, economic or social issues. Both are centre right and have their roots in differing community attitudes to the 1921 Treaty of Independence (from the UK). Fine Gael represents the tradition that accepted the treaty as a stepping stone to an eventual republic of the whole island. Fianna Fail represents the tradition that rejected the treaty because the present six counties of Northern Ireland were excluded from the outset. These traditions are still reflected in slightly different approaches towards the Northern Ireland issue but there is bipartisan support for the current peace process and the Good Friday Agreement.

### ***Foreign Policy***

3.17 A cornerstone of Irish foreign policy has been the concept of neutrality. Ireland did not participate in the Second World War. However, as a member of the United Nations and the European Union, Ireland has consistently supported peacekeeping efforts through the provision of troops and observers (for example, in the Congo, Lebanon, Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda, and Kosovo). Most recently, Ireland provided a small unit of Army Rangers (Special Forces) as part of the UN INTERFET mission in East Timor and to the United Nations Mission to Liberia.

3.18 Whilst Ireland's foreign policy is predominantly Euro-centric, it does enjoy a special relationship with the United States, due to the large Irish-American community, the US Government's involvement in the Northern Ireland peace process and substantial trade and investment links. The Irish Government sought

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Parliamentary approval in late 1999 for entry into the NATO Partnership for Peace organisation, and is now a member of NATO's Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

### ***EU/European Issues***

3.19 Active participation in European Union policy-making is a priority for the Irish Government. Ireland joined the (then) European Community in 1973 and, through the frameworks of European Political Cooperation and now the Common Foreign and Security Policy, has sought to coordinate its foreign policy with other member states. Under the EU's Agenda 2000 proposals for future funding of the Union, Ireland's CAP and structural funds payments were reduced significantly, with structural funds to be phased out over 2000-2006. However, funds for two special regions of the west/border/midlands and south will be maintained. Ireland has actively engaged in the CAP reform debate and advocated an expanded program of rural regeneration. As one of the first parties to call for full decoupling, with the support of the Irish Farmers Association, Ireland believes that the reforms provide the basis for maintaining family farms and contributing to rural sustainability.

### ***Northern Ireland***

3.20 The Northern Ireland question is a major issue in Irish foreign policy and progress with developments was discussed at some meetings with the Delegation. The 1998 Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement presented a vision for the future for Northern Ireland through government by a Northern Ireland assembly at Stormont in Belfast. The November 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly elections saw moderate Loyalist and Republican candidates lose ground to Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party, which led to a stand-off on executive power-sharing, and the eventual suspension of the Assembly in October 2002.

3.21 A review of the operation of the Good Friday Agreement involving all interested parties formally began in February 2004, resulting in the UK and Irish Governments publishing proposals for a comprehensive agreement in December 2004. These were accepted by Sinn Fein but not the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) because the process did not include the DUP's request for photographic confirmation of arms decommissioning.

3.22 In July 2005, the IRA called for an end to the armed campaign in Northern Ireland, and ordered all IRA units to dump their arms and pursue objectives through 'exclusively peaceful' means. The statement was greeted with cautious optimism along with calls for strict verification of decommissioning and a greater commitment to end IRA criminal activities. On 26 September 2005, the Decommissioning Body announced that it was satisfied that the IRA had decommissioned the "totality of its arsenal". The Irish and UK Governments welcomed the decommissioning of IRA arms and called for an end to all paramilitary activity and the decommissioning of loyalist arms. In April 2006 the Governments jointly announced the recall of the Northern Ireland Assembly, with a November deadline to elect an Executive.

## **Economic Overview**

3.23 Ireland has prospered since joining the EU. The catalyst for the economic boom was the concentration of spending on education when EU funds became available, together with an open economy with no tariffs on trade and generous tax incentives. With EU membership, the combination of a well-educated workforce and a low corporate tax rate enabled Ireland to emerge as a high growth economy in the 1990s – the 'Celtic Tiger'.

3.24 Irish GDP growth returned to high levels (4.9 percent in 2004 and 5.9 percent in 2005) after dropping to 3.7 percent in 2003. GDP is expected to grow by 5 percent in 2006 and settle at 4.9 percent in 2007. Private consumption is expected to drive economic growth in the medium term as confidence rises, driven by stronger jobs and income growth. Investment growth rose strongly in 2004 after three years of relatively subdued growth.

3.25 Although business confidence is expected to remain strong, a slight decline is anticipated as slowing housing investment is only partially offset by higher purchases of capital equipment. Public consumption should increase in line with the electoral cycle. The annual rate of inflation in Ireland to the third quarter of 2005 was 2.6 percent, and is expected to remain at similar levels into 2006. Unemployment stood at 4.3 percent in the final quarter of 2005, slightly down from 4.4 percent for the same period in 2004.

## **Bilateral Economic and Trade Relationship**

### ***Trade Relationship***

3.26 The Irish market is important to Australia in wine and retail banking but there is scope to further diversify our exports, including in services and high technology products. While commercial relations and trade are growing, the balance is very much in Ireland's favour. Ireland was Australia's 26th largest merchandise trading partner in 2005. Two-way merchandise trade was valued at approximately A\$2.2 billion in 2005, with the balance being A\$1.8 billion in Ireland's favour: total exports to Ireland were valued at approximately A\$154 million and total imports were valued at approximately A\$2 billion. Total goods and services trade with Ireland in 2005 was valued at approximately A\$2.6 billion. Services trade between Australia and Ireland in 2005 totalled around A\$613 million, which represents only 0.8 percent of Australia's services trade. Valued at approximately A\$375 million in 2004-05, tourism continues to grow as the key sector of bilateral services trade.

### ***Investment Relationship***

3.27 Australia has significant and rapidly growing investment links with Ireland. Irish foreign investment into Australia almost doubled from A\$749 million in 1998-99 to A\$1.48 billion in 2003, before falling slightly to A\$1.24 billion in 2004. Australian investment into Ireland has soared from A\$483 million to A\$1.76 billion in 2004.

