Submission No 10

Inquiry into Australia’s Relationship with Timor-Leste

Organisation: Victorian Local Governance Association
Submission to the Joint Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into Australia’s Relationship with Timor-Leste

March 2013
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About the VLGA

The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) is a unique peak body for councillors, community leaders and local governments working to build and strengthen their capacity to work together for progressive social change.

Our membership consists of local governments (representing around 80 percent of Victoria’s population), community organisations and individuals.

Our Vision is for Victorian communities to be inclusive, sustainable and dynamic, characterised by strong leadership and effective local governance.

We believe that transparent, accountable and democratic governance policies and practices in all settings enable citizens to create their own sustainable futures.

Background

The VLGA is a values-driven organisation concerned with building democratic communities at the local level. In alignment with these values, the VLGA has supported the development of local democracy in Timor-Leste since the Independence Referendum of 1999. This has been done through VLGA local government and community organisation members – many of which have friendship relationships with Districts and towns in Timor-Leste.

More than fifty percent of the total number of friendship groups around Australia are based in Victoria.

Over the past 13 years, the VLGA has hosted a number of conferences, workshops and forums and has auspiced observer missions to successive elections in Timor-Leste.

The current Timor-Leste Ambassador to Australia, H.E. Abel Guterres, has had a long relationship with the VLGA and is currently an honorary member.

The following submission addresses several of the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry, based on the VLGA’s involvement with the Timor-Leste Friendship movement over the past 13 years.
1. Bilateral relations at the parliamentary and government levels

Underpinning the Australian Timor-Leste relationship has been the links between Australian local governments and the districts and subdistricts of Timor-Leste.

These relationships are generally embodied in formal ‘friendship agreements’, which are based on the ‘Statement of Principles for Victorian Local Governments Working in East Timor’.

The Statement of Principles was signed in 2000 by the then Victorian Minister for Local Government, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the VLGA, and Xanana Gusmão, the then President of the National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction (refer Attachment 1).

Friendship agreements are designed to be long-term, in contrast to the short-term involvement of international aid organisations. They stress the importance of developing trust and respect for each other’s cultures and of local decision-making. Importantly, they include links between community organisations and individuals, as well as the formal relationship between administrations (refer Attachment 2).

The relationships between Australian local governments and local administrations in Timor-Leste have been reinforced by frequent exchanges of personnel. A number of Timor-Leste local officials have visited their counterparts in Victoria on study tours and have attended a range of briefings and training sessions.

With the transition to elected municipal government planned for 2014-15, these exchanges provide useful opportunities for local officials to observe aspects of Australian local government in operation, such as governance processes, community planning, and the conduct of elections (refer Attachment 3).

During a recent visit to Australia, the Timor-Leste Minister for Decentralisation, Sr Tomas Cabral, stressed the importance his government places on the role of Australian local governments in advising and assisting local administrations in Timor-Leste with the transition to elected municipal government.

How Australian local governments can best do this is the prime focus of a conference the VLGA is planning to convene with a number of organisations in March 2014 – subject to funding.
2. Aid, including support with governance issues

While the Australian Timor-Leste Friendship relationships are not primarily designed as aid projects, they have given rise to a number of initiatives and activities which can be broadly categorised as ‘development assistance’.

These include scholarship programs for Timorese students, funding for a wide range of training activities and infrastructure projects, assistance for community groups to develop their capacity to become sustainable and a range of material aid.

The majority of funding for this assistance has come from public fundraising by local community groups in Australia, involving the work of a large number of volunteers. It is difficult to put a dollar figure on the value of total assistance provided over the past decade by the friendship groups, but it would run into millions of dollars if all of the volunteer labour and in-kind assistance was included\(^1\).

Support for these efforts has also been provided by a myriad of church groups, service clubs, local businesses and other Australian non-government organisations. It would be no exaggeration to claim that the friendship movement and its associated support groups have involved thousands of Australian citizens, all linked by their common wish to help Australia’s nearest neighbour.

As described above, a number of the local government friendship groups have organised study tours for local representatives which have included training in aspects of local governance. One of the features of this assistance is that the participants form collegiate relationships with their Australian counterparts, who are able to provide ongoing advice and mentoring to the visitors after they have returned to Timor-Leste. This assistance will continue to expand during the transition to elected local government.

