

## Premier's and 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.

### Visit/Mission Title: **VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Purpose of travel:** To meet with senior officials, non- government agencies and research institutes from child protection and child welfare systems in New York City, Chicago and Tennessee. These three jurisdictions have significantly reduced their Out of Home Care populations over the last 10 years, whilst simultaneously improving support for families to keep children at home through the implementation and use of evidence based programs. These jurisdictions have also significantly shortened lengths of stay in care and improved rates of adoption and guardianship through outcome based contracting with their non-government partners. NSW is engaging in outcome based contracts in 2017 and the trip served to understand how those contracts have been successfully implemented, and what systemic changes have led to decreases in the number of children in Out Of Home Care.

**Benefits of travel for the State of New South Wales:** NSW has experienced a significant growth in the rate and number of children entering OOHC over the last 10 years. NSW also has low restoration rates and very low rates of adoption. Learning from the success of other jurisdictions' implementation of evidence based programs and outcomes based contracting, provides NSW with an opportunity to implement new service delivery approaches across the child protection continuum. NSW will recontract the service system in 2017 and this visit was timely to ensuring the best possible approach to achieve success as we work to reduce the number of children in Out Of Home Care and improve the performance of FACS and the non-government sector.

#### Scheduled meetings

Date	Organisation/Individual	Purpose of Meeting
25.11.16	Drew Hamilton Housing	Site visit – NYC public housing estate
27.11.16	Fountain House	Discuss holistic support services for young people at risk of homelessness due to mental illness
28.11.16	Commissioner for Children	Discuss reduction in number of children in care through implementation of evidence based programs and outcomes based contracting
28.11.16	NY Foundling	Discuss non-government's implementation of evidence based programs to reduce number of children entering care
28.11.16	Bronx Family Court	Meeting with Judge Sherman to discuss Court's role in child welfare matters and cross over youth (child welfare and juvenile justice), and the Court's role in building permanency options for children and young people and in reducing the number of children entering care
29.11.15	Vera Institute	Discuss cross over youth in NYC and efforts to reduce the number of children entering care
29.11.16	The Children's Aid Society	Discuss non- government's implementation of

		evidence based programs and outcomes based contracts to reduce the number of children in care
29.11.16	Harlem Children's Zone	Discuss programs for children at risk through continuum of care model
30.11.16	Manhattan Family Court	Attend child welfare Court matter and discuss with Judge Pearl, the Court's role in child welfare matters, including building permanency and reducing the number of children entering care
30.11.16	The Bronx Defenders	Discuss programs for children at risk of removal to reduce the number of children entering care
1.12.16	Youth Outreach Services	Discuss non- government's implementation of evidence based programs and outcomes based contracts to reduce the number of children in care
1.12.16	Illinois Department of Child and Family Services	Discuss early intervention services and implementation of evidence based programs to reduce the number of children entering care
2.12.16	Tennessee Department of Children's Services	Discuss the introduction of outcome based contracts and their impact on reducing the numbers of children in care
2.12.16	University of Chicago, School of Social Administration	Discuss the factors that have led to reduced numbers of children in care in Illinois
2.12.16	Children's Home + Aid	Discuss non- government's implementation of evidence based programs and outcomes based contracts to reduce the number of children in care
2.12.16	Division of Family and Community Services	Discuss the introduction of outcome based contracts and their impact on reducing the numbers of children in care
2.12.16	University of Chicago, Chapin Hall Center for Children	Discuss the introduction of outcome based contracts and their impact on reducing the numbers of children in care
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<b>Minister</b>	<i>The Hon Brad Hazzard MP</i>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<i>Family and Community Services and Social Housing</i>
<b>Destinations(s) visited</b>	
a) Countries	United States of America
b) Cities	New York City and Chicago
<b>Dates of travel</b>	
a) Departure date	Departed Sydney 24.11.16
b) Return date	Arrived Australia 5.12.16
<b>Number of official travel days</b>	<i>12</i>

<b>Number of accompanying</b> a) Minister's staff b) Government officials	2 Nil
<b>Accompanied by spouse</b> a) in an official capacity b) in a private capacity	<i>No</i> <i>No</i>
<b>Costs</b>	
<b>Airfares</b> a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	\$18,697.30
<b>Accommodation</b> (includes any meals/incidentals charged to room) a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	\$12,623.99 (approx.) Nil
<b>Official hospitality</b> a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	Nil
<b>Other expenses</b> a) Official gift presentation b) Ground transport c) Meals and refreshments d) Other miscellaneous costs	\$484.50 \$758.52 (approx.) \$1,309.45 (approx.)
<b>TOTAL estimated travel cost</b> a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	\$33,873.66 (approx.) Nil
<b>Currency conversion rate</b>	<i>AUD1.00 = USD1.39</i>

This report does not include costs for data roaming, official passports, visas, vaccinations, insurance, translation or printing of business cards.