



Submission No 10c (Attachment)

Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Timor-Leste

Organisation: Victorian Local Governance Association

**Report on the visit
to Melbourne
by Sr Domingos Vidigal
23 October-1 November 2012**

Prepared by Richard Brown



Photo: Carlos Ibarra

Background

As part of the ongoing support for Aileu District in Timor Leste, Moreland and Hume City Councils invited the Aileu District Administration to send a representative to Melbourne to observe the 2012 Victorian Local Government Elections. The District Administration nominated the Aileu District Planning Officer, Sr Domingos Vidigal, who visited Melbourne from 23 October - 1 November 2012.

The visit also provided an opportunity for Sr Vidigal meet with representatives of the two Councils, members of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee and partner organisations, and to learn more about the operation of local government in Victoria, as Timor-Leste moves towards the establishment of local government, which is expected to take place in 2014-15.

The visit also served to further strengthen the friendship relationship between Moreland, Hume and Aileu, which was established twelve years ago.

Thanks are due to the staff of Moreland and Hume Councils, and of other organisations, who made time to meet with Sr Vidigal. Thanks also to those who provided interpreting at the meetings: Joao Jong, Mayra Walsh, Eusebio Goveia and Katrina Langford. Particular thanks are due to Mrs Marga Pires and her family, who provided accommodation for Sr Vidigal during the visit.

The following is an outline of the main activities undertaken by Sr Vidigal during the visit. A copy of the visit program is at Attachment 1 and a list of the people he met during the visit is at Attachment 2.

Local Government Elections

Victorian Electoral Commission. On 25 October, Sr Vidigal attended a briefing at the Victorian Electoral Commission on the 2012 Victorian Local Government Elections, given by the Acting Electoral Commissioner, Liz Williams, and the Senior Policy Advisor, Paul Thornton-Smith. They outlined the role of the VEC and the process for conducting the election, and provided Sr Vidigal with official accreditation as an election observer.



Sr Vidigal with the Acting Victorian Electoral Commissioner, Liz Williams.



Sr Vidigal outside the polling booth at Coburg Primary School.

Polling Day. On polling day, 27 October, Friends of Aileu member, Chris Adams, accompanied Sr Vidigal to the polling station located at Coburg Primary School, where they observed the conduct of the poll.

Hume Council Briefings

Social Development. On 25 October, Sr Vidigal met with the Hume Director of City Communities, Margarita Caddick, and Cathy Marshall, Coordinator of Social Planning. They provided him with an overview of the Council's planning processes, the role of Social Development, Council's Social Justice Charter and an outline of the Broadmeadows Community Hub Project.



Sr Vidigal with the Hume Director of City Communities, Margarita Caddick (l) and interpreter, Joao Jong.



Sr Vidigal (c) with Virginia Smedley and interpreter, Joao Jong at the Sunbury Visitors Centre.

Tourism. On 25 October, Sr Vidigal met with George Osborne, Hume Council Manager of Economic Development, and Emanuela Camera, Tourism Development Officer, about Council's strategies for attracting and holding tourists in Hume. On 29 October, he visited the Visitor Information Centre at Sunbury and met with Virginia Smedley, the Visitor Information Centre Officer, who explained the approach to local tourism.

Waste Management and Recycling. On 29 October, Sr Vidigal visited the Resource and Recovery centre at Campbellfield and met with Katie Nuthall, Hume Waste and Litter Education Officer, and Robert Kacela, Assistant Waste Management Engineer, who showed him how waste is recycled in Hume.



Robert Kacela briefing Sr Vidigal at the Hume Resource & Recovery Centre, Katie Nuthall (c) and interpreter Joao Jong (l).



Sr Vidigal with Hume Library Coordinator, Wendy Byron (r), Donna Edwards, and interpreter Mayra Walsh (l).

Community Learning. On 24 October, Sr Vidigal visited the Hume Global Learning Centre at Broadmeadows. He toured the Centre and received a briefing on its operation and the Hume Global Village network from Team Leader, Dalal Hazim, and Administration Officer, Roxanne Coles. He also visited the Hume Library and met with Branch Coordinator, Wendy Byron and Community Outreach Officer, who showed him the library's operations. On 29 October, Sr Vidigal attended a Turkish children's bi-lingual storytelling session at the library.

Moreland Council Briefings

Social Development. On 25 October, Sr Vidigal met with the Moreland Director of Social Development, Andrew Day, who provided him with an overview of the Social Development Department's operations and the approach to community consultation.



Moreland Director of Social Development, Andrew Day (r), briefing Sr Vidigal, with interpreter Joao Jong(c).



Sr Vidigal with Moreland CEO, Peter Brown.