3.28 Australian companies that have invested in Irish subsidiaries include the National Australia Bank, Mayne Nickless, Integrated Packaging, Michell Leather, Biocycle and QBE Insurance. In the past three years the number of Irish companies in Australia has doubled. Australia is Ireland's number three priority destination in Asia. Irish companies operating in Australia include Independent Newspapers (APN), Irish Distillers and Aldiscon. Bank of Ireland and IONA Technologies have regional headquarters in Melbourne and Perth respectively. In 2005 trade missions were conducted to Australia focussing on agricultural machinery, with five Australian buyer visits to Ireland looking for suitable partners.

### ***Trade and Investment Strategies***

3.29 Ireland's primary export destination is the European Union and this heavily influences Ireland's trade policy agenda. Ireland has benefited significantly from the Common Agricultural Policy, receiving guaranteed prices for its exports and free access to EU markets. However, following the support of the Irish Farmers Federation, Ireland did not oppose June 2003 reforms which introduced greater market orientation into EU farm production.

3.30 Though Ireland's trade policy is determined at the EU level, Ireland and Australia share many common objectives in international trade policy, such as liberalisation of services, e-commerce and provision of technical assistance to developing countries.

### ***Market advantage***

3.31 Ireland has promoted itself as a European regional base offering a skilled workforce and attractive concessions. New opportunities for business cooperation are opening up, thanks in part to the establishment in 1993 of the Irish-Australian (now Australasian) Business Association, which complements its Australian counterpart, the Irish-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

3.32 Ireland has attracted foreign investment by offering competitive operating costs, low corporate taxation of 12.5 per cent (dropping to 10 per cent for some specific manufacturing industries), generous financial incentives, and a highly skilled workforce. It is now one of the top host countries for United States direct investment in Europe.

3.33 Investment in financial services has also been assisted by the establishment of the International Financial Services Centre in Dublin, where a significant number of international financial transactions are carried out on behalf of non-residents at low rates of taxation. Ireland is likely, however, to face increased investment competition from new member countries in the EU offering investors equal access to the European single market and cheaper production costs.

## **Export Opportunities**

3.34 Austrade opened a Dublin office in January 2005. Significant trading and investment opportunities for new and established Australian companies have been identified in a range of areas including construction of motorways, ports, airports and tunnels; rail transport and infrastructure; ICT; healthcare; food and beverage; consumer items; environmental regeneration; and creative industries.

### ***Composition of trade***

3.35 Ireland is an important trading partner for Australia in certain markets. It is currently Australia's sixth-largest market for wine. Wine exports to Ireland in 2005 were worth A\$58 million, representing 20 per cent of the Irish wine market. Other main Australian exports include coal, medicaments and computers.

### ***Future Directions***

3.36 Ireland's direction of trade has changed over the years, with the proportion of total exports to the UK declining in 2003, and exports expanding to the rest of the European Union and the USA. The remainder goes to other NAFTA economies, the Middle East, North Africa and Asia. Likewise, the nature of the Irish economy is changing, with manufacturing and tourism being major growth areas.

### ***Trade Successes***

3.37 Australian biotechnology company Polartech Limited won contracts in 2003 to install its leading-edge medical imaging technology in six Irish hospitals. In March 2004, Mediscan, a digital imaging patient management system that integrates clinical data with hospital administration systems to reduce administrative error and improve patient care, was introduced into hospitals in Dublin and the Galway region.

## **The Delegation's Program – Summary of Meetings, Visits and Inspections**

3.38 The warmth with which the Delegation was received by all whom it met reinforced the longstanding strength and friendship that underlines the relationship between Australia and Ireland. The relationship is a highly personal one with over 30 percent of Australians having direct Irish ancestry.

3.39 With the Deputy Leader of the Delegation, Senator Ursula Stephens, having been born in County Wicklow an immediate bond was provided for the Delegation with everyone it met. Senator Stephens was repeatedly welcomed with special comments for her return to Ireland, and reciprocated this gracious welcome by responding on behalf of the Delegation to Dr Rory O'Hanlon's speech at the official dinner at Leinster House – in fluent Gaelic.

3.40 The strong personal links with Australia were constantly emphasised as many people the Delegation met had visited Australia, or had family who had visited,



studied or worked in Australia – including the President, Mary McAleese and the Cathaoirleach, Senator Rory Kiely.

3.41 The Delegation was able to gain an appreciation of the significant economic developments that have occurred in Ireland in recent years. This was epitomised by the massive docklands regeneration project and the creation of the International Financial Services Centre, as well as the establishment of Science Foundation Ireland and the National Development Plan to encourage Irish R & D and international researchers to come to Ireland.

3.42 The courtesy call on the President, Mary McAleese, at Aras an Uachtarain, the official residence of the President of Ireland located in the historic hunting grounds that are now part of the extensive Phoenix Park, was a highlight of the Delegation's visit to Ireland. The meeting (which continued for much longer than was scheduled) was relaxed and informal. The President spoke of her son undertaking tertiary study in Australia which led to much discussion about Australia, Australians and their easy going approach to life. Among other issues discussed was the history of Aras an Uachtarain (built in 1751) and how it came to be the official residence of the President of the Republic in 1938; and the special role that President McAleese, as the first President to have been born in Northern Ireland, performs in promoting understanding and building bridges with the North through hosting functions and visits to the North as President.



*The Delegation and Ambassador Herron with President McAleese*

3.43 The Delegation was able to renew and strengthen ties with the Oireachtas, the Irish Parliament, through a busy schedule of meetings at Leinster House at which a range of domestic and international foreign policy, trade, social and economic issues were discussed. The close relationship between our Parliaments was best illustrated by Dr Rory O'Hanlon and Mr Seamus Pattison, the Irish Speaker and Deputy Speaker, making time available, for which the Delegation was most grateful, to host visits into the Counties of Monaghan and Kilkenny. These visits enabled the Delegation to gain an appreciation of Irish life outside of the capital city of Dublin and to understand the history, heritage and culture of the Irish people and especially of their pride in the strong links with Australia.

3.44 Some Delegation members also attended private meetings in addition to the formal Delegation program. Senator Stephens and Senator Bartlett attended a Political Friends of Mental Health meeting which included a number of parliamentary members from across all major parties and a number of Irish groups working in mental health. The Group had been established as a support forum for elected representatives who are interested in mental health issues and is modelled on a similar initiative in the Australian Parliament. Senator Stephens spoke to the meeting on the Australian experience. Senator Marshall met privately with parliamentary members of Sinn Fein at Leinster House.

