



Submission No 67

**Review of Australia's Relationship with the
Countries of Africa**

Name: Mr Andrew Wilson

Organisation: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional
Development and Local Government – Answers to
Questions on Notice



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government**

Submission No:	67
Received:	18/05/10
Secretary:	

Deputy Secretary

File Reference: 10/7257

Ms Gillian Drew
House of Representatives Committee Office
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Suite R1 120
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Drew

I write in regards to the public hearing that was held on 20 April 2010 by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade informing the Committee's inquiry into Australia's relationship with the countries of Africa. My colleagues and I were pleased to be of assistance.

We have reviewed the hearing's transcript and consider it an accurate reflection of proceedings.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government took several questions on notice at this hearing and responses are provided below:

1. The Chair asked Mr Wilson:

"Following up on that mention of the International Maritime Organisation, you indicated in your submission that Australia liaises with South Africa on Antarctic matters and more generally cooperates multilaterally with a range of African countries on maritime issues through the IMO. There was also a reference earlier on to the fact that you are undertaking technical cooperation with African countries on port state control through the Indian Ocean memorandum of understanding. Can you expand on what we are actually doing?"

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has been attending the Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding (IOMOU) meetings in South Africa and Tanzania for the past four years. As a leading IOMOU member, Australia's involvement at the meetings includes providing a high level of input and leading most of the groups and discussions. AMSA has recently developed guidelines for non-convention ship inspections, to assist countries such as Tanzania, Sudan and Eritrea which have large 'fleets' of smaller coastal vessels.

AMSA has also provided trainers to IOMOU seminars (one was held in Iran in 2009) for technical cooperation. Unfortunately the IOMOU signatories have not been able to run any seminars by themselves for the last 2 years. For example, the seminar in Iran was conducted with the assistance of Tokyo MOU of which Australia is a member. Australia is also leading the work on updating the Port State Control Manual of the IOMOU which members will use to define the level of vessel inspection.

In addition to the IOMOU, Australia also engages with African States in the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at various levels from the IMO Assembly and IMO Council through to IMO Committees, sub-committees and working groups.

2. Senator Ferguson asked Mr Wilson:

“How difficult is it for you to find out how many of those 490,000 (passenger movements) were Australian citizens? Is that a hard question?”

Of the 492,980 passenger movements between Africa and Australia in the 12 months to February 2010, 58.1% originated in Australia, and 41.9% originated in Africa.

3. Senator Moore asked Mr Wilson:

“Mr Wilson, can you provide on notice the dates of those agreements with the countries. The answer to the Zimbabwe piqued my interest. So - not necessarily now, but later - I would like the dates of the agreements with South Africa, Mauritius, Egypt and Kenya as well.”

Mr Lucas answered on Mr Wilson's behalf:

“The memorandum of understanding with Zimbabwe was signed in May 1988. The most recent arrangements with Mauritius were signed in October 2007, with South Africa in June 2008 and with Kenya in May 2008.”

Mr Lucas took on notice the date of the latest agreement with Egypt.

The Agreement Between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt Relating to Air Services was signed in Cairo on 10 March 1997. A Memorandum of Understanding was subsequently signed in Cairo on 10 June 1997.

4. The Chair asked Mr Lucas:

“Concerning the figures you just gave us for the 12 months to February, could you take on notice to provide the committee with the financial year figures when they become available for the 2009-10 year.”

As agreed in the hearing, these figures will be provided to the Committee once they are available.

I trust this information has been of assistance to the Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AW', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Wilson
DEPUTY SECRETARY

17 May 2010