

**The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia**

Report on the Australian Parliamentary Delegation

to Pakistan

29 August – 2 September 2012

November 2012

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Members of the Delegation

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Foreword

Afghanistan

On 25 May 2011, HE Mr Paul Foley, Australian Ambassador to Afghanistan met with Senator the Hon. John Hogg, President of the Senate, at Parliament House in Canberra. At this meeting, it was proposed that a visit, the first by an Australian Parliamentary delegation, be made to Afghanistan and its Parliament. It was agreed that such a visit would help to establish a strong Parliament to Parliament relationship between the two countries.

A visit to Afghanistan was subsequently scheduled to take place from Saturday, 25 August to Tuesday, 28 August 2012. It was to include a visit to Kabul for meetings with the Afghanistan Parliament and to Tarin Kowt in Uruzgan province to visit Australian troops.

Unfortunately, advice was received by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) just prior to the delegation's departure, that the visit to Afghanistan should be postponed due to security concerns in the region. This report, therefore only deals with the Australian Parliamentary Delegation's recent visit to Pakistan.

The extensive preparations by the Australian Embassy in Kabul in organising a program for the delegation, is very much appreciated. A request has been made by the Embassy that, when it becomes possible, reconsideration be given to an Australian Parliamentary delegation visiting Afghanistan to meet with the Afghanistan Parliament.

It is with sadness that the delegation acknowledges the deaths of five Australian soldiers in Afghanistan during the delegation's visit to Pakistan.

Pakistan

The last Australian Parliamentary delegation to visit Pakistan was in September 1996.

A delegation from the Pakistan Parliament had intended visiting Australia in June of this year but, due to their domestic political situation at that time, the visit had to be postponed. It is anticipated that an invitation issued by the Presiding Officers to the Chairman of the Pakistan Senate to visit Australia will be accepted and that it will proceed in the near future.

The delegation undertook an extensive program at the invitation of the Pakistan Government, in both Islamabad and Lahore from Wednesday, 29 August to Sunday, 2 September 2012. This included wide-ranging meetings and visits to AusAID assisted organisations.

The hospitality shown to the delegation by everyone with whom we met was greatly appreciated. The efforts made on our behalf by the DFAT officers, the Australian High Commission in Pakistan and the Pakistan High Commission in Canberra were also very much appreciated.

These efforts and the participation and significant interest shown by all members of the delegation contributed to making this a most successful parliamentary visit.

Senator the Hon. John Hogg
Delegation Leader

Chapter 1

Introduction

Aims and Objectives

1.1 The main aim and objective of the delegation's visit to Pakistan was to further strengthen the relationship between the Parliaments of Pakistan and Australia. Other aims were to:

- strengthen parliamentary relations;
- obtain a greater appreciation of Pakistan's political situation and security issues in the region;
- promote trade opportunities between the two countries;
- acquire a better understanding of the process for the forthcoming general elections to be held in Pakistan in the first half of 2013; and
- visit AusAID funded projects within Pakistan.

1.2 The delegation can report that all its main objectives were met and considers that this visit provides a sound basis for improving parliamentary relations between Australia and Pakistan in the future. The visit proved both constructive and informative and it was agreed that, in order to maintain close parliamentary relations, parliamentary delegation visits should occur on a more frequent basis.

Acknowledgements – Australia

1.3 A number of comprehensive and detailed background briefings were provided to the delegation prior to its departure for Pakistan. The delegation appreciates the assistance of officers from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, particularly the Pakistan and Afghanistan Branch and the Diplomatic Security Branch, as well as those from AusAID, AUSTRADE, the Department of Defence and the Parliamentary Library.

1.4 Appreciation is also extended to the Pakistani High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Abdul Malik Abdullah for the assistance provided, not only by himself, but also by the staff at the High Commission in Canberra.

1.5 Thanks also go to the staff of the parliamentary International and Community Relations Office, particularly Mr Geoff Barnett and travel staff at HRG for the assistance provided in arranging the logistics of the visit.

Acknowledgements – Pakistan

1.6 The delegation would like to express its thanks to the Pakistan Parliament for hosting its visit to Pakistan. Appreciation also goes to The Hon Chairman of the Senate, Syed Nayyer Hussain Bukhari and Prime Minister Raja Pervez for the information they provided, the time taken out of their busy schedules and generous hospitality given to the delegation during its visit.

1.7 Thanks also go to the many Pakistani government officials who played an integral part in ensuring that the delegation had a program that strongly supported the aims and objectives of its visit to Pakistan. Appreciation also goes to the Pakistani security officers assigned to the delegation during the visit.

1.8 Support provided to the delegation by the Australian High Commissioner, HE Mr Peter Heywood and Commission staff in Islamabad and Lahore, also ensured that the delegation undertook a very productive program.

1.9 The diverse range of meetings covering a variety of topics reflected diverse views and provided the delegation with a valuable insight into the complexities of Pakistan's role in the region, as well as many useful insights and issues to follow up on at a later date.

1.10 Thanks also go to:

- Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- HE Faisal Karim Kundi, Deputy Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly and Members of the Young Parliamentarians Forum;
- Chief Election Commissioner, Justice Fakharuddin G Ebrahim and Members of the Election Commission of Pakistan;
- Mr Farooq Sattar and Ms Nasreen Jalil, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Leaders;
- Mr Paul Castella, Head of Delegation, International Committee of the Red Cross;
- Senator Osman Saifullah Khan, Senator-in-waiting;
- Staff at the AusAID-funded Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) - Administered Agriculture Sector Linkages Programme, (ASLP) Citrus Project at Citrus Research Institute, Sargodha;
- Mr Irfan Quaiser Sheikh, President and Members of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- Dr Rubina Gillani, Country Manager, and associates of the Fred Hollows Foundation Eye Hospital;
- Governor of Punjab, Sardar Latif Khosa;
- Members of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan;
- Members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party;
- Rangers of Pakistan at Wahga Border;
- Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad Khateeb-Imam at Mausoleum of Allama Iqbal, Badshahi Mosque;
- Staff at the AusAID-funded Agriculture Sector Linkages Program dairy project at the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences; and
- Honorary Consul for Australia in Lahore, Mr Salim Ghauri.

Chapter 2

Pakistan

Background

2.1 Pakistan has a population of approximately 190 million people. It is the sixth most populated country in the world with a diversity of ethnic groups, languages and religions. It is strategically situated between Afghanistan, China, India and Iran with a coastal area to the south bordering the Arabian Sea.

2.2 The last general election held in Pakistan was on 18 February 2008. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League (PMLN) won the majority of seats enabling them to form a new coalition government with Yosaf Raza Gillani as Prime Minister

2.3 On 26 April 2012, Prime Minister Gillani was convicted of being in contempt of court for refusing to bring corruption charges against President Asif Ali Zardari. On 19 June 2012 the Prime Minister was retrospectively ruled ineligible to hold the position of Prime Minister by the Pakistan Supreme Court.

2.4 Raja Pervez Ashraf was elected as the 17th and current Prime Minister of Pakistan on 22 June 2012.

2.5 Pakistan is currently in its fourth year of a five year electoral term with elections expected to be held before the end of March 2013. The importance of assuring free and fair elections for the stability of Pakistan's democracy was a topic raised at most of the meetings the delegation attended.

Islamabad

2.6 The delegation commenced its program in Islamabad with a background briefing on Pakistan and its role in the region given by the Australia's High Commission to Pakistan, HE Mr Peter Heyward and officers from the High Commission.

2.7 The delegation's first official meeting was with Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Jilani welcomed the delegation's visit to Pakistan saying that it was an excellent trajectory to assist in strengthening our bilateral relations.

2.8 Mr Jilani hoped that better interaction with Australian companies could be established, not only to complement our governments' relationship but to assist stability in the near and south west Pacific regions. He mentioned that Pakistan – Indian relations had progressed over the past few years with trade now in excess of USD 5 billion.

2.9 Mr Jilani felt that education was an inetgral part of how Pakistan could achieve a better standard of living for all Pakistanis, and was very appreciative of the AusAID Scholarships program enabling a number of eligible applicants to contribute significantly towards the community upon their return to Pakistan.

2.10 The delegation was then officially welcomed to Parliament House by HE Syed Nayyer Hussain Bukhar, Chairman of the Senate, who gave a comprehensive briefing on Pakistan's role in the region.

2.11 Chairman Bukhar spoke of the war on terror and Pakistan's hope for free and fair elections in future, to ensure a stable democracy. He thanked Australia for the humanitarian aid given to Pakistan for the recent devastating floods affecting over 20 million people.

2.12 Discussions focussed on trade and investment opportunities, the importance of education with the reference to scholarships awarded to Pakistani students studying at universities and defence academies in Australia. He said that education was a major factor in providing confidence in the parliamentary system, and reiterated that education would also enable Pakistan to achieve real economic growth.

2.13 The Chairman said that Pakistan views Australia as a strong democracy and stressed the importance of continued exchanges at the Parliamentary level.

2.14 Following the meeting the Chairman showed the delegation through both the Senate and National Assembly Halls. Later that evening he hosted a formal dinner with guests from the Pakistani Parliament, Government Departments and representatives of private enterprise with trade related interests.

Figure 2.1: Delegation meeting with HE Syed Nayyer Hussain Bukhar, Chairman of the Senate with Members of the Pakistan Senate



2.15 The delegation was then welcomed by HE Faisal Karim Kundi, Deputy Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly who led a discussion attended by a number of members of the Young Parliamentarians Forum. He noted the significant role that Australia plays in Pakistan and outlined the importance of the delegation's visit saying it would assist in broadening ties between the two countries.

2.16 The Deputy Speaker then led a discussion attended by a number of members of the Young Parliamentarians' Forum. A number of topics were discussed, including Pakistan's commitment towards democratic processes to ensure stability in the region

and progress in the war against terrorism. He indicated the importance for Pakistan to have a more vigorous, open and transparent parliamentary committee system and stressed the necessity of holding free and fair elections.

2.17 The Deputy Speaker also discussed AusAID's support and operations in Pakistan, the advancement of women's roles within the Pakistani Caucus and the challenges of advancing women's rights generally.

2.18 It was suggested that modern technology could be used as a way for Parliamentary committees in Australia and Pakistan to maintain contact. For example, committees undertaking a similar inquiry in either country could exchange information via video conferencing. This would be of mutual benefit and potentially assist the inquiry process in both countries.

Figure 2.2: HE Faisal Karim Kundi Deputy Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly with members of the Young Parliamentarians Forum



2.19 A visit by the delegation was made to the Pakistan Monument and Museum which represents the nation's four provinces and three territories.

2.20 The delegation then met with Justice (R), Fakharudin G Ebrahim, Chief Election Commissioner and members of the Electoral Commission of Pakistan, (ECP). It was stressed by all members, that it was crucial for the democracy of Pakistan that the next elections be demonstrably free and fair.

2.21 The ECP explained that for the forthcoming Pakistan federal elections to be held by the end of March 2013, it has published an electoral roll that includes over 83 million voters and will operate 80,000 polling booths. To ensure that as many voters as possible cast their vote, the voting age has been reduced to 18 years of age and a campaign has also been initiated to encourage women to vote. The ECP stated:

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will provide SMS facility to the general public, for checking their vote registration, particulars etc. at Rs 2.00 per SMS only which has been kept as minimum as possible. For this purpose, the sender will send his CNIC number to a prescribed short code and will subsequently receive a message in Urdu. It will confirm registration of voter as well as location (electoral area) where voter is registered along with serial number of voter in electoral rolls. Details on the procedure and short code for the service will be announced as soon as the Preliminary Electoral Rolls-2011 are ready to be displayed for twenty-one days at 55,000 display centres all over the country.¹

2.22 The cost of the next federal election has been estimated between approximately AUD 20–30 million.

Figure 2.3: Justice (R), Fakhardin G Ebrahim, Chief Election Commissioner



2.23 The ECP said it is seeking a stronger relationship with the Australian Electoral Commission and with the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Electoral Matters. The ECP said that it would be issuing invitations to international observers including Australia to observe the next elections. Officers of the ECP would welcome participation by members of the delegation or their parliamentary colleagues subject to their availability, to assist with ensuring the integrity of the next election process.

1 Election Commission of Pakistan, *Press Release*, 5 January 2011.

2.24 The Delegation had the opportunity of meeting with Mr Paul Castella, Head of Delegation, International Committee of the Red Cross. He also spoke the importance of humanitarian aid and of recent security issues facing non-profit organisations in the region. He detailed current human rights cases and the treatment of prisoners held in Pakistan jails. Finally Mr Castella stressed the importance of education as a way to improve conditions for future generations.

2.25 A meeting was held with representatives of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), which in translation means the United National Movement. These included Mr Farooq Sattar, Deputy Convenor and Parliamentary leader of the MQM. and Ms Nasreen Jalil, its Deputy Convenor. Ms Jalil is also chairperson of Pakistan's Senate Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics, Planning and Development and Privatization.

2.26 Founded in 1984, MQM is Pakistan's third largest political party which predominates in Karachi. It holds 25 seats in the National Assembly including seven Senators and two Federal Ministers.

2.27 MQM's political platform focuses on secular democracy, gender equality, human rights issues and political, social and economic reform. The challenges of establishing better education resources for all Pakistanis and devolving power to local governments in the provinces is also high on their agenda.

2.28 The delegation then met with Prime Minister HE Raja Pervez Ashra who welcomed the delegation and thanked Australia for the support offered to Pakistan to assist the 20 million people who were affected by devastating monsoonal floods in 2010. It was noted that Australia not only responds to immediate humanitarian needs but also provides support for rebuilding in the long term.

2.29 The Prime Minister said he believed it was crucial for Pakistan's democracy to have Parliament to Parliament exchanges and it was also beneficial to Pakistan for dialogue to take place with other Parliaments. The Prime Minister appreciated the scholarships awarded to Pakistani students to study at universities in Australia and felt that education assisted in enhancing our bilateral relations. However, he felt that our bilateral relations still had room for improvement, particularly in the areas of trade and investment.

2.30 Senator Hogg said it was important to continue to improve on the relationship between Australia and Pakistan by, not only having face to face contact, but also by using technology to provide better communication between parliamentarians in order to build on the bilateral relationship.

Figure 2.4: Senator John Hogg and, Australian High Commission, HE Mr Peter Heyward meeting with Prime Minister HE Raja Pervez Ashra



2.31 Senator Osman Saifullah Khan, Senator-in-waiting, hosted a lunch for the delegation before it departed for Sargodha.

Sargodha

2.32 The delegation travelled approximately 3 hours by car from Islamabad to Sargodha to visit a citrus project at their Citrus Research Institute. This is an AusAID funded Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Administered Agriculture Sector Linkages Programme, (ASLP).

2.33 Upon arrival at the facility the delegation was given a detailed presentation outlining the improved crop and orchard production due to the effective use of modern orchard management practices. These include the training of growers in the efficient use of fertilizers and irrigation, which results in increased yields and provides support for additional local employment in the region.

Figure 2.5: Sargoda Citrus Research Institute



Lahore

2.34 The delegation met with Members of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on arrival in Lahore. Mr Irfan Quaiser Sheikh, President of the Chamber welcomed the delegation saying that our bilateral trade needs to be strengthened. It was mentioned that there was potential to grow this trade substantially, particularly with the assistance of Australia's expertise in the mining industry, agricultural, rural and educational sectors.