### **Meeting with Dublin Docklands Development Authority**

3.45 Ms Carmel Smith provided the Delegation with a presentation on the Dublin Docklands Development Authority.<sup>3</sup> The Authority, located on the bank of the River Liffey, was established in 1997 with the aim of creating a world class city quarter – a paragon of sustainable inner city regeneration. An area of over 1300 acres (520 ha) covering the old docks and small residential villages around the Liffey and Grand Canal are being regenerated with a concentration now on prime water front sites. Significant employment generation underpins the project.

3.46 The Authority is under the Minister for the Environment and Local Government operating with an Executive Board (Operations) and a Council (Strategy). It is a not for profit body funded by land sales and development.

3.47 The project is a successful combination of commercial, residential and social regeneration that follows two fundamental strategies.

3.48 The first strategy is to maintain the role out of physical development. At the heart of this has been the creation of the International Financial Services Centre. Over 400 companies have been assisted to locate to the Centre including major global banks and insurance companies, that employ over 16 000 people. The success of the Centre has been built upon the ready availability of an educated workforce; an efficient and

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3 For further information visit <http://www.dublindocklands.ie/>

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pro-business regulatory environment that provides competitive corporate tax rates; an extensive tax treaty network; and with EU and OECD approval.

3.49 The planning and development for the regeneration of other areas of the former docklands is expedited through a number of measures including Ministerial approvals and fast tracking by Dublin City Council planners.

3.50 The second major strategy is to achieve a genuine architectural legacy and landmarks. The basis of this strategy has been opening up community access to the Liffey with the development of a promenade along the river front and the construction of a footbridge linking the city with the Financial Services Centre. Other developments include the creation of Grand Canal Square with a leisure and performing arts centre; the U2 Tower with a recording studio (for some of Dublin's favourite sons) and incorporating condominiums; and a proposed national conference centre.

3.51 Fundamental to the whole project has been looking after the former docklands residents. Over 13 000 new housing units are being built of which 20 percent are designated for social assistance and which the residents of the area receive preference.

3.52 The Authority has implemented social regeneration programs to ensure that the people of the area can realise their full potential. In particular are education schemes where youths in late secondary years are offered jobs if they pass their leaving and opportunities are also provided to attend college such as at Trinity or University College Dublin.

### **Meeting with Science Foundation Ireland**

3.53 The Delegation met with Mr Mattie McCabe, Director of Corporate Affairs, Dr Gary Crawley, Director, Frontiers Engineering and Science Directorate and Ms Sarah Retief. The establishment of the Foundation and its vision and strategic focus were outlined for the Delegation.

3.54 In the late 1990's leaders in government, industry and academia considered that sustaining Ireland's economic growth and prosperity would depend upon establishing a culture of scientific and technological innovation, a high level of research and development, and a globally competitive knowledge-based economy. In response to a commissioned study by a Technology Foresight Advisory Group, the Government initiated a Technology Foresight Fund and established the Science Foundation Ireland<sup>4</sup> to administer the Fund. This became part of the National Development Plan 2000-2006 through which the Government made a national commitment to support scientific research, technological development and innovation with the investment of 2.5 billion Euro. The Foundation became a statutory body in

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4 For further information visit <http://www.sfi.ie>

2003 with the passage through Parliament of the Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) Act with strong all party support.

3.55 The Foundation has its vision that through strategic investments in the people, ideas and partnerships essential to outstanding research in strategic areas, Science Foundation Ireland will help build in Ireland research of globally recognised excellence and nationally significant economic importance.

3.56 To fulfil this vision the Foundation (SFI) has a strategic focus on investments in the target areas that:

- i. *Develop Human Capital:* Research and development depend above all else on the talent, ideas and energies of outstanding individuals. SFI will build programmes, fund educational initiatives, provide resources, and support infrastructure that enable Ireland to education, develop, recruit, and retain outstanding, internationally competitive scientists and engineers pursuing research in areas compatible with Ireland's ambitions for leadership in a knowledge-based economy.
- ii. *Support Strong Ideas:* Innovation requires bold ideas, creative vision, a passion for achievement, and the highest levels of rigour and discipline. SFI will seek out and support individuals and ideas with the greatest potential to bring lasting excellence to research and innovation within Ireland.
- iii. *Promote Partnerships:* Effective research and development require a combination of resources and talents to drive ideas forward rapidly. SFI will, within its strategic remit, seek out and support effective collaborations and partnerships with agencies, institutions and industry in Ireland and around the world that can best advance Ireland's research, technological and economic competitiveness.

3.57 In achieving the strategic focus the Foundation is investing in academic researchers and teams who are most likely to generate new knowledge, leading edge technologies and competitive enterprises in fields underpinning biotechnology, information and communications technologies, and frontier or emerging opportunities.

3.58 The Foundation is a key component of the Irish strategy of attracting and developing Research and Development activities within Ireland by broadening the activities of multi-national companies in Ireland and supporting smaller local enterprises. It invests in researchers and people, not directly into companies and fosters academic-industry collaborations.

3.59 The Foundation has established a flexible grants and awards portfolio for investing in research. These include:

- Investing in best people and best ideas through grants and awards to outstanding researchers;

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- Awards to encourage leading international scientists to undertake research in Ireland and to establish international partnerships;
  - Encouraging campus-industry partnerships through Centres for Science, Engineering and Technology by linking together academic and industrial researchers;
  - Awards to support and retain in Ireland young researchers after completing their PhD;
  - Programs to support and sustain women in science and engineering research in Ireland;
  - Grants to attract significant international scientific workshops and conferences to Ireland;
  - Awards to support active research participation by undergraduate students and to support second-level teachers in conducting laboratory research during summers.

3.60 In its first years of operation, the Foundation has been successful in creating a diverse portfolio of grants and awards, in attracting international scientists to Ireland and funding hundreds of outstanding researchers, and establishing a collaborative approach. In the next years it intends to advance its strategy by continuing to look for new targeted opportunities to build on funded programs and partnerships, to further recruit scientists and industrial research to Ireland, to build international and local research partnerships and develop an engineering and mathematics focus.