During the recent visit by the Timor-Leste Minister for Decentralisation, the VLGA was asked to outline its capacity to deliver training to support the decentralisation process. The VLGA has offered training opportunities for community members and potential candidates prior to the election, and training for elected officials post the elections, subject to funding being available to support this. Specific training in areas of governance, strategic planning and budget development has also been offered (which would be developed specifically for Timor-Leste).

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\(^1\) For example: Rotary Donations-In-Kind has transported many containers to Timor-Leste, and estimates it has handled $34 million worth of material aid in the past ten years through its Footscray warehouse – much of it for East Timor friendship groups.
3. Economic issues, including trade and investment

While the local government friendship relationships have not focused on aid, a range of economic benefits for local communities have resulted. These include vocational training for local people to enable them to find employment or establish their own businesses, direct funding of local enterprises to help them become sustainable, purchase of local products for re-sale in Australia and support for local tourism.

Vocational training assistance has been provided through a range of scholarship programs which have seen trainees go on to establish their own businesses after graduation.

In some cases, the friendship groups have assisted local enterprises to expand their capacity. For example, the Friends of Aileu has funded the manufacture of disability aids and portable, folding dental chairs at the St Francis of Asissi Disability Workshop in Aileu, which trains and employs people with a disability.

In August 2013, the VLGA – in association with an Australian tour company, Timor Adventures – is auspicing a study tour of Timor-Leste during which members of friendship groups will travel to several districts. The VLGA also hosted a forum in March 2013 to encourage the development of the tourist industry in Timor-Leste.

Consistent with their commitment to long-term friendship relationships, it is clear that the Australian local government friendship groups have played an important role in the establishment and development of local tourism in Timor-Leste, both through study tours and by promoting Timor-Leste as a travel destination in Australia. This activity will only expand in the future.
4. Cultural, educational and scientific relations and exchanges

Australian local government friendship groups have had cultural interchange between Australia and Timor-Leste as one of their key objectives. This has been achieved through a range of initiatives, visits, study tours, purchase and exchange of cultural artefacts and support for the activities of other organisations, such as the successful 2012 tour by the East Timorese community choir, Koro Loriko, which was organised though The Boîte.

Friendship groups have also directly funded cultural activity in Timor-Leste, such as the Fuann Nabilan blind choir, which is supported by the Boroondara Friends of Same and the Suai Media website supported by the Port Phillip Friends of Suai. A number of friendship groups also support friendship relationships between schools in Australia and Timor-Leste.

The Ballarat Friends of Ainaro supports around twenty local primary and secondary schools which are linked with schools in the Ainaro District of Timor-Leste. Some schools have organised regular visits to their Timorese friendship schools, such as St Joseph’s College in Echuca which holds annual ‘immersion visits’ for its Year 11 students. On these visits, students spend two weeks with their counterparts at the Sao Paolo Catholic College in Aileu District. Local schools supported by friendship groups, also regularly exchange photos, letters and other information with their Timorese counterparts.

In 2012, with support from friendship groups and the VLGA’s Timor-Leste Advisory Group, the Australia- Timor-Leste Friendship Schools Network was launched by the VLGA’s then Vice-President, Richard Brown.

A number of Friendship groups have scholarship programs which assist students in Timor-Leste to attend secondary, tertiary and vocational training institutions. The Moreland and Hume Councils’ Friends of Aileu, for example, funded 36 scholarships for tertiary students from Aileu District and thirty six scholarships for secondary students.

Friendship groups have also organised exchanges of teachers between Timor-Leste and Australia. Groups such as the City of Casey’s Friends of Ermera have supported training for kindergarten teachers and developed a teacher training program for teachers of English in the Ermera subdistrict.

The friendship groups have also provided an important hosting and socio-cultural support service for Timorese students studying in Australia. They participate in the welcoming ceremonies for newly-arrived students, such as those regularly organised in Melbourne by Victoria University and they offer social support for students from the district where they have the friendship relationship.
5. People to people links

The essence of Australian local government friendship relationships with Timor-Leste is people-to-people contacts. As outlined previously, this has been accomplished by frequent visits and exchanges of personnel, as well as the ongoing communication between members of the friendship groups and their counterparts in the districts.

This had led to strong bonds of trust being established between the communities in Australia and Timor-Leste, and a level of mutual understanding which has enabled the successful implementation of many joint development projects.

