

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

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 Australian to the United Nations	Global efforts around the advancement of women and the prevention of violence against women, transnational relations, perpetrator interventions

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