



Thank you for visiting the Australian Embassy website. In recognition of the increasing United Arab Emirates and Qatar, the Australian Embassy was established in Abu Dhabi in 1999 with concurrent diplomatic accreditation to Qatar.

Our relations span a wide variety of areas such as defence and security issues to aviation, health and education. With over 100 flights per week to Australia from the UAE and Qatar, our country is increasingly seen as an attractive destination for investment, tourism and tertiary education. At the same time our trade relationships have increased dramatically to over \$6 billion.

The breadth of our relationship is reflected by the number of Commonwealth Government Departments represented in the United Arab Emirates including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Austrade; the Department of Immigration and Citizenship; the Department of Defence (including the Australian Defence Force's Middle East headquarters near Dubai); the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; the Australian Federal Police and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport. State Government representation includes offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai for New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia. Please see State Government links on this website for more information.

Australia's relationships with the UAE and Qatar are built on substantial people-to-people linkages. Nearly 20,000 Australians live and work in these two countries. The Australian Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Australian Consulate-General in Dubai strive to provide high quality services to Australians living in and travelling through the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Please find more information through our section on Services to Australians.

Our young nations recognise the potential for further mutual benefit and this is being explored through frequent and high level visits between our countries. Australia has welcomed a number of high level visits from the UAE, including visits by Foreign Minister HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in 2010 and 2011 and by Minister of Economy HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri in 2011. The Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, Senator the Hon Nick Sherry and Senator the Hon Kim Carr visited the United Arab Emirates in 2010, as did the Premier of Victoria, the Hon John Brumby MP. The Foreign Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, has also made numerous visits to the UAE, including a bilateral visit in late 2010 and three separate visits in 2011.

I hope you find this website a useful starting point for information on Australia, the bilateral relationship and services to Australian citizens.

Pablo Kang
Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar