



Submission No 25

## **Inquiry into Australia's Overseas Representation**

**Name:** His Excellency Mr Rui Quartin-Santos  
Ambassador

**Organisation:** Embassy of Portugal  
23 Culgoa Circuit  
O'Malley ACT 2606



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Mr Jerome Brown  
Secretary of the Joint Standing Committee  
on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

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4 JAN 2012

Canberra, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear Mr Brown,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 October, in which you kindly inform me that the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will inquire into Australia's overseas representation upon request of the Australian Federal Government.

In the same letter you noted that Australia has an embassy in my country, and while I believe it would be impertinent on my part, as a foreign envoy, to comment on the activities that Australia's diplomatic missions must undertake and on their geographic location and spread, I am pleased to point out that the Portuguese Government attaches great importance to our relationship with Australia, which is home to a community of about 50,000 people of Portuguese origin, and to the development of that relationship in all matters of mutual interest in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological fields. Portugal - a EU and NATO member country - and Australia are "like minded" countries, sharing common values and principles of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. In particular, we have the common objective of cooperating closely with your neighbouring Republic of Timor-Leste, a territory formerly administered by Portugal, in order to assist it in becoming a stable, viable and prosperous country, able to fully

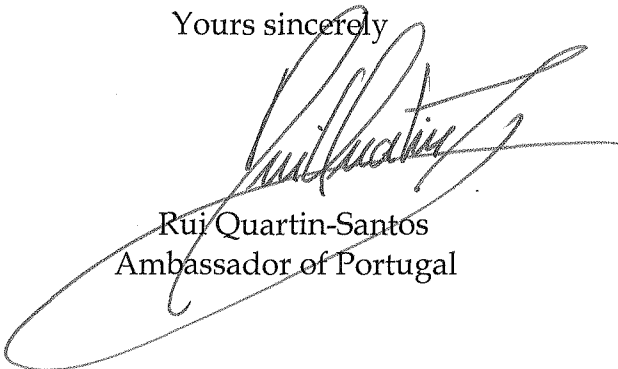


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contribute to foster peace and stability in the region. We believe that an appropriate coordination of our efforts will be the best way to achieve this goal. The existing diplomatic missions of our countries, both in Canberra and in Lisbon, constitute, in my view, an indispensable instrument in the pursuit of those objectives.

I would kindly request you to convey the content of this letter to the Hon. Michael Danby MHR, Chairman of the Joint Committee, as a contribution to your inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Rui Quartin-Santos  
Ambassador of Portugal

c. Mr Darren Cheeseman MP  
Chairman of the Australia-Portugal Parliamentary Group