2.35 It was felt that a better understanding of Australia's import laws would assist the Chamber's members wishing to export to Australia. The Chamber also hoped that there may be increased direct foreign investment by Australia in Lahore in the agricultural and rural sectors generally. On this point, the President of the Chamber said that it was anticipated that a business delegation would visit Australia in November 2012 with the aim of further increasing bilateral trade and investment.

2.36 The delegation were asked questions by Chamber members and followed by a formal dinner where discussion continued.

2.37 On arrival at the Fred Hollows Foundation Clinic at the Mayo Hospital in Lahore, Dr Rubina Gillani, Program Manager and Professor Dr Asad Aslam Khan, Vice Chancellor King Edward Medical University, gave the delegation a detailed presentation on the Clinic's work, outlining the enormous achievements being made with the assistance of Australian aid.

2.38 Dr Gillani said that since the Fred Hollows Foundation commenced its work in Pakistan in 1997 and with the assistance of AusAID, the prevalence of blindness

has been reduced from 1.78 per cent to 0.9 per cent. Dr Gillani said that approximately 70 per cent of blindness in Pakistan was caused by cataracts and that ophthalmology training and equipment had enabled almost 200,000 cataract surgeries to be performed since 1998, thus preventing blindness and restoring the sight of vision impaired Pakistanis.

2.39 Fred Hollows Foundation support for eye care in the Punjab region from 1999–2012 has totalled Rs 233,250,000M. This support enables the training of microsurgical ophthalmologists, upgrading of teaching hospitals, training doctors in disease control and the training of women health workers in primary eye care to work in rural areas.

Table 2.1: Government Ownership for PBL after PPP with Fred Hollows / AusAID

1999	Nil
2004	Rs 8.0M
2008	Rs 122M
2012	Rs 285M ²

2.40 Due in part, to the impact of the work of the Fred Hollows Foundation and others, the Pakistan Government has allocated AUD54 million towards a national program for the prevention of blindness.³

Figure 2.6: Training at the Fred Hollows Foundation Clinic



2 Table taken from College of Ophthalmology & Allied Vision Sciences, King Edward Medical University/Mayo Hospital Lahore, Pakistan.

3 Amount of AUD 54M taken from *In Fred's Footsteps, 20 years of Restoring Sight*, Fred Hollows Foundation.

2.41 The delegation was particularly appreciative of the opportunity to tour the Fred Hollows Eye Clinic, seeing first-hand the effectiveness of the training and clinical operations being undertaken at the facility. This work results in the improvement in the quality of the lives of thousands of men, women and children.

Figure 2.7: Members of the Fred Hollows Eye Clinic in Lahore



2.42 The delegation then met with Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa, Governor of Punjab who was appointed to this post on 13 January 2011. He was the former Attorney General of Pakistan from August 2008 to October 2009.

2.43 Discussions with Governor Khosa focussed on trade and investment within the Punjab region. He outlined the importance of technology, using it as a way to increase trade opportunities between Australian companies and the Punjab region particularly in the agricultural, livestock and energy sectors.

2.44 Governor Khosa said that Australia and Pakistan faced similar ecological concerns due to the vagaries of climate: both suffered from floods and droughts which affected food production and productivity. He suggested that the sharing of information on gene technology for disease resistant seeds was an example of how Australia could assist Pakistan to enable the production of sufficient food crops to meet the needs of the region.

Figure 2.8: Sardar Latif Khosa, Governor of Punjab



2.45 A meeting was then held with members of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. They briefed the delegation on the difficulties being faced by 25 per cent of the population who live below the poverty line as well as the complexities of human rights issues in Pakistan, particularly those affecting minorities, women and children. They discussed the poor health services available, women's rights, lack of education, scarcity of water, poor electricity supply, and the high levels of unemployment.

2.46 The delegation was told of continuing attacks on civilians, journalists and religious minorities and of a number of suicide bombings.

2.47 The delegation then met with Mr Shafqat Mahmood, Central Information Secretary, Ms Saniya Sajid Director Media Cell and Ms Talath Naqvi Policy Cell, of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf. The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf (PTI) is the Pakistan Movement for Justice, founded by former Pakistan Cricket Captain, Mr Imran Khan, on 25 April 1996, and currently has over 10 million members.

2.48 PTI's economic reform agenda concentrates on improving human resource development with a focus on increasing health care and educational facilities for all Pakistanis.

2.49 The delegation were told of the need for civil service reforms and a decentralised governance could be achieved in Pakistan by installing local

governments with access to direct funding, with equal distribution to all districts and villages throughout Pakistan.

2.50 The delegation then drove to the Wahga Border, which is the only road crossing between Pakistan and India, to witness the elaborate “lowering of the flags” ceremony. This occurs each day just before sunset and it is estimated that approximately 6,000 people attend the ceremony each day.

2.51 Later, the delegation, together with the Australian High Commission, hosted a reception for key Government officials with Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Leader of the Opposition, as the principal guest, along with Members of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and interested business people. This gathering gave the delegation a further opportunity to discuss relevant issues of interest, such as possible Australian investment in Lahore, on a one to one basis.

2.52 The delegation visited Allama Iqbal Mausoleum, where Senator Johnston laid a wreath. The delegation also visited Badshahi Mosque and Lahore Fort. Discussions held with Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad Khateeb-Imam centred on the interfaith issues of harmony and trust. A briefing was given to the delegation on religious Islamic tradition and the importance of the mosque.

2.53 Members of the delegation were apprised that a tolerance for other religions was inherent in the true message of Islam. While visiting Lahore Fort and its museum the delegation thoroughly enjoyed the wonders of Mughal art and architecture and the rich history of the region.

2.54 The delegation visited the University of Veterinary and Animals Science (UVAS) and met with staff and others involved with the AusAID funded ASLP dairy project. The delegation was given a presentation and heard accounts from people in local rural communities of the support that they had received through the project.

2.55 The delegation received a first-hand account of the partnership between the University Veterinary and Animals and the ASLP which resulted in remarkable achievements being made by providing technical and research support to farmers at a district level. This was similarly the experience of the Citrus Research Institute discussed above. The delegation was impressed to hear of the improvements made in the areas of vaccination and artificial insemination of animals in the livestock sector.

2.56 Prior to their departure for Australia, the delegation attended a dinner hosted by the Honourary Consul for Australia in Lahore, Mr Salim Ghauri. This allowed the delegation a further opportunity to discuss proposals to increase trade between Australia and Pakistan and how this would help to strengthen our bilateral relations.

Figure 2.9: The delegation visited the University of Veterinary and Animals Science (UVAS) and met with staff and others involved from the AusAID funded ASLP dairy project



Appendix 1

Program of Parliamentary visit to Pakistan 29 August to 2 September 2012

Wednesday 29 August

- Departed Australia and met upon arrival at Benazir Bhutto International Airport, Islamabad, by a delegation led by Senator Osman Saifullah Khan, Senator-in-waiting.

Thursday 30 August – Islamabad

- Australian High Commission briefing with High Commissioner, HE Mr Peter Heyward and High Commission staff.
- Meeting with Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Official greeting ceremony at Parliament House.
- Meeting with the Hon. Syed Nayyer Hussain Bukhari, Chairman of the Senate.
- Tour of the Senate Hall and National Assembly Hall.
- Meeting with HE Faisal Karim Kundi, Deputy Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly who led a discussion with the Young Parliamentarians Forum.
- Visit the Pakistan Monument and Museum.
- Meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Justice (R) Fakharuddin G Ebrahim and a number of Members of the Election Commission of Pakistan.
- Attend dinner hosted by the Chairman of the Senate Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari at the Serena Hotel.