Chief Executive Officer. On 25 October, he also met the Moreland CEO, Peter Brown, who explained the role of the CEO and the Administration in relation to the role of the elected councillors.

Waste Management. On 26 October he visited the Moreland Council Depot in Hadfield and met with the Environmental Education Officer, Tammy Sherar, Allan Keane, Works Officer Waste Services and other Moreland City Infrastructure staff. They explained how Moreland Council manages household waste, as well as maintaining roads and other Council infrastructure. He also inspected some of the Department's equipment, including the waste collection vehicles.



Sr Vidigal with a waste collection vehicle at the Moreland depot.



Sr Vidigal with Urban Designer, Aditya Andley, inspecting the Brunswick Baths redevelopment.

Leisure Precinct Project. On 26 October, Sr Vidigal met with Place Manager Will Coogan and Urban Designer, Aditya Andley and inspected the site of the Brunswick Culture and leisure Precinct Project, including the refurbished Brunswick Baths, the Brunswick Town Hall and the Brunswick Library. They explained how Council recycles and renovates existing buildings to meet changing community needs.

Other Activities

Timor Leste Consul-General. On 24 October, Sr Vidigal met with the Honorary Consul for Timor-Leste, Kevin Bailey, and the Consulate Office Administrator, Joao Jong. They discussed the transition to elected municipal government in Timor-Leste and the possible role of Australian local governments in assisting in the process.

Moora Moora Community. On 28 October, Sr Vidigal visited Friends of Aileu partner, the Moora Moora Cooperative Community at Mt Toolebewong, near Healesville, and met with Dr Peter Cock and Sandra Cock, and Amy Glastonbury. They discussed the Besilau lighting project and how to assess the community's future interests. Dr Cock explained that Moora Moora had raised funds to support another project in Besilau, but are waiting until the lighting project is completed to commit the funds.



Sr Vidigal with Timor-Leste Consul-General, Kevin Bailey



Sr Vidigal with (l-r) Sandra Cock, Amy Glastonbury, Richard Brown and Dr Peter Cock at Moora Moora Community

North Richmond Community Health. On 30 October, Sr Vidigal visited the North Richmond Community Health Centre dental Clinic, which has a large East Timorese clientele. He met with Dr Martin Hall, Oral Health Manager, and dental nurse Sally Vong. They outlined the latest developments with the Aileu Oral Health Project and their plans for its future development.

Friends of Aileu Community Committee. On 30 October, Sr Vidigal attended a meeting of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee. He gave a presentation on recent developments in Aileu and heard a presentation by Noel Blencowe from CERES Global who proposed joining with the Friends of Aileu to organise study tours to Aileu.

ATTACHMENT 1. PROGRAM

Date	Activity
Monday 22 Oct	11.15am – Depart Dili, Air North TL515 1.00pm – Arrive Darwin Accommodation: Rydges Darwin Airport Resort
Tuesday 23 Oct	12.15pm – Depart Darwin, Qantas QF839 5.05pm – Arrive Melbourne Accommodation: Mrs Marga Pires, 2 White Court, Meadows Heights (Interpreter – Katrina Langford)
Wednesday 24 Oct	10 -11am – Meeting with Honorary Consul- General for Timor-Leste, Kevin Bailey, Level 21, HWT Building , Southbank 11am - 1pm – Visit to Victorian Government Tourist centre and tour of city centre 1 - 2pm – Lunch 2 – 3pm – Visit to Hume Global Learning Centre – briefing by Dalal Hazim on the Hume Global Learning Village 3 – 4pm – Visit to Hume Library, briefing by Wendy Byron, Branch Coordinator and Donna Edwards, Community Engagement Officer (Interpreter - Joao Jong)
Thursday 25 Oct	9 - 9.30am – Briefing by George Osborne, Hume City Council Manager of Economic Development and Emanuela Camera, Tourism Officer on tourism development in Hume 9.30 - 10.30am – Meeting with Margarita Caddick, Director City Communities & Cathy Marshall, Coordinator Social Planning, Hume City Council – briefing on Broadmeadows Community Hub Project 11am - 12.00pm – Briefing at Moreland City Council by Andrew Day, Director, Social Development, on the City of Moreland and the role and programs of the Social Development Department 1 - 2 – Lunch 2 - 3pm – Briefing at Victorian Electoral Commission, Liz Williams, Electoral Commissioner, and Paul Thornton Smith, Senior Advisor L11, 530 Collins Street 4 - 4.30pm – Meeting with Moreland CEO, Peter Brown, on role of council administration (Interpreters – Joao Jong/Mayra Walsh)
Friday 26 Oct	9 -10am – Briefing on Brunswick Culture & Leisure Precinct Project, Will Coogan, Place Manager Brunswick (0418 572 201) & Aditya Andley, Urban Designer, including tour of Brunswick Town Hall & Brunswick Baths project 1 - 2pm – Lunch 2 - 4pm – Visit to Moreland Council Depot, 7-9 Walter Street, Glenroy, briefing on waste management, Tammy Sherar, Environmental Education Officer & Allan Keane, Works Officer Waste Services, Moreland City Council 3 - 4pm – Briefing on infrastructure planning and road maintenance (Interpreter – Katrina Langford)
Saturday 27 Oct	11am -12pm – Observe local government election - visit polling booth at Coburg West Primary School, Reynard Street, Coburg (with Chris Adams), plus visit to Darebin Community safety display and St Kilda Beach

