

Ministers' Official Overseas Travel Report

Details (including the costs and purpose) of any overseas travel undertaken by a Minister is open access information under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

Premier's Memorandum 2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information requires Ministers to publish on an appropriate agency website details of the costs, purpose and benefits of overseas trip, including scheduled meetings, within 28 days of return.

MINISTER GOWARD UNITED STATES OF AMERICA STUDY TRIP REPORT

9–20 January 2018

The Hon. Pru Goward MP

Minister for Family and Community Services

Minister for Social Housing

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

PURPOSE FOR TRAVEL

The study trip to the United States of America from 9 to 20 January 2018. The trip was designed to explore world's best practice for evidence-based public policy in four US states: Washington State, Illinois, New York and Connecticut. The trip focused on evidence-based policy and practice transformation in child protection and adoption, domestic violence, social and affordable housing and social impact investment.

The trip's objective was to compare and contrast the child protection systems in Illinois, New York and Connecticut to understand how they have reduced their foster care populations over time. The trip also focused on the effectiveness of practice reforms to improve the lives of vulnerable children, young people and families.

The study trip also sought to understand social and affordable housing in major housing markets in New York City and Chicago, especially the role of the 'multi-family' rental model for the delivery of low cost and affordable housing.

New South Wales also sought to showcase the effectiveness of NSW social impact investments and the NSW approach for perpetrator interventions to reduce domestic violence reoffending.

Minister Dominello and his delegation joined meetings in Olympia and Seattle in Washington State to analyse the effectiveness of the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP). The Institute is lauded as a model for effective meta-analysis and cost effectiveness of evidence-based programs delivered in Washington State and across the United States.

BENEFITS OF TRAVEL FOR THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Evidence-based practice and public policy

The United States is regarded as a leader in evidence-based public policy. WSIPP was established in 1983 to provide the Washington State legislature with bipartisan research and analysis on the cost effectiveness of programs and services. WSIPP is widely respected by legislators and policy makers across the US and internationally.

For the past decade there has been a stronger focus on implementing evidence-based practice in social services in many US states. NSW can learn from the US focus on evidence-based practice, commissioning and meta-analysis. The fidelity of implementation - which NSW is doing well through the *Their Futures Matter* initiatives - provides opportunities for NSW to explore implementation science in practice across the board.

Child protection reform

For almost 20 years a number of US states have been reforming their child protection systems by focusing on permanency and prevention based services. Consequently, they have reduced their foster care populations.

New York City has led the way in pivoting from a crisis driven system towards a service system focused on prevention to assist family preservation where possible. Connecticut has undertaken significant and effective child welfare reform through a rigorous practice transformation agenda. This includes moving away from traditional child protection interventions to a “Differential Response System”, resulting in reducing out of home care placements and a significant increase in working with families at the first signs of difficulty. These objectives align with the approach taken to child protection reform in NSW since 2011.

New York City has also embarked on a holistic approach for vulnerable children through a childhood wellbeing framework. The focus on the early years of life seeks to maximise a child’s opportunity for life and readiness for preschool so they can thrive throughout life.

Social and Affordable housing

The American housing market is highly diverse, and the social welfare model is markedly different from Australia’s. However, for many years the United States has utilised Federal Government tax incentives to grow the supply of affordable housing in a multimodal supply system. The US also has a highly mature multi-family rental model that provides mixed market rental options for private rent payers and affordable renters.

In social housing in Chicago they have undertaken a range of reforms to improve the economic participation of public housing tenants. They have done this by introducing a work requirement and creating work opportunities for tenants to undertake minor maintenance. Like NSW, Chicago is undertaking large urban renewal and

revitalisation of communities to reduce disadvantage and create mixed communities of private, affordable and social housing.

Impact Investment

NSW is leading Australia in social impact investment, and the US is watching closely. There is a keen interest in how NSW has established and delivered impact investment transactions, especially the Newpin Social Benefit Bond.

Connecticut has recently launched the Family Stability Pay for Success Project to better service families who are struggling with substance use through intensive in-home treatment programs. There are opportunities for continuous exchange between US states and NSW about our success and learnings in impact investment.

DELEGATION

The Hon. Pru Goward MP

Minister for Family and Community Services

Minister for Social Housing

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Accompanied by:

Mr Gary Groves

Executive Director, Service System Reform - Their Futures Matter

Department of Family and Community Services

Mr William Crook

Policy Director and Deputy Chief of Staff

The Office of the Hon. Pru Goward MP

Minister Goward joined Minister Dominello in Seattle and Olympia in Washington State on 10-11 January 2018.