Friday 31 August

Islamabad

- Working breakfast with International Community of the Red Cross at the Australian High Commissioner's residence.
- Meeting with Mr Farooq Sattar and Ms Nasreen Jalil, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Leaders.
- Official call on the Prime Minister of Pakistan, HE Raja Pervez Ashraf.
- Lunch hosted by Senator Osman Saifullah Khan, Senator-in-waiting.
- Depart for Sargodha by road.

Sargodha

- Visit AusAID-funded ACIAR- Administered Agriculture Sector Linkages Programme, (ASLP) Citrus Project at Citrus Research Institute, Sargodha.
- Depart for Lahore by road.

Lahore

- Meeting with Members of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Dinner hosted by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Saturday 1 September – Lahore

- Meeting with Dr Rubina Gillani, Country Manager, and associates of the Fred Hollows Foundation Eye Hospital, followed by a tour through the College of Ophthalmology at the Mayo Hospital.
- Meeting with Governor of Punjab, Sardar Latif Khosa, followed by lunch hosted by the Governor.
- Meeting with Members of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.
- Meeting with Members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party.
- Attend the flag lowering ceremony at Wahga Border, Pakistan/Indian border.
- Attend Reception hosted by the Australian High Commission with key Government and business contacts.

Sunday 2 September – Lahore

- Meeting with Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad Khateeb-Imam at Mausoleum of Allama Iqbal, Badshahi Mosque.
- Visit Lahore Fort.
- Visit University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, AusAID funded Agriculture Sector Linkages Program dairy project.
- Attend dinner hosted by Honorary Consul for Pakistani Business contacts.

Appendix 2

Australia's Humanitarian Aid - Pakistan Floods

The delegation took particular interest in the outcomes of Australia's assistance following the 2010 floods in Pakistan and would like to draw attention to the some of the contributions Australia made, as set out in the information booklet produced by AusAID.

In July 2010, Pakistan's monsoonal rains caused widespread flooding in one of the country's worst humanitarian disasters in the past 50 years. More than 20 million people were affected.

The Australian Government quickly committed \$75 million for humanitarian needs such as food, shelter, clean water and sanitation, and hygiene kits.¹

A 180-strong civilian and military medical and emergency response team was drawn from state and territory health agencies as well as the Australian Defence Force. This team working in a temporary health centre in the central Punjab province, treated more than 11,000 patients.

Australian families and businesses gave \$16 million to emergency appeals. Many also donated their skills and time, volunteering to help aid agencies deliver relief around the clock ... Early recovery support included helping farmers replant crops, encouraging children back to school and ensuring people have access to health services.

Our assistance has helped more than 22,000 children get back to school by fixing damaged schools and providing school supplies. It has supported immunisation programs, hygiene education to prevent disease outbreaks, and safe child-friendly spaces and activities.²

Indeed, recovery and reconstruction work undertaken with Australian aid is clearly visible across Pakistan. 'Our work with trusted partners ensures accountability of Australian funds in a challenging environment.' Australian's aid was given at the invitation of Pakistan's government and supports Pakistan's emergency response and recovery strategy. It has deepened the relationship between our two countries.³

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- 1 AusAID, *Australia's Humanitarian aid to Pakistan Floods*, http://www.ausaid.gov.au/Publications/Pages/3117_5183_9673_1752_1635.aspx, (acssed 26 November 2012).
 - 2 AusAID, *Australia's Humanitarian aid to Pakistan Floods*, http://www.ausaid.gov.au/Publications/Pages/3117_5183_9673_1752_1635.aspx, (acssed 26 November 2012).
 - 3 AusAID, *Australia's Humanitarian aid to Pakistan Floods*, http://www.ausaid.gov.au/Publications/Pages/3117_5183_9673_1752_1635.aspx, (acssed 26 November 2012).