



Submission No 10b (Attachment)

Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Timor-Leste

Organisation: Victorian Local Governance Association

Friendship Agreement between the District of Aileu, Timor-Leste and the Moreland and Hume City Councils, Victoria, Australia

In recognition of the aspirations of the people of Timor-Leste and, in particular, of the District of Aileu, to build their own democracy and take control of their future, a Friendship Relationship was established between the District of Aileu and the Moreland and Hume City Councils on 4 May 2000, and renewed in 2005. Now, after ten years of developing friendship, we reaffirm our commitment to that relationship and to the principles and values on which it is based, for a further five years.

We recognize the important roles of the District Administration, in supporting the people of Aileu, and of the Aileu Friendship Commission, in representing the people of Aileu in the Friendship Relationship.

We are pleased to acknowledge that other organisations and communities, including Australian Volunteers International, the Shire of Campaspe and the Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship, the Moora Moora Cooperative Community, Kangan Institute, Merri Community Health Services, the Alternative Technology Association and the Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership, and other partners of these groups and of Friends of Aileu, are committed to working with, and strengthening their relationships with, the people of Aileu.

We also look forward to working together as Timor-Leste establishes elected Local Government in Aileu.

Accordingly, we agree that we will:

- work together to respond to the aspirations of the people of Aileu as they build their local democracy and a sustainable future
- support activities that share the benefits of the friendship relationships widely within the District of Aileu
- ensure that our efforts are directed towards working with the people of Aileu so that they are able to achieve the goals they have for their own community
- base all of our activities on the principles of mutual respect, cooperation and local decision-making
- ensure that projects and initiatives which we commit to take account of the policies and programs of the National Government of Timor-Leste and the capacity of our communities to resource and sustain them
- pay particular attention to the needs of young people, who are the basis for the future of both our communities
- seek ways to share our cultures, to improve mutual understanding and continue to strengthen our local communities.

This agreement seeks to guide our organizations, and the communities which they represent, in a further five years' friendship. It is not intended that the agreement will have any legal effect.

Dated this 7th day of May 2010

Sr Martinho Matos
District Administrator, Aileu
President Aileu Friendship
Commission

Cr Stella Kariofyllidis
Mayor
Moreland City Council

Cr Geoff Porter
Mayor
Hume City Council

Witnessed by:
Cr Alice Pryor
Chair
Friends of Aileu
Community Committee



Friends of Aileu
A partnership established in 2000