FINANCIALS

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| Minister | The Hon. Pru Goward MP |
| Portfolio | Minister for Family and Community Services Minister for Social Housing Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault |
| Destinations visited | a) Countries b) Cities a) United States of America b) Seattle, Olympia, Chicago, New Haven, New York City |
| Dates of travel | a) Departure date b) Return date a) Tuesday 9 January 2018 b) Saturday 20 January 2018 |
| Number of official travel days | 12 |
| Number of accompanying | a) Minister's staff b) Government officials a) 1 b) 1 |
| Accompanied by spouse | a) In an official capacity b) In a private capacity a) Nil b) Nil |
| COSTS | |
| Airfares | a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials a) \$24,603 incl tax b) \$12,388 incl tax |
| Accommodation <i>(includes any meals/incidentals charged to room)</i> | a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials a) \$6,785 incl tax b) \$4,071 incl tax |
| Official hospitality | a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials a) Nil b) Nil |
| Other expenses | a) Official gift presentation b) Ground transport c) Meals d) Other costs a) Nil b) \$2,723 incl tax c) \$1,169 incl tax d) \$858 |
| TOTAL – estimated travel cost | \$52,597 incl taxes |
| Currency conversion rate | AU\$1 = US\$1.299–US\$1.323 |

MINISTER GOWARD USA STUDY TRIP - MEETING SUMMARY

| Date | Organisation | Purpose |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 January | Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) | WSIPP work program, methodology and meta-analysis |
| 10 January | Washington State Senate | Functions of the Washington State Senate and the Senate's relationship with WSIPP |
| 10 January | Washington State House of Representatives | Functions of the House of Representatives and legislators relationship with WSIPP |
| 10 January | Washington State Governor's Office | WSIPP's function in executive Government and alignment with the Governor's priorities, evidence-based public policy in Washington State |
| 11 January | University of Washington Evans School of Public Policy & Governance | Evidence-based public policy and cost-effectiveness, role of WSIPP |
| 11 January | University of Washington Social Development Research Group | Evidence-based practice in social and community development |
| 12 January | Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago | Child welfare, child protection reform, data analytics and evidence to improve child welfare practice |
| 12 January | Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) | Social and affordable housing in Chicago |
| 12 January | Illinois Department of Children and Family and Support Services (DCSF) | Child protection reform and system improvement in Illinois |
| 12 January | Brick Partners LLC | Social housing policy in Chicago and USA |
| 12 January | DLA Piper LLP (US) | US policy related to multi-family and affordable-workforce housing |
| 12 January | Consul General to Chicago, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Evidence-based public policy, social and affordable housing in the US and Chicago, child welfare reform |
| 13 January | Chicago Housing Authority – Cabrini Green Redevelopment | Social and affordable housing renewal and revitalisation in inner Chicago |
| 15 January | Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations | Global efforts around the advancement of women and the prevention of violence against women, transnational relations, perpetrator interventions |

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| 15 January | UN Women | Prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault, evidence-based practice, perpetrator interventions |
| 15 January | Consul General to New York, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Evidence-based public policy, social welfare reform, NSW priorities |
| 16 January | Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) | Child welfare reform, practice transformation, social impact investment |
| 16 January | Wheeler Clinic | MST-IPV treatment model and implementation practice with frontline therapists |
| 16 January | Medical University of South Carolina | Evidence-based child welfare models and implementation of MST-IPV |
| 16 January | University of Maryland | Evidence-based child welfare models and implementation of MST-IPV |
| 16 January | Multisystemic Therapy (MST) Services | Evidence-based services: MST, MST-CAN and MST-IPV |
| 17 January | The New York Foundling | Implementation of evidence-based practice in family and prevention services, social impact investment |
| 17 January | NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) | Evidence-based practice and commissioning for prevention services |
| 17 January | NYC Children's Cabinet, NY City Hall | Childhood wellbeing framework, multi-agency interventions for vulnerable children |
| 18 January | Stuyvesant Town & Peter Cooper Village Property Services | Affordable housing and multi-family rental model in New York City |
| 18 January | Blackstone | Affordable housing and multi-family rental model in New York City |
| 18 January | Hopeland | Childhood welfare and foster care reform in USA and internationally |
| 18 January | NYC Family Court – Judge Jane Pearl | NY Family Court system's role in advancing permanency for families and prevention |