



Submission No 62

Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Timor-Leste

Name: Mrs Jennifer Ann Arms

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee

From: Jenny Arms
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2013 5:41 PM
To: Committee, JSCFADT (REPS)
Subject: Submission to the Joint Parliamentary Inquiry in Australia's Bilateral Relations with Timor-Leste.....from J.A.ARMS

Mrs J A Arms

26th March 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Submission to the Joint Parliamentary Inquiry in Australia's Bilateral Relations with Timor-Leste.

Australia has been closely involved with the development of Timor-Leste since its independence from Indonesia in 1999.

Have you visited towns far from Dili? The standard of living for these people is extremely low. As our near neighbour, they deserve the highest level of our support. I wish them to be able to learn English if they so wish and to view our democratic way of life as preferable.

I would like to suggest other ways in which Australia could enhance this relationship further in the coming years.

My main concerns are:

1. Re-naming the Australian scholarships to Timor-Leste students in recognition of the role played the people of T-L in supporting the Australian military forces in defence of our country in 1942.
2. I think the Australian government should negotiate in good faith and under terms of the UNCLOS with the Government of Timor-Leste over any future discussion over the sea boundary between the two countries. I ask: How can the Australian government quickly negotiate with New Zealand in settling a sea boundary, but postpone the decision for 50 years in the case of Timor-Leste? I propose that any such negotiation should remain quarantined from the wider bi-lateral relationship between the two countries.
3. Australia should support and extend Timor-Leste Seasonal Workers and training programs Australia
4. From the point of view of being the closest neighbour to Timor-Leste as a rich, developed economy, we should commit to continuing our financial support for this poor country.
5. Most rural people in Timor-Leste are subsistence farmers so any support and investment Australian businesses can promote in Timor-Leste would help, especially in industries such as agriculture and tourism.
6. I support any community to community relationship between Australia and Timor-Leste. Since 1999 numerous Friendship groups have sprung up all over Australia, and this is what they do best. We need the support of our government to continue forging these links between the two countries.

I would like you to consider my views when the Inquiry proceeds.

I remain

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jennifer Ann Arms