

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
REPORT ON STUDY VISIT TO AUSTRALIAN
PARLIAMENTS (AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL PARLIAMENT
IN CANBERRA AND THE VICTORIAN STATE
PARLIAMENT IN MELBOURNE)

*1ST - 6TH
MARCH 2015*

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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The program for the four day tour of the Australian Federal Parliament (**'Federal Parliament'**) in Canberra and the Victorian State Parliament (**'Victoria Parliament'**) in Melbourne was organized by the Federal Parliament and the Australian High Commission in Fiji.
- 1.2 It was an intense four days of learning whereby the Speaker and the Members of Parliament (**'MPs'**) from the Fijian Parliament spent two days in the Federal Parliament and two days in the Victoria Parliament.
- 1.3 The Speaker and the MPs met with their counterparts and they were able to discuss issues and best practices.
- 1.4 The program and pictures for the four day tour are attached as **Annexure 1 and Annexure 2** respectively.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A delegation from the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji was invited to the Australian Federal Parliament and the Victoria Parliament to observe their systems and processes, the roles and functions of their committees, their parliamentary outreach to the public and meet with the presiding officers for informal question and answer sessions.
- 2.2 The delegation was led by the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni and she was accompanied by five MPs, three from the Government and two from the Opposition
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 - Hon. Lorna Eden, Assistant Minister for Finance, Public Enterprises, Public Service, Trade and Tourism;
 - Hon. Iliesa Delana, Assistant Minister for Youth and Sports;
 - Hon. Samuela Vunivalu, Government Member;
 - Hon. Salote Radrodro, Opposition Member; and
 - Hon. Niko Nawaikula, Opposition Member.
- 2.3 The whole purpose of the study tour was to expose members of the delegation to systems of Parliament in Australia.

2.4 This kind of exposure was necessary for the Fijian Parliament, as it allowed members of the delegation to share views on how things are carried out in the Australian Parliaments and also to experience first-hand how the Australian Parliaments operated. The opportunity was also a great reflection of the bilateral relationship between Australia and Fiji.

3.0 THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL PARLIAMENT – CANBERRA

The Australian Federal Parliament is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate. There are 150 Members of Parliament (MPs) in the House of Representatives and 76 Senators in the Senate. The House of Representatives is where the government is formed and its other roles are to debate proposed laws, watch over government expenditure and to provide a forum for public debate on issues of national importance. On the other hand, the Senate is a check on the government of the day. The Senate conducts much of its work through an established committee system.

On the first day in Parliament House in Canberra, the Speaker and the women delegates attended the Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships (**‘PWPP’**) Breakfast at the ‘Members and Guests Dining Room’. The breakfast was hosted by the PWPP project and was attended also by the Speaker, Hon. Bronwyn Bishop and other women MPs from the Australian Federal Parliament. The women delegates gained insight into how the PWPP project aims to build capacity of women MPs in the Pacific and develop understanding of the factors that contribute to Pacific women’s success in achieving political office, as well as the support they need once they are elected. The delegation also had the opportunity to hold discussions with the women MPs and amongst other issues, focused on the challenges of being female politicians. The men delegates later joined the women for the tour of Parliament House.

The delegation also paid a courtesy call on the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd). H. E. Sir Peter expressed his

gratitude to the successful completion of the general elections and hoped that he will visit Fiji someday as he had been to Fiji earlier.

Moreover, during the course of the two day study tour in the Federal Parliament, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with –

- **Hon. Bronwyn Bishop, Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Discussions were centred on the role of the Speaker and how the Speaker, as the referee of the House, manages and controls the discussions so that they are always balanced. As Presiding Officer, the Speaker chairs the meetings of the House and ensures they are conducted in an orderly manner and according to the provision of the Constitution and the Standing Orders of the House. The Speaker must ensure that the rules of the parliamentary procedure as embodied in the Standing Orders and practice of the House are applied. An important part of the Speaker's task is to protect the rights of individuals and minorities in the House and make sure that everyone is treated fairly within the framework set by the rules.