### **Visit to University College Dublin and the Australian Studies Centre**

3.61 The Delegation visited the Australian Studies Centre<sup>5</sup> at UCD which is located within the School of History and Archives. An Australian history course has been taught at UCD since 1972. The course was expanded in 1976 with the first appointment made to a visiting chair of Australian History financed by the Australian government. In 1985 the chair was endowed by the Commonwealth of Australia and the family of Dr Tony O'Reilly as the Keith Cameron Professorship of Australian History. The Keith Cameron Chair continues as a two year visiting appointment to teach and research Australian history at UCD. The Australian Studies Centre was set up in 1996. The National Irish Bank provided funding for successive two year post-doctoral teaching fellowships in Australian Studies over the period 1998-2002.

3.62 Professor Hilary Carey, the current Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History, welcomed the Delegation to the Centre and explained its operation. Courses in Australian history are offered to second and third year undergraduates as part of their normal studies program. Courses are popular not just with Irish students but also visiting US students. Professor Carey considers that it is especially valuable for Australia having graduate students entering influential commercial, legal, political

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5 For further information visit <http://www.ucd.ie/austud/>

fields who are good friends for Australia as a result of having undertaken these studies. The Centre also conducts regular Australian studies research seminars that are open to the public and occasional conferences.

3.63 Funding is currently sufficient only to cover salaries. The Centre does not have the funding for resources to support other projects such as a visiting speakers program, unlike the Clinton Centre for US Studies which funds visiting professors through Fullbright Scholarships. Ongoing funding was needed to demonstrate a commitment to the valuable work being undertaken at the Centre. A small references library is held by the Centre, though acquisitions are primarily by donation.

3.64 Following the meeting with Professor Carey, the Delegation met Professor Mary Daly, principal of the College of Arts and Celtic Studies who hosted the Delegation on a viewing of Australian material within the UCD Archives including a display from the Eamon de Valera Papers of his visit to Australia in 1948 and meetings in the Australian Parliament. The Delegation was also privileged to view a selection of documents from the historical Franciscan manuscripts. After the visit Professor Daly hosted a lunch which included a number of other members from the Faculty.

3.65 A report of the Delegation's visit that was in the November 2005 UCD News is reproduced at Appendix 2.

3.66 Prime Minister, John Howard, visited UCD during his visit in May 2006 and had an hour-long question and answer session with post-graduate students.



*The Delegation with Professors Daly and Carey view part of the de Valera Papers at UCD Archives*

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## Meetings at Leinster House 25 and 26 October

### *Ms Mary Hanafin, Minister for Education and Science*

3.67 Ms Hanafin outlined the major issues confronting the three levels within Irish Education. At the first level there are special needs within the primary school level with over 4 000 schools across the country, especially with small schools in rural communities there is much economic disadvantage that is being targeted by Government.

3.68 At the second level new schools are being built to meet demographic needs. A major issue is discipline with younger people in schools without parental support. A task force is examining the issue but it is complicated by a high drop out rate and a problem with employment opportunity for these children.

3.69 There is vocational training for trade skills at the second level, however a new syllabus for technology subjects is to be rolled out in the coming year. A difficulty in getting males into teaching is impacting on the delivery of technology subjects.

3.70 At the third level, while there has been improvement, only 54 percent of school leavers move onto the tertiary level and strategies are being developed to increase this percentage.

3.71 In technical education, Ms Hanafin noted that the Institutes are skill focussed. It is important that the Institutes retain this focussed role and especially their links to local industry so that the skills being taught meet requirements and enable graduates to gain employment.

3.72 Ms Hanafin also commented that the Docklands Authority scheme that is targeting disadvantage by linking to educational opportunity is working well within the docklands, though it can not be easily replicated because the scale of regeneration and change in other disadvantaged areas is not matched by that occurring at Docklands.

### *Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs*

3.73 The Delegation met in public session with members of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, chaired by Dr Michael Woods. Other Committee members in attendance were Mr Bernard Allen, Mr Pat Carey, Mr Michael D. Higgins, Ms Liz O'Donnell, Senator Paul Bradford and Senator Paschal Mooney.

3.74 The Committee members discussed a broad range of issues involving Australia and Ireland including international preparedness for responding to disasters such as the tsunami and Pakistan earthquake, Timor Leste, Iraq, international conventions and treaties, anti-terrorism legislation and preventive detention, China and human rights, trade opportunities, meetings of the Cairns group, migration and refugee issues, and tourism and working holiday visa arrangements.

***Senator Rory Kiely, Cathaoirleach***

3.75 Senator Kiely, the Cathaoirleach (Chairperson or President of the Senate), spoke of his recent links with Australia through a visit to Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide hosted by Speaker Andrew and with his daughter having worked in Australia.

3.76 The Delegation and Senator Kiely discussed a range of parliamentary practices and procedures surrounding the operation of our respective Parliaments, including the format for asking of questions without and on notice, involvement of Ministers in responding to questions and participating in debates (Ministers from the Dail may speak in the Seanad), and sitting days and hours.

3.77 Much discussion occurred on the subject of media reporting and the standards of commentary on current events, media ownership and the impact in Ireland of having no press council.

3.78 With Ireland and Australia currently playing an international rules football series (a combination game of Gaelic and Australian rules football and an issue that was constantly referred to during the Delegation's time in Ireland), Senator Kiely, who had been a county selector while in the Seanad, graciously explained the nuances of the other great Gaelic game of hurling.

***Mr Pat Rabbitte, Leader, Labour Party***

3.79 Mr Rabbitte outlined the party structure and development of Labour since 1968. Labour is a smaller party with 21 members currently. He noted the development in the Irish political scene of smaller parties such as the progressive Democrats and the election of representatives from Sein Fein. Mr Rabbitte said that Labour would be contesting the next election in alliance with Fine Gael, noting that in Ireland alliances are tactical at any given time. Ireland was used to coalition governments and it was unlikely that any single party would gain a parliamentary majority in the future.

3.80 Mr Rabbitte commented on the election of Sein Fein representatives noting that while the members are disciplined and dedicated, the party had philosophically given up on armed struggle, which was no longer possible in the post 9/11 and London bombings environment, and had undertaken decommissioning. He thought that many of the voters for Sein Fein were people who had been left behind by the economic boom and that such alienated people will look for more extreme groups to vote for, though there was a ceiling on the likely vote that Sein Fein would attract in the future.

