



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION PRETORIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 4 December 2009

Australian Consulate open for business in Cape Town

Australian Minister for Sport, the Hon Kate Ellis, officially opened Australia's Honorary Consulate in Cape Town on 3 December.

Australia has appointed Mr Andrew Douglas to be its Honorary Consul, resident in Cape Town, with jurisdiction throughout the Northern, Western and Eastern Cape provinces. Mr Douglas' appointment reflects Australia's enduring commitment to its important and wide-ranging relationship with South Africa.

The Australia – South Africa relationship, underpinned by strong people-to-people links, enjoys a strong trade and investment dynamic and a long history of cooperation across a wide range of issues, including climate change, science and technology and global economic issues.

Mr Douglas' appointment will help build on these ties, and in particular foster the strong trade and investment dynamic. Two-way trade now amounts to over 25 billion Rand (A\$4 billion) annually and over the past ten years two-way trade has, on average, grown five per cent each year. Australia is committed to building on this strength and, through Austrade's Business Club Australia, will use the showcasing of Africa during South Africa's hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup to network businesses and strengthen trade.

Mr Douglas' consular role assisting Australians in South Africa will be vital as we enter 2010. There are 12 direct flights per week, more than 100,000 Australians visiting South Africa each year and over 29,000 tickets having been sold to Australians already for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Mr Douglas is well-known in the South African communications community. Apart from managing and owning his company, the company provides a range of commercial, marketing and production services to a variety of Australian and South African clients. Mr Douglas is also responsible for the management of all commercial development and partnership activities for the Australian Football League in South Africa.

The Consulate will be open from Monday to Friday from 0900 to 1700. The Contact details are:

Australian Consulate
Suite 2B, The Wellington, 96 Longmarket Street
CAPE TOWN
Ph: +27-21-4653346, Fax: +27-866596962

Australian Minister for Early Childhood Education, Childcare and Youth; and Minister for Sport, Ms Kate Ellis MP will officially open the Australian Consulate in Cape Town at 5pm on Thursday 3 December at 5pm. The opening will also feature a performance by Australian signer- songwriter, Lior. Media are welcome to attend (please RSVP).

Further information can be obtained by contacting William Blomfield on +27 83 409 3619.

For further information on Business Club Australia at the World Cup 2010 and associated corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact Greg Hull, Australia's Senior Trade Commissioner on Greg.Hull@austrade.gov.au.