- **Senator, the Hon. Steven Parry, President of the Senate**

Discussions were centred on the role of the President whose chief function is to guide and regulate the proceedings in the Senate. The President of the Senate in the Australian Parliament is the presiding officer who chairs meetings of the Senate. The President is also the spokesperson for the Senate, who represents the Senate in dealings with the Governor-General, the Executive Government, the House of Representatives and persons outside the Parliament, and overseas. The position also has responsibilities relating to the administration of the Senate and the management of Parliament House. While the presidency is an office which was designed and has evolved particularly for the Australian Federal Parliament, the role of the President in Parliament has its roots in the tradition of speakers of the houses of the British Parliament, and of the Australian colonial Parliaments. Discussions with the President was an opportunity for the delegation to learn about the bicameral system that exists in the Parliament of Australia. Interestingly, Fiji had a bicameral system but

it now has a unicameral system which has been established and laid down in the 2013 Constitution. Whilst the systems may differ, the delegation appreciated the way that things are done in the Federal Parliament.

- **Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs**

Hon. Julie Bishop paid keen interest to Fiji's restoration to Parliamentary democracy and encouraged the delegation to ensure that parliamentary processes were well facilitated. Discussions were also in relation to existing bilateral relations that Australia has with Fiji. Furthermore, there were discussions on how the Australian Government can provide further assistance to strengthen the Fijian Parliament given that there has been a lapse of eight years since the last Parliament.

- **Senator the Hon. Lisa Singh, Senator for Tasmania**

The Hon. Lisa Singh was proud to share with the delegation her connection to Fiji. The Honourable Senator wanted to know more about the current parliamentary system in Fiji. Furthermore, the Honourable Senator discussed more on the role that the Senate plays when it comes to sharing the power to make laws with the House of Representatives. There were further discussions on how senators are elected and the representation with respect to each State and from the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

- **Hon. Teresa Gambaro, Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

The delegation attended a working lunch with the Chair and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. Members of the delegation were eager to grasp more on the functioning of the committees as most of them were recently appointed to the various Standing Committees in the Fijian Parliament. As highlighted by the Chair and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, a parliamentary committee is a group of Members

or Senators (or both in the case of joint committees) appointed by one or both Houses of Parliament to undertake certain specified tasks. They have both Government and Opposition Members on them and have considerable powers to undertake work on behalf of the Parliament. The Senate also has its own committee system.

There were a lot of discussions focusing on what committees do and as highlighted by the Chair, most parliamentary committees investigate specific matters of policy or government administration or performance. Other parliamentary committees are responsible for matters related to the internal administration of the Parliament.

Committees are able to do things which it would not be possible to undertake in the large, formal environment of the House Chamber, or the second debating chamber, and this kind of work is more effectively carried out by small groups of Members.

The delegation appreciated the fact that parliamentary committees are one mechanism the House uses to keep a check on the activities of the Government. Because they have extensive powers to call for people, including public servants, and documents to come before them, committees can thoroughly investigate questions of government administration and service delivery. Committees may oversee the expenditure of public money and they may call the Government or the public service to account for their actions and ask them to explain or justify administrative decisions and as reiterated to the delegation, the committees can contribute to better informed policy-making and legislative processes.

- **Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration**

Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite MP, is a member of the Opposition and he explained how the composition of the House is determined and this also includes the determination of the official Opposition. The party (or coalition of parties) which has the most non-government Members in the House of Representatives becomes the opposition party and its leader becomes the Leader of the Opposition. The Opposition has, as its name suggests, the officially recognised function, established by convention, of opposing the Government. It is regarded as the ‘alternative government’—which would form

government if the existing government were to lose the confidence of the House, or of the people at an election. The Opposition is considered to be essential for the proper working of Australia's democratic system of government and it is an essential component of the structure of the House. Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite MP went on to discuss the role of an opposition MP and the Opposition members of the delegation were eager to hear more about best practices in the House.