3.81 Mr Rabbitte believed this was an important time in Irish history with the Northern Ireland peace breakthrough, significant economic development as Ireland had moved away from an agrarian economy, EU investment and an increasing pool of educated people for the workforce. But he considered this had come at a price, with people caught up in development around the cities, with escalating social problems, and public transport deficiencies leading to gridlock. There was a strong economy, but



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weak society with the country not yet able to use developments economically to benefit all of society.

3.82 Mr Rabbitte also noted that while a social partnership model has been involved he considered that recent Post Office strikes and a growing dispute with Irish Ferries wanting to relocate under a flag of convenience and bring in lesser paid workers were issues that were putting pressure on the social contract.

***Mr Enda Kenny, Leader, Fine Gael***

3.83 Mr Kenny was accompanied at the meeting by Mr Bernard Allan, TD, Fine Gael spokesman on Foreign Affairs.

3.84 Mr Kenny gave an overview of his impressions on the economic and infrastructure development in Ireland over recent years and the support and technical assistance provided by the EU. He spoke of the political situation which he considered was moving more towards the centre and that in a small country like Ireland the ideological divide is not as marked.

3.85 Mr Kenny gave a rundown of the differing coalition structures in government in recent decades and spoke about the mechanics of party discipline and inter party cooperation. He noted that Fine Gael had been restructuring to move forward and had been electorally successful at the last EU elections.

3.86 Mr Kenny spoke of the need to involve people in the political process, of getting them to want to vote and take stronger issue with politics, especially in areas like health, education and transport. While the economy was performing well, he considered that there remained underlying social and welfare problems in Ireland.

3.87 Mr Kenny also discussed a number of issues of concern including: That while the next generation of jobs would be within fields of research and innovation many of Ireland's brightest graduates were being attracted overseas; Energy problems were an issue with Ireland reliant on Siberian gas; Wind generated power had been written off the political agenda and a nuclear debate was not on the political agenda; and Alternative energies were not being greatly considered which was a point of contention between political parties.

3.88 There were also concerns at the accumulation of very high levels of debt, especially personal debt and housing debt due to the escalating cost of housing in Ireland.

***Ms Mary Harney, Tainaiste, Minister for Health and Children***

3.89 Ms Harney, the Tainaiste (Deputy Prime Minister), spoke of the importance of Delegation meetings to improve the understanding of cultural and heritage backgrounds and their important role in developing friendship with the members on delegations. Ms Harney was another who spoke of enjoyable travel to Australia, remembering people met and places visited.

3.90 Having noted that the Delegation had met with the Science Foundation, Ms Harney commented how pleased she had been to have been involved in the development of the Science Foundation and to have seen how successful it had been in a short period of time.

3.91 With Ms Harney having overseen the recent establishment of a major health reform program in Ireland, there was considerable debate on health issues, including difficulties in regional areas in accessing services, especially maternity where many women move to Dublin for maternity services; addressing the impact on the delivery of health services for people who are living longer with chronic problems; insurance and indemnity issues resulting in the rationalisation of the same services across hospitals; and developments in addressing cancer, particularly breast cancer where many of the top consultants are trained overseas, especially in the US. There was also discussion on the operation of health insurance in Australia and the delivery of services through a public and private health system.

3.92 Ms Harney is leader of the Progressive Democrats who are the junior partner in the coalition government. Ms Harney discussed the development of the Progressive Democrats party which is now 20 years old and noted that the coalition government model is now common in European countries. She considered that issues in Irish Politics had evolved in recent years with parties holding far more central views on a range of issues. The social agenda was cited with the example that access to divorce and contraception had only recently been the subject of legislation.

3.93 Reference was also made to debate on The Ferns Report dealing with child sexual abuse that had been delivered to the Minister the week the Delegation was in Ireland. Ms Harney spoke of the shock to the system that the report had created, however there was now a greater appreciation and understanding of the extent and impact of these issues. The Delegation noted that the Australian Senate had recently conducted an extensive inquiry into the issue of child abuse and institutional care of children.

## **Cultural and Heritage awareness**

### ***Carrickmacross***

3.94 Dr Rory O'Hanlon, Ceann Comhairle, hosted the Delegation to Co. Monaghan and the town of Carrickmacross. On the Saturday morning the Delegation visited the Carrickmacross Workhouse, a restored workhouse dating from the 1840s. Ms Yvonne Marron of the Farney Community Development Group outlined the history of the renovation and current use of the workhouse. The building served many purposes over the years including as a school and a warehouse before falling into disrepair. In 2000 restoration work commenced with funding assistance from the EU, including a flow through of Australian financial assistance, and the Irish government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 which provided for project development in country areas that would not otherwise have been undertaken.



*Delegation with Ambassador and Mrs Jan Herron, Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD – Ceann Comhairle and members of the Irish Parliamentary Association at Leinster House*

3.95 The restoration was completed in 2003 and now operates as a one-stop shop for various community development groups and agencies operating in the area including Monaghan Local and Supported Employment Services, Hitech, Irish Heart Foundation, Cheshire Ireland and Triskele Community Training and Development.

3.96 The Workhouse stands today as a testament to the families who had no choice but to move into the workhouse for survival during the famine times of the 1840s and 50s. It is an important reminder of the history of the period and the role that death and emigration during these times played in Irish history and, as such, is an educational resource for visiting schoolchildren.

3.97 The Delegation was provided with an enlightening address by Mr Larry McDermott of the Clogher Historical Society on the history of the period and the strong links that the workhouse and the district have with Australia. The Famine of the 1840s led to increasing numbers of destitute with disease a growing problem. The Workhouse built to accommodate 500 reached a peak of 2000. Forced emigration was introduced to address these issues. Between 1848-50 over 4000 orphan girls aged 14-18 were sent to Australia of which 38 were from the Carrickmacross Workhouse.

3.98 Assisted passage for middle class emigration to Australia also occurred from the area, especially to work in the services of teaching, medicine, clergy and the army. It is recorded that over 1300 people were helped through emigration from the area. Mr McDermott referred to a number of individuals and, based on old letters and research, recounted the story of Thomas Henry Smith who emigrated to Melbourne in

1852, was involved with the Melbourne Cricket and Football Clubs, and became a Master at Scotch College and Headmaster of Melbourne Model School.

