



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

15 February 2012

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee

Chair: Mr Michael Danby MP
Sub-Committee Chair: Mr Nick
Champion MP

Lowy Institute to appear at overseas representation inquiry

Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade committee will discuss the future of Australia's diplomatic network with the Lowy Institute at a public hearing in Canberra on Friday 17 February.

The chair of the Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee Mr Nick Champion said two new reports from the Lowy Institute have recommended a funding boost for DFAT, a reorganisation of Australia's diplomatic footprint and a major review of the department's public diplomacy.

"Lowy has also called for the opening of 20 new diplomatic missions over the next decade including boosting Australia's representation in inland China and Eastern Indonesia," Mr Champion said.

The institute has also reviewed DFAT's use of social media, saying the department should be bolder in its use of social media platforms and advocating for the creation of a new e-diplomacy branch.

The committee has also received evidence from the Moroccan Ambassador and the Ukrainian Chargé d'Affaires supporting their wish for Australia to open embassies in their countries.

"The committee welcomes the opportunity to discuss these proposals in detail," Mr Champion said.

The committee will also discuss DFAT's support of the Australian Electoral Commission, AusAID, the Australia Gulf Council and the Australian Federal Police in their international activities.

The public hearing in **Committee Room 1R3** Parliament House in Canberra will be webcast live on: <http://webcast.apf.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Program

Canberra—Friday, 17 February 2012

9.00 am	Australian Electoral Commission
9.40 am	Ms Alexandra Oliver and Mr Andrew Shearer, Lowy Institute
10.40 am	Mr Fergus Hanson, Lowy Institute
11.30 am	Moroccan Ambassador
1.10 pm	AusAID
1.50 pm	Australia Gulf Council
2.40 pm	Ukrainian Chargé d'Affaires, and the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations
3.20 pm	Australian Federal Police

Details of public hearings and submissions to the inquiry are available at the inquiry website [here](#).

For media inquiries contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Mr Nick Champion MP on (02) 6277 4451; Mobile: 0488 556 036.

For all other inquiries contact the Inquiry Secretary, John Carter, on (02) 6277 2313 or visit the Committee website.