The House depends on an effective and formidable Opposition to carry out its functions in respect of government accountability. Government members can usually be expected to support the Government with their votes and may not be inclined (at least in public) to be too critical of the Government's actions or legislation. Opposition Members can be expected to criticise and to offer alternative views. The rules and procedures of the House enable the Opposition to perform this role.

The ability of a Parliament to hold Government to account is one of the key functions of any Parliament and this is achieved through the Opposition during question and answer time in the House. Ministers may not always like the questions and MPs may not always like the answers, but it must be clear that Parliament is the venue where questions of national importance are asked and answers by the Government are given.

- **Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives and Ms Catherine Cornish, Director of the Parliamentary Skills Centre**

The delegation had a briefing with the Parliamentary Skills Centre Director, Ms Catherine Cornish and also the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives. The Parliamentary Skills Centre falls under the Department of the House of Representatives ('Department'). The Department provides services to support the efficient conduct of the House of Representatives, its committees and certain joint committees as well as a range of services and facilities for Members in Parliament House. The Department also undertakes activities to promote the work of the House in the community and is responsible for the conduct of the Parliaments' international and regional relations. The Speaker has accountability obligations to the Parliament for the Department. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is

responsible for managing the Department. Members of the delegation raised their concerns that this is one area that needs to be beefed up in the Fijian Parliament. There were suggestions that perhaps the Secretariat in the Fijian Parliament need to engage in more training and study tours with other Parliaments so as to be able to support the functioning of Parliament and parliamentarians through the provision of professional services, advice and facilities. The delegation also noted that this is a very crucial aspect of the Parliament setting as it will thereon result in a great final outcome, that is, the House of Representatives fulfilling its role as a representative and legislative body.

The discussions also highlighted how the Secretariat operated and this included determination of Members/Opposition Offices pay and allowances.

- **Hon. Louise Markus MP, Convenor of the Australia-Pacific Islands Parliamentary Group**

The delegation attended a luncheon with members of the Australia-Pacific Islands Parliamentary Group. The members of the delegation had the opportunity to discuss other issues of interest with the MPs and Senators who were present at the luncheon. There was meaningful discussions on the renewed relations between Australian and Fiji. In addition, there was much discussion on the new voting system in Fiji and the fact that Fiji had recorded its highest voter turnout during the 17 September 2014 elections. Many also congratulated Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni upon taking her role as the first woman Speaker in the Fijian Parliament. At the end of the luncheon, some of the women MPs indicated that they will be attending the PWPP Forum that will be held in Suva, Fiji from 29 April to 1 May, and that it will be a great opportunity to engage in dialogue with respect to the capacity building of women MPs in the Pacific.

Apart from meeting with their counterparts, the delegation was welcomed into the Senate Chambers and House of Representatives Chambers to observe their question and answer session. This was an opportune time for the delegation to observe such a robust and vibrant session and the delegation appreciated that discussions should always be balanced and refereed by the Speaker of the House.

The delegation also attended the International Women’s Day Parliamentary Breakfast where the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition formally launched the UN Women’s #HeforShe Campaign. This was an excellent program where leaders came together to be part of the program. The Speaker of the Fijian Parliament noted that the Fijian Parliament will try and put together similar programs in future.

On an interesting but unexpected turn, the delegation also had the opportunity to meet the Parliament Librarian, Dr. Dianne Heriot. Dr. Heriot informed the delegation that the Parliament Library provides high quality and impartial service to the Members. It has specialist staff who service the committees as well. The key and fundamental principles that the Library staff strongly adhere to is that of timeliness, confidentiality and the provision of professional services, advice and facilities to all Members.

Furthermore, the delegation noted that whilst they still keep hard copies of various collections, they have also embarked on the journey to digitization of materials in the Library. This was one session that the delegation was very interested in developing when they return home as the Fijian Parliament Library is still very much under-staffed and under-resourced and there is a long way to go with respect to ensuring that they can also provide the services that are provided in the Federal Parliament.