3.99 Following a short tour of the facilities provided at this renovated Workhouse, the Delegation was hosted to a Civic reception by Councillor Vincent Martin, Meara Bhaile (Mayor) and attended by other councillors and community representatives.

3.100 In the afternoon the Delegation visited the Patrick Kavanagh Rural and Literacy Resource Centre in the nearby village of Inniskeen. The Centre, located in the old parish church of St Mary's, houses exhibitions on local history and on Patrick Kavanagh and has a small theatre and research library. Kavanagh was born in 1904 into a poor farming family. Working on the land scraping a living from the poor soil and stony hills, Kavanagh began to write of his experiences and became the 'authentic voice of the Irish country poor'. Since his death in 1967 the popularity of his work has continued to grow. The poetry of Kavanagh was dramatically brought alive for the Delegation through a recital of some of his most popular works by Gene Carroll.

3.101 On the return to Dublin the Delegation visited Newgrange, the best known of the three great Neolithic Irish passage tombs in the Brú Na Boinne complex situated within a bend in the River Boyne near Drogheda, Co Meath. The area is rich in archaeological remains and is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. The large burial mound that is Newgrange, built around 3200BC, covers an area of over one acre and contains a 19 metre long inner passage leading to a cruciform chamber. The burial mound was built by people who belonged to a farming community that used simple tools of wood and stone. Yet within the society was expertise in architecture, engineering, geology, art and astronomy. These skills are graphically illustrated through the winter solstice phenomenon when at dawn a shaft of sun light enters the burial mound through a small roof opening and moves along the passage as the sun rises to illuminate the inner chamber. With the angular and undulating nature of the passage, the alignment for this event is truly impressive. The burial mound is surrounded by 97 kerb stones many of which are highly decorated with megalithic art. The inner chamber also contains a number of Irish megalithic symbols carved into the stone.

3.102 The Delegation lunched at the Brú Na Boinne Visitors Centre and viewed the exhibitions that describe the daily life of the society that created the Neolithic tombs and also explain how and why the monuments were built.

### ***Wicklow's Historic Gaol***

3.103 The Delegation visited Wicklow's Historic Gaol<sup>6</sup> whose construction commenced in 1702 and which operated as a gaol until 1924. The Gaol has strong links with Australia through Irish convicts having been transported to Australia from

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6 For further information visit <http://www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com/>

the Wicklow Gaol between 1796 until the 1850's. Recent research has catalogued over 400 prisoners being held in the Gaol prior to being transported.

3.104 The old Gaol was restored during the 1990s. It was redeveloped as an interactive experience for visitors telling the story of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century social and political history through various forms of interpretation including original material tableaux, models, figures, audio and live actors.

3.105 While the first areas of the interactive experience describes gaol life pre and post penal reform and the 1798 Rebellion, the remainder recount the story of convict transportation to the penal colonies by boarding a convict ship and journeying to New South Wales, and describe life in Australia as the newly arrived convicts settled into establishing themselves in a new life thousands of miles from their home. The final area of interpretation brings together all the strands linking Ireland and Australia. To quote from the descriptive booklet on the Gaol: 'through graphics and displays the visitors learn about the contribution the Irish have made to the expansion and development of present day Australia. Irish people have made an enormous contribution to the development and growth of this country through every field of endeavour; politics, the law, medicine, exploration, sports and the arts.'

3.106 The Delegation was pleased to meet Cr Andrew Doyle, Mayor of County Wicklow who spoke proudly of the strong links with and interest in Australia that are generated by the display at the Gaol.

### ***County Kilkenny***

3.107 On 27 October the Delegation travelled to County Kilkenny accompanied by Mr Seamus Pattison, TD, the Leas-Cheann Comhairle. Mr Pattison was proud to explain the history and heritage as well as modern economic successes of his County through visits to a number of places within the County.

3.108 The magnificent and skilfully restored Duiske Abbey in the village of Graignamanagh 'the village of the monks' or 'the Valley of the Holy Saviour' dates from 1204 when Norman Cistercians founded a monastery at the confluence of the Duiske and River Barrow. The Abbey had a varied history over the centuries with significant damage resulting from a tower collapse in 1774. Rebuilding and reroofing was undertaken in the early 1800's. Major restoration occurred in the 1970's and the Abbey was reopened in June 1980 as the 'crowning glory to the struggle of successive generations of Graignamanagh people, determined to maintain that continuity of worship in the Abbey which had been bequeathed to them over the centuries by their forbears in the faith, the monks of Duiske'.



*The Delegation with Mr Seamus Pattison TD – Leas-Cheann Comhairle and parish members at Duiske Abbey, Graignamanagh*

3.109 Nicholas Mosse Pottery was established in 1976 in an old flour mill on the River Nore at Bennettsbridge and produces pottery in the traditional way, by hand. The factory has strong environmental concerns by producing all its own clay and working at recycling heat from the kilns to other purposes in the complex. The kilns are fired by hydro power courtesy of a generator driven by the old water mill. The pottery is decorated by hand using rurally inspired images of animals and plants that are popular in the region.

3.110 From a small beginning the business is an Irish success story reflecting the growth of the Irish economy, having evolved into being internationally known with a large export market. It is one of the largest employers in the area with over 60 people involved in production.

3.111 In Kilkenny the Delegation visited the Castle and St Canice's Cathedral which have important links through Kilkenny's and the county's history. Kilkenny (Cill Chainnigh or Canice's Church) is one of Ireland's finest medieval cities. Originating in the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century, Kilkenny had become a major power centre in south-east Ireland by the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Following the Norman invasion of Ireland by Strongbow in 1169 and the building of a new port, New Ross, by his successor William Marshall, Kilkenny developed as a regional trade capital.

3.112 Marshall built the first stone castle on the site, which was completed in 1213, though an earlier wooden castle had been built by the Normans. Kilkenny Castle became the focus of the new Hightown or 'English town'. The area surrounding St

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Canice's where the Cathedral now stands remained the focus of the adjoining old town or 'Irish town'.