Sunday 28 Oct	10 - 11.30am – Travel to Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary 11am - 12.30pm – Visit Sanctuary 12.30 - 1.00pm – Travel to Moora Moora 1 – 3pm – Visit Moora Moora Cooperative Community, Nyora Road, Mt Toolebewong (near Healesville), incl. lunch with Dr Peter Cock & Sandra Cock, discussion about friendship relationship with Besilau 3 - 4.30 – Return to Melbourne (Interpreter – Eusebio Goveia)
Monday 29 Oct	9.30 - 10.30am – Visit Resource & Recovery Centre, Bolinda Road, Campbellfield, Katie Nuttall, Hume Waste & Litter Education Office, briefing on waste recycling 11am -12pm – Attend Turkish-English children’s bilingual story session, Hume Library , 1 - 2pm – Lunch 2 - 3pm – Visit Sunbury Visitor Information Centre, contact Virginia Smedley, (0402 413 140) 3 - 4 pm – Visit local tourist attraction, The Nook (Interpreter – Joao Jong)
Tuesday 30 Oct	11.30 - 12.30 – Visit North Richmond Community Health Centre, Lennox Street, Richmond, Dr Martin Hall & Ms Sally Vong , discussion about Aileu Oral Health Project 12.30 -1.30 – Lunch 1.30-6.30pm – Visit Katrina Langford 6.30 - 8.30pm – Friends of Aileu Community Committee meeting, Moreland Civic Centre (Interpreter – Katrina Langford)
Wednesday 31 Oct	9-am-12.30pm – Meeting with people from Aileu 2-4pm – meeting with Ermera D/DA, Sr Danilo, Endeavour Hills 7 - 9.30pm – Farewell dinner, The Uleg Indonesian Restaurant, 312 Sydney Road, Brunswick
Thursday 1 Nov	2.20pm – Depart Melbourne, Jetstar JQ61 5.05pm – Arrive Darwin
Friday 2 Nov	6.30am – Depart Darwin, Air North TL512 7.15am – Arrive Dili

ATTACHMENT 2. PEOPLE MET DURING VISIT

The following were among the people Sr Vidigal met during the visit:

Aditya Andley, Urban Designer, Moreland Council
Allan Keane, Works Officer Waste Services, Moreland Council
Amy Glastonbury, Moora Moora Community
Andrew Day, Director Social Development, Moreland Council
Cathy Marshall, Coordinator Social development, Hume Council
Chris Adams, Friends of Aileu member
Dalal Hazim, team Leader, Hume Learning
Donna Edwards, Community Engagement Officer, Hume Library
Emanuela Camera, Tourist Development officer
Eusebio Goveia, interpreter
George Osborne, Hume Council Manager of Economic Development
Joao Jong, Office Manager, Timor-Leste Consulate
Katie Nuthall, Waste and Litter Education Officer, Hume Council
Katrina Langford, interpreter
Kevin Bailey, Consul-General for Timor-Leste
Liz Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, Victorian Electoral Commission
Margarita Caddick, Director City Communities, Hume Council
Dr Martin Hall, Oral Health Manager, North Richmond Community Health
Mayra Walsh, interpreter
Paul Thornton-Smith, Senior Electoral Advisor, Victorian Electoral Commission
Peter Brown, CEO, Moreland Council
Dr Peter Cock, Moora Moora Community
Robert Kacela, Assistant Waste Management Engineer, Hume Council
Roxanne Coles, Administrative Officer, Hume Learning
Sally Vong, Dental nurse, North Richmond Community Health
Sandra Cock, Moora Moora Community
Tammy Sherar, Environmental Education Officer, Moreland Council
Virginia Smedley, Visitor Centre Officer, Hume Council
Wendy Byron, Branch Coordinator, Hume Library
Will Coogan, Place Manager Brunswick, Moreland Council