4.0 THE VICTORIAN STATE PARLIAMENT – MELBOURNE

The Parliament of Victoria has a bicameral system, similar to that of the Federal Parliament. The representatives are elected either to the Legislative Council or the Legislative Assembly. The Council is made up of 40 Members whilst the Assembly is made up of 88 Members. Having adopted their systems and processes from the Westminster system, the party having the support of the majority of Members in the Legislative Assembly has the right to form a responsible Government because the Government is responsible to Parliament and must present its policies for parliamentary scrutiny.

One of the highlights of the program in the Victorian State Parliament was the signing of a historic Parliamentary Partnership Agreement with the Parliament of Victoria that will enable the two parliaments to exchange information, training activities and professional development of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. The Agreement was signed by the Presiding Officers of the Victorian State Parliament, Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC, President of the Legislative Council, Hon. Telmo Languiller MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni.

During the course of the two day study tour in the Victoria Parliament, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with –

- **Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC, President of the Legislative Council**

Discussions were mainly surrounding the role of the President and as reiterated by Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC, President of the Legislative Council, the President is jointly responsible with the Speaker for the oversight of the administration of the Parliament and of the Parliament House. Furthermore, the President ensures that votes and proceedings in the Chamber are conducted in accordance with constitutional and statutory requirements, and the rules and procedure and debate enshrined in the Standing Orders and the practices of the Council. The delegation also learnt that the most important characteristic that a presiding officer should strive to demonstrate is impartiality, the President must always be seen to act in a fair and impartial manner to all Members of the House.

Even though Fiji does not have a bicameral system, the President and the Speaker of the Fijian Parliament shared their experiences in their responsibilities for the oversight of the administration of the Parliament and Parliament House.

- **Hon. Telmo Languiller MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly**

Discussions were centred on the chief role of the Speaker in the Lower House. As highlighted by the Hon. Telmo Languiller MP, the Speaker is the spokesperson of the

House and he or she must preside over the debates of the House and ensure compliance with all rules for preserving order in its proceedings. Hon. Telmo Languiller MP added that the Speaker has the constant support and advise of the principal officers of the House, the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and so forth. Similar to the Fijian Parliament, these officers are not elected members, but are bi-partisan staff of the Parliament.

The members of the delegation were interested to note that in the order of precedence, the presiding officers rank after the Governor and the Premier, with the President of the Legislative Council preceding the Speaker unless the Speaker has served in the office for a greater period than the President. The two Speakers used the opportunity to share their experiences briefly.

- **Hon. Christine Fyffe MP**

There was an interesting discussion with Hon. Christine Fyffe MP, who also happened to be a former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Discussions were mainly centred on her experiences and challenges she faced in her former role and then now as an MP in the Opposition. Hon. Christine Fyffe MP, shared a rather lucid statement with the delegation and that was, “For those in the political sphere, if you are angry on Monday and by Thursday you are still angry, then you are definitely in the wrong place and profession”. In sharing her experiences as a politician, Hon. Fyffe went on to say that in order to be a successful politician, you must be someone who can be able to get over issues on the same day. The members of the delegation appreciated this message and gave them something to ponder on in a positive way.

There were questions from the delegation relating to disciplinary measures that the Speaker can take in the House. This led to the discussions of suspending MPs from the House or even naming them, which was only used in very serious breaches of the rules. Hon. Fyffe also briefed the delegation that in their Standing Orders, there are provisions stating that upon suspension from the House, the MPs salaries and wages will also be deducted according to the term of suspension.

- **Hon. Neil Angus MP, Member for Forest Hill**

Another important part of the program was visiting the Member for Forest Hill, Hon Neil Angus MP, in his Electorate Office. This allowed the delegation to see first-hand how constituency work was being undertaken. The delegation visited his office and were introduced to staff and briefed on the nature of work and processes in place in serving that constituency. The delegation also noted the professional support from the Parliamentary Services which has allowed Hon. Neil Angus to carry out his constituency work. A staff from the Parliamentary Services also clarified that with the funding provided by Parliament, the MP is restricted from displaying branded materials in his office etc unless of course, the MP is solely paying for the branded materials.

This was an important trip for the delegation as they got to learn that Parliamentarians are there to serve everyone, even though they may not have voted for you. There is some sort of control to ensure that this is done, hence the policies from the Parliamentary Services with respect to branding of materials.

- **Ms Marlene Kairouz MP, Cabinet Secretary**

The delegation also had discussions with Ms Marlene Kairouz MP, and the discussions were mainly centred on the role of the Cabinet Secretary and the processes that are followed when submitting papers, documents or Bills to the Lower House. It was noted that the processes are usually enshrined in the rules of the House and it is imperative that these provisions are adhered to so as to ensure order and decorum in the House.

- **Mr Don Nardella MP, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly**

The meeting with the Deputy Speaker, Mr Don Nardella MP, was again another interesting one as it curtailed on the duties and roles of the Deputy Speaker. The

delegation was eager to hear more about the experiences and challenges that the Deputy Speaker has encountered and how he has managed to address them amicably.

- **Mr Ray Purdey, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly**

Mr Ray Purdey briefed the delegation on the role of the Clerk. As highlighted by Mr Purdey, the Clerk is the permanent head of the Department and amongst other things, his responsibilities include the management of the Lower House; providing policy, procedural and corporate management advice to the Speaker; advising Ministers and Members on matters relating to the operation of the House and its committees; ensuring legislation is passed in accordance with legislative and procedural requirements. Furthermore, the Clerk has additional responsibilities such as presenting Bills to the Governor for royal assent and maintaining the MPs Register of Interests.

- **Mr Andrew Young, Clerk of the Legislative Council**

Discussions were on issues surrounding the role of the Clerk of the Legislative Council and as highlighted by Mr Andrew Young, his responsibilities include the management and administrative oversight of the Upper House. Furthermore, he is responsible for providing policy, procedural and management advice to the President and Members of the Upper House as well as maintaining an accurate record of the decisions and proceedings of the Legislative Council. Similar to that of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk of the Legislative Council must ensure that the passage of legislation is in line with the legislative and procedural requirements.

- **Ms Bronwen Edwards, Acting Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services**

The delegation also met with Ms Bronwen Edwards and she explained how Members and their offices were resourced and furthermore briefed the delegation on issues determining staff recruitment and salaries. Ms Edwards went on to brief the delegation on funding allocations and processes involved.

What was interesting about how this process works is actually laid down as a written law in the Victorian State. Whilst the system in the Fijian Parliament is very different, this was something that was worth noting for future reference.

Apart from meeting with their counterparts, the delegation also had a wonderful tour of Parliament House by Mr Paul Groenewegen, Manager TCSU and the delegation appreciated the rich tradition and culture that has been carried down from Parliament to Parliament.

The delegation also had discussions with Members of Committees. The delegation was briefed on the roles and functions of the committee system in a parliamentary democracy. It was worth noting that the Parliament of Victoria has an extensive system of committees which hold inquiries into particular issues and call for input from the wider community to express their views.

The delegation was also grateful to accompany the school tour of Parliament to Labernaum Primary School. This was an opportune time for the delegation to see first-hand, how the Education Zone carries out its activities in schools. There was a role play of Parliament passing a Bill on Litter and the delegation noted the importance of strengthening this aspect of Parliament work so that parliamentarians can also reach out to the younger members of society, who are the 'Leaders of Tomorrow'.

5.0 SUMMARY OF ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Independence of Parliamentary Services

As seen in the Federal Parliament and the Victorian Parliament, the Department of Parliamentary Services is completely separate from civil servants. They are employees of the Parliament and are bound by the principles of impartiality, confidentiality and driven to provide professional services, advise and facilities to all Members equally.