3.113 The original square-shaped Kilkenny Castle had towers at each corner, three of which survive today. The Butler family bought the castle in 1391 and remained for over 500 years, until 1935. The Butlers were a remarkably resilient and politically astute family over the years, especially during the struggles between king and parliament during the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century and when a Confederate Council of Irish and Old English held an alternative parliament in Kilkenny between 1642-48 trying to determine their own affairs in Ireland. The south side of the castle was badly damaged in 1650 during an assault by Oliver Cromwell as he ruthlessly proceeded through Ireland after the Civil War and execution of King Charles I. The remains were completely removed during remodelling in the 1820's from which period the present battlements and parapets date. The castle was given to the Irish Nation in 1967 and the buildings and ground are now managed by the Office of Public Works.

3.114 St Canice's Cathedral is named after the patron Saint of Kilkenny. An ancient celtic church predated the current cathedral which was constructed during the late 1200's, so that worship has been taking place for over 700 years. The Cathedral has been attached to the reformed church since the time of Henry VIII and today is an Anglican parish church. In August each year it becomes the chief venue for Kilkenny Arts Week.

3.115 The Round Tower next to the Cathedral is believed to date from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, possibly earlier. Speculation still abounds over the exact purpose of Round Towers, though many believe they were a place of safety when under attack due to the protective door being located high off the ground.

3.116 The Delegation concluded the trip to Kilkenny and its formal program in Ireland at the most quintessential of Irish locations, the St Francis Abbey Brewery. However, brewing is an important industry for Kilkenny which has a proud brewing history dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century when the monks in St Francis Abbey began brewing at this location. The Franciscans had founded the Abbey during the 1230s and retained a connection until the early 1830s. The nave and chancel of the Abbey still survive within the grounds of the brewery. Smithwick's Ale was first brewed here in 1710 and the site continually expanded over the centuries. Today, the St Francis Abbey brewery operates in partnership with the local community, suppliers and service providers. Raw materials for the brewery, including barley, are from the local region. A recent 6.7 million Euro investment in new computerised technology and equipment will ensure this industry plays an important role in Kilkenny's economic future.

### **Concluding comment**

3.117 The aims and objectives for the Delegation's visit to Ireland were successfully met. Links with the Irish Parliament were renewed and strengthened through a range of valuable and informative meetings with the President of the Republic, Deputy

Prime Minister, President of the Senate and leaders of the major political parties. The immense value of the relation between our two parliaments was encapsulated by the close personal contact with the Delegation at both an official and social level by Dr O'Hanlon and Mr Pattison, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker equivalents.

3.118 The diversity of meetings arranged by the Irish Parliamentary Association provided the Delegation with valuable insights to Ireland's domestic, social, economic and political issues in addition to Irish views on a broad range of international issues.

3.119 The Delegation was pleased to be able to gain an appreciation of Irish rural life through visiting and meeting with people from outside of the capital city and to broaden their understanding of the wonderful diversity that is Ireland's culture and heritage.

Senator Alan Ferguson

Delegation Leader



# **APPENDIX 1**

## **DELEGATION PROGRAM**

### **16 – 28 OCTOBER 2005**

#### **Sunday 16 October – Sydney – Turkey**

- 10:00 Arrive Ankara (via Singapore, Dubai and Istanbul)
- 14:00 Visit to Museum of Anatolian Civilisations
- 19:30 Working Dinner for delegation hosted by Ambassador Jean Dunn, with briefing by Embassy staff and Trade Commissioner, Damian Fisher

#### **Monday 17 October – Ankara**

- 09:00 Visit to Anitkabir, Ataturk's Mausoleum, and ceremonial laying of wreath by Senator Ferguson
- 10:00 Meeting with Mr Mehmet Dulger, Chairman of the External Relations Committee of the Parliament and Committee members
- 11:00 Tour of the Parliament
- 12:00 Meeting with Dr Soner Aksoy, Chairman of the Industry, Trade, Energy, Natural Resources, Information and Technology Committee of the Parliament and Committee members
- 13:00 Informal lunch – arranged by Embassy
- 15:00 Meeting with Mr Ismail Osay, Acting Chairman of the Parliamentary Friendship Group and members of the Friendship Group
- 16:00 Meeting with Mr Salih Bezci, Vice-President, Board of Directors Ankara Chamber of Commerce and members of the Chamber
- 18:30 Official dinner hosted by Ambassador Jean Dunn with Members of the Turkish Parliament and invited guests at official residence

#### **Tuesday 18 October – Ankara – Istanbul**

- 09:30 Meeting with Mr Nabi Sensoy, Acting Secretary Department of Foreign Affairs
- 10:30 Meeting with H.E. Osman Pepe, Minister of Environment and Forestry
- 13:00 Depart Ankara airport for Istanbul
- 14:00 Arrive Istanbul
- 15:30 Meeting at Governorship of Istanbul
- 19:30 Official dinner with Trade Commissioner Damien Fisher and members of Istanbul's Arts and Cultural Community

**Wednesday 19 October – Istanbul – Gallipoli - Canakkale**

- 08:30 Depart by road for Gallipoli and Canakkale
- 13:30 Arrive Eceabat – Tour of Gallipoli National Park, including visit to Anzac Cove, Ari Burnu, Anzac Commemorative site at North Beach, Lone Pine, Turkish 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment Memorial and Chunuk Bair
- 18:00 Ferry from Eceabat to Canakkale

**Thursday 20 October – Canakkale – Istanbul**

- 10:00 Meeting with Mr Suleyman Kamci, Governor of Canakkale
- 11:00 Visit to historic citadel of Troy
- 13:00 Depart by road for Istanbul
- 20:00 Arrive Istanbul
- 20:30 Private Dinner with members of Embassy staff

**Friday 21 October – Istanbul – Dublin**

- 09:30 Guided tour of Sultanahmet including Hagia Sophia museum, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and Underground Cistern
- 13:00 Visit to Kapalicarsi, the Grand Bazaar and lunch at Havuzlu restaurant
- 17:10 Depart Istanbul airport for London Heathrow/Dublin
- 21:30 Arrive Dublin and transfer to Nuremore Hotel, Carrickmacross