An outstanding example is the support by the Port Phillip Friends of Suai for the establishment and growth of the Suai-Cova Lima Community Centre, which is now a major employer in the district, supporting a range of training programs and local enterprises. In addition, an internet cafe with the fastest, satellite-based broadband service in Timor-Leste is also self-funding.

It was notable that during the disturbances of 2006, which brought massive social dislocation to all parts of Timor-Leste, one district official assured his Australian counterpart in the friendship group that ‘whatever happens here, we know we can rely on our friends in Australia to be there for us when this is all over.’

The Australian friendship relationships continue to expand and grow, twelve years after they were first established, even as the UN and other international organisations depart from Timor-Leste.
Recommendations

The VLGA believes that friendship groups provide a unique and valuable model for future relations between Australia and Timor-Leste.

Therefore we recommend that the Australian Government:

- Recognises the importance of the Australia - Timor-Leste friendship relationships in building links between individuals, organisations and communities in the two countries

- Makes funds available through AusAID to support existing friendship relationships, and the development of new relationships.
Submission No 10a (Attachment)

Inquiry into Australia’s Relationship with Timor-Leste

Organisation: Victorian Local Governance Association

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES
FOR VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WORKING IN EAST TIMOR

In recognition of East Timor as an independent nation and in acknowledgment of the struggles of the heroic people of East Timor, the people of Victoria through their representatives in local government and the people of East Timor through their representatives in the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT) hereby agree that:

- A lasting friendship shall be built on a partnership of mutual respect; this friendship shall at all times respect and value local as well as national cultures and decision-making processes;
- Local governments and organisations at a community level have expertise and experience in caring for and developing local communities;
- The knowledge and expertise of local governments in Victoria shall be shared through partnerships with the people of East Timor;
- This agreement welcomes East Timor as a close neighbour of Australia at all levels of democratic government;
- Material contributions by local governments in Victoria to the re-building of the nation of East Timor shall most effectively be provided in consultation and co-operation with the local as well as national representatives of the people of East Timor;
- Recognising the need to supplement the contribution of the United Nations, other international agencies and non-government organisations the parties now wish to implement community to community partnerships; and
- We shall respect and honour the efforts of all those Victorians and East Timorese who in a spirit of democratic endeavour work to improve the quality of life of their communities.

Signed this day 4 May 2000

Xanana Gusmao
PRESIDENT CNRT

Cr Julie Hansen
PRESIDENT VLGA

Cr Brad Matheson
PRESIDENT MAV

Hon Bob Cameron MP
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
VICTORIA
Submission No 10b (Attachment)

Inquiry into Australia’s Relationship with Timor-Leste

Organisation: Victorian Local Governance Association
Friendship Agreement between the District of Aileu, Timor-Leste and the Moreland and Hume City Councils, Victoria, Australia

In recognition of the aspirations of the people of Timor-Leste and, in particular, of the District of Aileu, to build their own democracy and take control of their future, a Friendship Relationship was established between the District of Aileu and the Moreland and Hume City Councils on 4 May 2000, and renewed in 2005. Now, after ten years of developing friendship, we reaffirm our commitment to that relationship and to the principles and values on which it is based, for a further five years.

We recognize the important roles of the District Administration, in supporting the people of Aileu, and of the Aileu Friendship Commission, in representing the people of Aileu in the Friendship Relationship.

We are pleased to acknowledge that other organisations and communities, including Australian Volunteers International, the Shire of Campaspe and the Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship, the Moora Moora Cooperative Community, Kangan Institute, Merri Community Health Services, the Alternative Technology Association and the Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership, and other partners of these groups and of Friends of Aileu, are committed to working with, and strengthening their relationships with, the people of Aileu.

We also look forward to working together as Timor-Leste establishes elected Local Government in Aileu.

Accordingly, we agree that we will:

- work together to respond to the aspirations of the people of Aileu as they build their local democracy and a sustainable future
- support activities that share the benefits of the friendship relationships widely within the District of Aileu
- ensure that our efforts are directed towards working with the people of Aileu so that they are able to achieve the goals they have for their own community
- base all of our activities on the principles of mutual respect, cooperation and local decision-making
- ensure that projects and initiatives which we commit to take account of the policies and programs of the National Government of Timor-Leste and the capacity of our communities to resource and sustain them
- pay particular attention to the needs of young people, who are the basis for the future of both our communities
- seek ways to share our cultures, to improve mutual understanding and continue to strengthen our local communities.

This agreement seeks to guide our organizations, and the communities which they represent, in a further five years’ friendship. It is not intended that the agreement will have any legal effect.

Dated this 7th day of May 2010

Sr Martinho Matos  
District Administrator, Aileu  
President Aileu Friendship Commission

Cr Stella Karioffylidis  
Mayor  
Moreland City Council

Cr Geoff Porter  
Mayor  
Hume City Council

Witnessed by:  
Cr Alice Pryor  
Chair  
Friends of Aileu  
Community Committee
Submission No 10c (Attachment)

Inquiry into Australia’s Relationship with Timor-Leste

Organisation: Victorian Local Governance Association
Report on the visit

to Melbourne

by Sr Domingos Vidigal

23 October-1 November 2012

Prepared by Richard Brown

Photo: Carlos Ibarra
**Background**

As part of the ongoing support for Aileu District in Timor Leste, Moreland and Hume City Councils invited the Aileu District Administration to send a representative to Melbourne to observe the 2012 Victorian Local Government Elections. The District Administration nominated the Aileu District Planning Officer, Sr Domingos Vidigal, who visited Melbourne from 23 October - 1 November 2012.

The visit also provided an opportunity for Sr Vidigal meet with representatives of the two Councils, members of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee and partner organisations, and to learn more about the operation of local government in Victoria, as Timor-Leste moves towards the establishment of local government, which is expected to take place in 2014-15.

The visit also served to further strengthen the friendship relationship between Moreland, Hume and Aileu, which was established twelve years ago.

Thanks are due to the staff of Moreland and Hume Councils, and of other organisations, who made time to meet with Sr Vidigal. Thanks also to those who provided interpreting at the meetings: Joao Jong, Mayra Walsh, Eusebio Goveia and Katrina Langford. Particular thanks are due to Mrs Marga Pires and her family, who provided accommodation for Sr Vidigal during the visit.

The following is an outline of the main activities undertaken by Sr Vidigal during the visit. A copy of the visit program is at Attachment 1 and a list of the people he met during the visit is at Attachment 2.

**Local Government Elections**

**Victorian Electoral Commission.** On 25 October, Sr Vidigal attended a briefing at the Victorian Electoral Commission on the 2012 Victorian Local Government Elections, given by the Acting Electoral Commissioner, Liz Williams, and the Senior Policy Advisor, Paul Thornton-Smith. They outlined the role of the VEC and the process for conducting the election, and provided Sr Vidigal with official accreditation as an election observer.

**Polling Day.** On polling day, 27 October, Friends of Aileu member, Chris Adams, accompanied Sr Vidigal to the polling station located at Coburg Primary School, where they observed the conduct of the poll.
Hume Council Briefings

Social Development. On 25 October, Sr Vidigal met with the Hume Director of City Communities, Margarita Caddick, and Cathy Marshall, Coordinator of Social Planning. They provided him with an overview of the Council’s planning processes, the role of Social Development, Council’s Social Justice Charter and an outline of the Broadmeadows Community Hub Project.

Tourism. On 25 October, Sr Vidigal met with George Osborne, Hume Council Manager of Economic Development, and Emanuela Camera, Tourism Development Officer, about Council’s strategies for attracting and holding tourists in Hume. On 29 October, he visited the Visitor Information Centre at Sunbury and met with Virginia Smedley, the Visitor Information Centre Officer, who explained the approach to local tourism.

Waste Management and Recycling. On 29 October, Sr Vidigal visited the Resource and Recovery centre at Campbellfield and met with Katie Nuthall, Hume Waste and Litter Education Officer, and Robert Kacela, Assistant Waste Management Engineer, who showed him how waste is recycled in Hume.
Community Learning. On 24 October, Sr Vidigal visited the Hume Global Learning Centre at Broadmeadows. He toured the Centre and received a briefing on its operation and the Hume Global Village network from Team Leader, Dalal Hazim, and Administration Officer, Roxanne Coles. He also visited the Hume Library and met with Branch Coordinator, Wendy Byron and Community Outreach Officer, who showed him the library’s operations. On 29 October, Sr Vidigal attended a Turkish children’s bi-lingual storytelling session at the library.