5.2 Standing Committees

It should be noted that the committees in the Federal Parliament and the Victorian Parliament are well resourced with funds and staff that provide quality service to committees. It is also important to note the use of social media to promote the work of committees.

5.3 Women in Politics

With the high level meeting of the PWPP Forum in Suva from 29 April to 1 May, 2015, this can be seen as a mechanism of building capacity of women to be interested in politics. The current women MPs in the Fijian Parliament is by far the highest percentage however, this can be improved and it all depends on the types of initiatives that can focus on challenges on being women politicians.

5.4 Parliament Outreach

This is a very crucial aspect of parliamentary service to the wider public. Taking Parliament to the people through school tours. Organising Speaker's tours whereby the community can come to meet and greet the Speaker and also organising Youth Parliaments to allow the youths of today to have a feel of what goes on in a democratic Parliament and so forth.

5.5 Library Research Capacity

This is probably one of the critical areas that needs a lot of funding and resourcing. Parliament needs to provide high quality impartial service to all Members and in order

to do this, there is a need to have specialist staff who can provide professional services, advise and facilities.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Parliament is invited to note the content of the report.

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ANNEXURE 1

Visit to Australia by a Parliamentary Delegation from Fiji 1 to 6 march 2015

The Delegation

Hon Dr Jiko F Luveni MP

Speaker of Parliament and Delegation Leader

Hon Lorna Eden MP

Assistant Minister for Finance, Public Enterprises, Public Service, Communications, Trade and Tourism

Hon Iliesa Delana MP

Assistant Minister for Youth and Sports

Hon Samuela Vunivalu MP

Hon Niko Nawaikula MP

Deputy Speaker of the Parliament

Hon Salote Radrodro MP

Accompanying the delegation from the Parliament of Fiji

Mrs Jeaneete Terubea Emberson

Acting Deputy Secretary-General to Parliament

Ms Neomai Dolokoto

Senior Media Adviser

Accompanying the delegation from the Parliament of Australia

Mr Paul Jeanroy

Senior Visits Officer
International and Parliamentary Relations Office

Mr Jhie Gough

Visits Officer
International and Parliamentary Relations Office

Flight Itinerary

Sunday 1 March

Speaker and Mrs Terubea Emberson

0910 Arrive Sydney
Qantas Airways Flight QF020

Delegation

1230 Arrive Sydney
Fiji Airways Flight FJ911

Tuesday 3 March

1710 Depart Canberra
Qantas Airways Flight QF819

1820 Arrive Melbourne

Friday 6 March

0930 Depart Melbourne
Qantas Airways Flight QF420

1055 Arrive Sydney

Friday 6 March ~ continued

Speaker, Mr Vunivalu and Ms Dolokoto

1345 Depart Sydney
Fiji Airways Flight FJ910

Ms Eden and Mrs Terubea Emberson

1510 Depart Sydney
Fiji Airways Flight FJ940

Friday 13 March

Ms Radrodro

1510 Depart Sydney
Fiji Airways Flight FJ940

Sunday 15 March

Mr Delana and Mr Tuiqamea

1115 Depart Brisbane
Fiji Airways Flight FJ920

Program

Sunday 1 March

Hon Dr Jiko F Luveni
Mrs Jeaneete Terubea Emberson

0910 Arrive Sydney
Qantas Airways Flight QF020

Met on arrival by:
Mr Russell Chafer
Director

Mr Paul Jeanroy
Senior Visits Officer
International and Parliamentary Relations Office
Parliament of Australia

Complete customs formalities

Transfer to hotel - 'day room' is available

Rydges Airport Hotel
8 Arrivals Court
Sydney Airport NSW 2020

Delegation

1230 Arrive Sydney
Fiji Airways Flight FJ911

Met on arrival by:
Mr Paul Jeanroy
Senior Visits Officer

Mr Jhie Gough
Visits Officer
International and Parliamentary Relations Office
Parliament of Australia

