



Information Circular No: **2010/33** Date: 15 November 2010

TO: SENATORS and MEMBERS

Parliamentary Friendship Groups

- 1 To deal with a growing number of groups seeking to be formally recognised by the Parliament, the Presiding Officers have set out the criteria defining a formally recognised Parliamentary Friendship Group.
- 2 Recognition of a Parliamentary Friendship Group is for the term of a Parliament. Friendship groups are required to reapply for formal recognition at the commencement of each Parliament.
- 3 To qualify as a formally recognised Parliamentary Friendship Group, the group must:
 - (a) be open to all Senators and Members;
 - (b) be apolitical;
 - (c) be clearly defined; and
 - (d) have no sponsorship from external organisations.
- 4 To be recognised as a Parliamentary Friendship Group, it is also necessary to demonstrate that:
 - (a) the Group has a Chairperson and a Deputy Chair; and
 - (b) the Group has membership of at least 10 current sitting Senators and Members.
- 5 All applications for groups to be formally recognised as Parliamentary Friendship Groups should be submitted in writing to the Presiding Officers, who will assess the request and advise the group of their decision. Applications should address the criteria outlined above.
- 6 Parliamentary Friendship Groups are required to meet any costs associated with functions at Parliament House that the Friendship Group decides to hold.

Alan Thompson
Secretary