



Appendix C – Overview of Australia’s  
Bilateral Human Rights Dialogues and  
Associated Activities

Table 1.1 Overview of Australia’s Bilateral Human Rights Dialogue Process and Associated Activities

	<b>Australia-China Dialogue</b>	<b>Australia-Vietnam Dialogue</b>	<b>Australia-Iran Dialogue</b>
<b>Established</b>	1997	2002	1999
<b>No. of Dialogue Sessions</b>	9 sessions held alternately in China and Australia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5 in Beijing (1997, 1999, 2001, 2003 &amp; 2005); and</li> <li>▪ 4 in Canberra (1998, 2000, 2002 &amp; 2004).</li> </ul>	3 sessions held alternately in Vietnam and Australia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2 in Hanoi (2002 &amp; 2004);and</li> <li>▪ 1 in Canberra (2003).</li> </ul>	1 session held in Iran. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tehran (2002)</li> </ul>
<b>Participants</b>	DFAT, AG’s, AusAID, HREOC & Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice & Public Security, Supreme People’s Court et al.	DFAT, AG’s, AusAID, HREOC & Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Public Security & Justice, Supreme People’s Procuracy et al.	DFAT, AG’s, AusAID, HREOC & Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice, Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) et al.
<b>Discussion Topics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restrictions on freedom of assembly, association, expression and religion;</li> <li>▪ Situation in Tibet &amp; Xingjiang (incl. Falun Gong);</li> <li>▪ Dissidents (incl. representations on individual cases of concern);</li> <li>▪ Legal reform;</li> <li>▪ Ratification of international covenants;</li> <li>▪ Death penalty;</li> <li>▪ Torture and other degrading practices;</li> <li>▪ Coercive family planning policies; and</li> <li>▪ Rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Political and religious prisoners (incl. representations on individual cases of concern);</li> <li>▪ Ethnic and religious minorities in central highlands;</li> <li>▪ Restrictions on use of internet;</li> <li>▪ Reforms in Vietnam’s criminal justice system;</li> <li>▪ Trafficking of women and children; and</li> <li>▪ Death penalty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Respective constitutional, judicial and legal systems;</li> <li>▪ Position of minorities (incl. Baha’is and Jews);</li> <li>▪ Freedom of the press;</li> <li>▪ Role of national human rights institutions;</li> <li>▪ Women’s rights; and</li> <li>▪ Prisoners (including representations on individual cases of concern).</li> </ul>

<p><b>Associated Site Visits</b></p>	<p>In Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sydney (1998, 2000 and 2002)- NSW District Court, Long Bay Gaol, Police Integrity Commission, HREOC, Tranby Indigenous College, Parliament House et al.</li> </ul> <p>In China:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Qinghai (1999)-3 villages (Hui, Tibetan &amp; Han);</li> <li>▪ Sichuan (2001); and</li> <li>▪ Tibet (2003)-Lhasa.</li> </ul>	<p>In Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sydney (2003)-Administrative Appeals Tribunal, NSW Police, Australian Law Reform Commission, NSW Council for Civil Liberties et al.</li> </ul> <p>In Vietnam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hanoi (2004)-Supreme People’s Court, Ho Chi Minh Political Academy &amp; Vietnam Women’s Union; and</li> <li>▪ Central Highlands (2004)-Gia Lai and Dak Lak Provinces.</li> </ul>	<p>In Iran:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tehran (2002) – a Tehran prison</li> </ul>
<p><b>HREOC’s Technical Cooperation Programs &amp; Activities</b></p>	<p>Australia-China Human Rights Technical Cooperation (HRTC) Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legal reform and capacity building;</li> <li>▪ Education;</li> <li>▪ Police ethics;</li> <li>▪ Women and children’s rights;</li> <li>▪ Role of civil society; and</li> <li>▪ Implementation of international human rights instruments.</li> </ul> <p>For further details see: Attachment 1: Activities with China, Submission no. 14, pp. 8-44 Table 1, China-Australia Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program (HRTC) HRTC Activities 1997-2004 – Summary of Impacts, Submission, p. 17, pp. 22-29</p>	<p>HREOC hosted a study visit to Australia by officials from the Government of Vietnam in 2003 (following the second dialogue). Australian participants included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HREOC;</li> <li>▪ Australian Law Reform Association;</li> <li>▪ Australian Human Rights Centre et al.</li> </ul> <p>Vietnamese Government identified 4 areas for future technical cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Human rights training for Vietnamese officials;</li> <li>▪ Strengthening of administrative tribunals;</li> <li>▪ Development of legal aid system; and</li> </ul>	<p>HREOC hosted a visit to Australia by the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) in 2003. Australian participants included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HREOC;</li> <li>▪ Australian Human Rights Centre;</li> <li>▪ Diplomacy Training Program;</li> <li>▪ Public Interest Advocacy Program; and</li> <li>▪ Kingsford Legal Centre.</li> </ul> <p>IHRC identified 4 areas for possible future technical cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complaint handling procedures;</li> <li>▪ Education and public affairs;</li> <li>▪ Scholarships for IHRC officials to study at Australian universities; and</li> <li>▪ Joint seminars on human rights issues.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minority rights.</li> </ul> <p>For further details see: Attachment 2: Activity with Vietnam, Submission no. 14, pp. 17-28</p>	<p>For further details see: Attachment 3: Activity with Iran, Submission no. 14, pp. 29- 44</p>
<p><b>Other AusAID-funded activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Human Rights Small Grant Scheme</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$600, 000 of assistance to the Vietnam Research Centre for Human Rights at the Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy; and</li> <li>▪ study tours run by the ANU's Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI)</li> </ul> <p>For details see: Appendix A, Submission no. 17, pp. 17-18</p> <p>\$192, 096 of assistance to organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youth Social Work Centre HCMC (legal support for children in difficult circumstances); and</li> <li>▪ Population Council (for domestic violence prevention activities).</li> </ul> <p>For details see: Table 2, Submission no. 17, p.30</p>	<p>\$48, 266 of assistance to the Population Council and UNICEF for human rights and legal training and advocacy.</p> <p>For details see: Table 2, Submission no. 17, p. 31</p>

*Sources*

DFAT Website, *Australia's Human Rights Dialogues*, [http://www.dfat.gov.au/hr/achrd/aus\\_proc\\_dialogue.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/hr/achrd/aus_proc_dialogue.html)  
DFAT Submission No. 17  
HREOC Submission No. 14