Complete customs formalities

Depart for Canberra via Rydges Airport Hotel

1700 Arrive Canberra
(approx)
Accommodation

Burbury Hotel
1 Burbury Close
Barton ACT 2600

Met on arrival by:
Mr Russell Chafer
Director, International and Parliamentary Relations Office, Parliament of Australia

- 1845 Assemble in hotel foyer and depart for
High Commission of Fiji
19 Beale Crescent
Deakin ACT 2600
- 1900 Attend reception hosted by
Ms Cheryl Brown-Irava
A/g High Commissioner
- 2100 Transport available for return to hotel

Monday 2 March

Hon Dr Jiko F Luveni MP, Hon Lorna Eden MP, Hon Salote Radrodro MP, Mrs Jeaneete Terubea Emberson, Ms Neomai Dolokoto

- 0740 Assemble in hotel foyer and depart for Parliament House
- 0750 Arrive Parliament House
House of Representatives Entrance
- 0800 Attend Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships breakfast
Members and Guests' Dining Room

Hon Iliesa Delana MP, Hon Samuela Vunivalu MP, Hon Niko Nawaikula MP

- 0840 Assemble in hotel foyer and depart for Parliament House
- 0850 Arrive Parliament House
House of Representatives Entrance
- 0900 Meet with
The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Committee Room 2R2
- 1000 Participate in a public hearing with Chair and members of the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
- TBC Meet with
Dr Mike Kelly
Senior Policy Adviser to the Leader of the Opposition
- 1130 **Hon Dr Jiko F Luveni MP and Mrs Jeaneete Terubea Emberson**
Meet with
The Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Speaker's Suite
- Delegation**
Visit Parliament House Gift Shop
- 1230 Attend working lunch with Chair and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Chair: **The Hon Teresa Gambaro MP**
Sir Frederick Holder Room
Members and Guests' Dining Room

- 14:00 Observe Question Time
Senate Chamber
- 14:30 Observe Question Time
House of Representatives Chamber
- 1530 Meet with
The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs;
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration
Committee Room 2R1
- 1610 Depart Parliament House for hotel
House of Representatives Entrance
- 1750 Assemble in hotel foyer and depart for Parliament House
- 1800 Arrive Parliament House
House of Representatives Entrance
- 1815 Meet with the Presiding Officers of the Parliament of Australia:
The Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
Senator the Hon Stephen Parry
President of the Senate
Speaker's Suite
- 1900 Attend dinner hosted by the Presiding Officers of the Parliament of Australia
President's Suite
- 2100 Transport available for return to hotel

Tuesday 3 March

Dress: Business Attire

- 0630 Baggage collection from rooms
- 0700 Assemble in hotel foyer

Check out of hotel
- 0710 Depart for Parliament House
- 0720 Arrive Parliament House
House of Representatives Entrance
- 0730 Attend the International Women's Day Parliamentary Breakfast
Where the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition will be formally launching the UN
Women's #HeforShe Campaign
Mural Hall
- 0830 TBC
Briefing on the Parliamentary Skills Centre TBC
Ms Catherine Cornish, Director
Committee Room TBA
- Depart Parliament House
House of Representatives Entrance

TBC
Visit the ACT Brumbies training facilities
University of Canberra

TBC
Roundtable with officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

1215 Arrive Parliament House
House of Representatives Entrance

1230 Attend luncheon with members of the Australia-Pacific Islands Parliamentary Group
Convenor: **Mrs Louise Markus MP**
Deputy Convenor: **The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP**
House of Representatives Alcove

1350 Depart Parliament House for the Australian National University
*Coombs Building, 9 Fellows Rd
Acton ACT*

1400 Met by
Dr Stewart Firth

Meet with staff of the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia
ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

1600 Depart ANU

1615 Arrive Canberra Airport
Proceed to the Qantas Business Lounge

1710 Depart Canberra
Qantas Airways Flight QF819

1820 Arrive Melbourne

Transfer to hotel

Accommodation
Marriott Hotel
Corner Exhibition & Lonsdale Streets Melbourne Victoria 3000