**Saturday 22 October – Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan**

- 10:30 Visit to the Farney Workhouse, Carrickmacross
- 12:00 Civic Reception at the Workhouse hosted by Councillor Vincent Martin, Meara Baile, Carrickmacross Town Council
- 13:15 Informal lunch at *'Fiddlers'* in Carrickmacross
- 14:30 Visit to Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Inniskeen
- 20:00 Formal dinner hosted by Dr Rory O'Hanlon, T. D., Ceann Comhairle, at the Nuremore Hotel

**Sunday 22 October – Carrickmacross - Dublin**

- 12:00 Depart Carrickmacross for Dublin
- 12:30 Visit to Newgrange Monument World Heritage Site followed by informal lunch at Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre, Co Meath
- 16:30 Arrive Dublin and check into the Berkeley Court Hotel

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**Monday 24 October – Dublin**

- 09:00 Meeting with Dublin Docklands Development Authority and International Financial Services Centre
- 11:30 Meeting with Officials from Science Foundation Ireland
- 12:45 Working lunch hosted by Ambassador John Herron at the Embassy, and briefing by Ambassador Herron and Embassy staff
- 14:30 Courtesy call on the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, at the Official Residence, Aras an Uachtarain, Phoenix Park
- 20:00 Traditional Irish evening at Johnnie Fox's Pub, Glencullen, with Dail liaison staff

**Tuesday 25 October – Dublin – Wicklow - Dublin**

- 08:00 Private meeting arranged by Senator Stephens with Political Friends of Mental Health. Senator Andrew Bartlett also attended
- 08:30 Depart Hotel by road for Wicklow Town
- 10:00 Visit to Wicklow's Historic Gaol and meet with Councillor Andrew Doyle, mayor of County Wicklow
- 12:00 Return to Dublin
- 13:00 Government lunch hosted by Mr Noel Treacy, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Iveigh House
- 14:30 Meeting with Ms Mary Hanafin, T.D., Minister for Education and Science at Leinster House
- 15:00 Meeting with the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, chaired by Dr Michael Woods, T.D.
- 16:15 Attend Sitting of Dáil Éireann
- 16:45 Meeting with Senator Rory Kiely, Cathaoirleach
- 19:00 Reception hosted by Ambassador John Herron, at official residence 'Abbey Lea', Killney

**Wednesday 26 October – Dublin**

- 10:00 Visit to University College Dublin, Belfield, including visits to the Australian Studies Centre and the UCD Archives
- 12:30 Lunch hosted by Professor Mary Daly, Principal of the College of Arts and Celtic Studies, UCD
- 14:00 Depart for Leinster House
- 14:30 Meeting with Mr Pat Rabbitte, T.D., Leader, Labour Party
- 15:00 Meeting with Mr Enda Kenny, T.D., Leader, Fine Gael

- 15:45 Meeting with Ms Mary Harney, T.D., Tanaiste and Minister for Health and Children
- 16:30 Attend Sitting of Seanad Éireann
- 19:00 Official dinner hosted by Dr Rory O'Hanlon, T.D., Ceann Comhairle, at Leinster House

**Thursday 27 October – Dublin – Kilkenny - Dublin**

- 08:30 Depart hotel by road for day trip to County Kilkenny accompanied by Mr Séamus Pattison, T.D., Leas-Cheann Comhairlie
- 11:30 Visit to Duiske Abbey, Graignamanagh;
- 12:45 Lunch hosted by Mr Seamus Pattison at Mount Juliet, Thomastown
- 14:00 Depart for Kilkenny and visit to Nicholas Mosse Pottery, Bennettsbridge; Kilkenny Castle, St Canice's Cathedral and St Francis Abbey Brewery in Kilkenny city
- 18:30 Depart Kilkenny for Dublin

**Friday 28 October – Dublin**

- 09:00 Depart from Dublin International Airport

## APPENDIX 2

### Visit to University College Dublin

#### Article from UCD News November 2005

##### **Australian Parliamentary Delegation commends UCD for strong tradition of teaching and research in Australian history**

A recent visit by an Australian Parliamentary delegation to UCD re-affirmed the long established links between the university and Australia. While visiting UCD Australian Studies Centre, the delegation took the opportunity to view the collection of Australian materials at UCD Archives and to meet with Professor Mary E Daly, Principal of the College of Arts and Celtic Studies, and Professor Hilary Carey, Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History to discuss future developments for Australian Studies at UCD.



*Left to Right:* Senator Alan Ferguson, Mr Philip Barresi, MP, Professor Mary Daly, Senator Ursula Stephens.

Senator Alan Ferguson led the delegation whose deputy leader, Senator Ursula Mary Stephens, is one of two Irish-born members of the Australian federal parliament. Senator Stephens was born in Wicklow in 1954, and migrated to Australia as a child with her extensive family. Hosted by the Oireachtas, the nine-member delegation was made up of parliamentarians from both houses and included representatives from three major Australian parties.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Senator Ferguson reflected on the nature of Australia's links to Ireland and UCD. He explained how almost one third of all Australians claim Irish ancestry, which makes Australia the most Irish of all societies outside of Ireland itself. He also spoke of the strong tradition of teaching and research in Australian history at UCD that dates back to the early 1970s.

Addressing the delegation, Professor Hilary Carey, Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History, signalled that Australian history courses were popular with both Irish and visiting American JYA students, and that exchange agreements with Australian universities have made it possible for increasing numbers of Australian students to study at UCD and for Irish students to take courses in Australia. She also outlined the Australian Studies research seminar and conference program hosted by UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland.



*Left to Right:* Mr Philip Barresi, MP, Senator Gavin Marshall, Professor Mary Daly, Principal, College of Arts and Celtic Studies, Senator Ursula Stephens, Professor Hilary Carey, Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History, Senator Alan Ferguson, Senator Andrew Bartlett, Mr Kerry Bartlett, MP.

Introducing the delegation to a display in the UCD Archives of Australian material in the papers of Eamonn de Valera and Frank Aiken, Professor Mary E Daly, Principal, UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies, stressed the significance of political contact between Australia and Ireland in the post-war era. Ongoing research into Australian history at UCD reflected the depth of the existing relationship between the two countries and the quality of the resources available at UCD for Australian Studies.

Ending their visit, the delegation acknowledged the significance of the Global Irish Institute as a base for ongoing international research on the Irish overseas and they agreed to seek Australian government support for Australian Studies at UCD.