No further engagements for the remainder of the day

Wednesday 4 March

Dress: Business Attire

Breakfast in hotel

0845 Assemble in hotel foyer and depart for Parliament House
Spring Street Melbourne

0900 Arrive Parliament House

Met by
Mr Ray Purdey
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Tour of Parliament House
Mr Paul Groenewegen
Manager TCSU

- 0945 Meet with Department Heads
Mr Ray Purdey
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Mr Andrew Young
Clerk of the Legislative Council
Ms Bronwen Edwards
Acting Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services
Side Dining Room
- 1030 Morning tea with Department Heads
- 1100 Meeting with
The Hon Christine Fyffe MP
Knight Kerr Room
- 1200 Memorandum of Understanding
Official signing ceremony
Federation Room
- 1230 Attend luncheon hosted by the Presiding Officers of the Parliament of Victoria
The Hon Bruce Atkinson MLC
President of the Legislative Council
The Hon Telmo Languiller MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
- 1430 Committee overview
Mr Vaughn Koops
Assistant Clerk Committees
- 1630 Return to hotel
- 1830 Assemble in hotel foyer and depart for
Southbank Promenade
Berth 3, (Rivers Edge near Langham Hotel)
- 1915 Attend dinner cruise with the Clerks and staff of the Parliament of Victoria

Transport available for return to hotel

Thursday 4 March

Dress: Business Attire

Breakfast in hotel

- 0845 Assemble in hotel foyer and depart for the Electoral Office of the Member for Forest Hill
4 Lawrence St, Blackburn, VIC 3130
- 0930 Meet with
Mr Neil Angus MP
Member for Forest Hill
- 1035 Depart for Laburnum Primary School
Janet St, Blackburn, VIC 3130

- 1100 Metro school visit
- 1240 Depart for Parliament House
Spring St, Melbourne, VIC 3000
- 1330 Lunch
Members' Dining Room
- 1400 Meet with
Ms Marlene Kairouz MP
Cabinet Secretary
LCCR, Parliament House
- 1500 Meet with
Mr Don Nardella MP
Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
LCCR, Parliament House
- 1600 Return to hotel
- 1645 Assemble in hotel foyer and depart for Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) and Sports Museum
Gate 3, MCG
- 1700 Tour of the MCG
- 1830 Depart for Sofitel Hotel
No. 35 restaurant
25 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000
- 1900 Attend dinner with the Presiding Officers of the Parliament
The Hon Bruce Atkinson MLC
President of the Legislative Council
The Hon Telmo Languiller MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
- Transport available for return to hotel

Friday 6 March

Dress: Casual Attire

- Breakfast in hotel
- 0715 Assemble in hotel foyer
- Check out of hotel
- 0730 Depart for Melbourne Airport
- 0830 Arrive Melbourne Airport
- Proceed to Qantas Business Lounge
- 0930 Depart Melbourne
Qantas Airways Flight QF420
- 1055 Arrive Sydney
- Transfer to International Terminal

Speaker, Mr Vunivalu and Ms Dolokoto

1345 Depart Sydney
Fiji Airways Flight FJ910

Ms Eden and Mrs Terubea Emberson

1510 Depart Sydney
Fiji Airways Flight FJ940

Farewelled by

Mr Paul Jeanroy

Senior Visits Officer

Mr Jhie Gough

Visits Officer

International and Parliamentary Relations Office

Parliament of Australia

DRAFT

ANNEXURE 2

AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY TOUR

1ST – 6TH MARCH 2015



Fijian Parliament delegation meeting with Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs





Hon. Bronwyn Bishop, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament explaining the Standing Orders to Madam Speaker, Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni



Fiji delegation inside Federal Parliament's House of Representatives



Madam Speaker beside the President of the Senate, Senator the Hon Stephen Parry inside the Senate Chamber



Madam Speaker with Hon Bronwyn Bishop, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Senator the Hon Stephen Parry, President of the Senate