Moreland Council Briefings

Social Development. On 25 October, Sr Vidigal met with the Moreland Director of Social Development, Andrew Day, who provided him with an overview of the Social Development Department’s operations and the approach to community consultation.

Chief Executive Officer. On 25 October, he also met the Moreland CEO, Peter Brown, who explained the role of the CEO and the Administration in relation to the role of the elected councillors.

Waste Management. On 26 October he visited the Moreland Council Depot in Hadfield and met with the Environmental Education Officer, Tammy Sherar, Allan Keane, Works Officer Waste Services and other Moreland City Infrastructure staff. They explained how Moreland Council manages household waste, as well as maintaining roads and other Council infrastructure. He also inspected some of the Department’s equipment, including the waste collection vehicles.
Leisure Precinct Project. On 26 October, Sr Vidigal met with Place Manager Will Coogan and Urban Designer, Aditya Andley and inspected the site of the Brunswick Culture and leisure Precinct Project, including the refurbished Brunswick Baths, the Brunswick Town Hall and the Brunswick Library. They explained how Council recycles and renovates existing buildings to meet changing community needs.

Other Activities

Timor Leste Consul-General. On 24 October, Sr Vidigal met with the Honorary Consul for Timor-Leste, Kevin Bailey, and the Consulate Office Administrator, Joao Jong. They discussed the transition to elected municipal government in Timor-Leste and the possible role of Australian local governments in assisting in the process.

Moora Moora Community. On 28 October, Sr Vidigal visited Friends of Aileu partner, the Moora Moora Cooperative Community at Mt Toolebewong, near Healesville, and met with Dr Peter Cock and Sandra Cock, and Amy Glastonbury. They discussed the Besilau lighting project and how to assess the community’s future interests. Dr Cock explained that Moora Moora had raised funds to support another project in Besilau, but are waiting until the lighting project is completed to commit the funds.

North Richmond Community Health. On 30 October, Sr Vidigal visited the North Richmond Community Health Centre dental Clinic, which has a large East Timorese clientele. He met with Dr Martin Hall, Oral Health Manager, and dental nurse Sally Vong. They outlined the latest developments with the Aileu Oral Health Project and their plans for its future development.

Friends of Aileu Community Committee. On 30 October, Sr Vidigal attended a meeting of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee. He gave a presentation on recent developments in Aileu and heard a presentation by Noel Blencowe from CERES Global who proposed joining with the Friends of Aileu to organise study tours to Aileu.
## ATTACHMENT 1. PROGRAM

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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| **Monday 22 Oct** | 11.15am – Depart Dili, Air North TL515  
1.00pm – Arrive Darwin  
Accommodation: Rydges Darwin Airport Resort                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| **Tuesday 23 Oct** | 12.15pm – Depart Darwin, Qantas QF839  
5.05pm – Arrive Melbourne  
Accommodation: Mrs Marga Pires, 2 White Court, Meadows Heights (Interpreter – Katrina Langford)                                                                                                                                                             |
| **Wednesday 24 Oct** | 10 -11am – Meeting with Honorary Consul- General for Timor-Leste, Kevin Bailey, Level 21, HWT Building, Southbank  
11am - 1pm – Visit to Victorian Government Tourist centre and tour of city centre  
1 - 2pm – Lunch  
2 – 3pm – Visit to Hume Global Learning Centre – briefing by Dalal Hazim on the Hume Global Learning Village  
3 – 4pm – Visit to Hume Library, briefing by Wendy Byron, Branch Coordinator and Donna Edwards, Community Engagement Officer (Interpreter - Joao Jong)                                                                 |
| **Thursday 25 Oct** | 9 - 9.30am – Briefing by George Osborne, Hume City Council Manager of Economic Development and Emanuela Camera, Tourism Officer on tourism development in Hume  
9.30 - 10.30am – Meeting with Margarita Caddick, Director City Communities & Cathy Marshall, Coordinator Social Planning, Hume City Council – briefing on Broadmeadows Community Hub Project  
11am - 12.00pm – Briefing at Moreland City Council by Andrew Day, Director, Social Development, on the City of Moreland and the role and programs of the Social Development Department  
1 - 2 – Lunch  
2 - 3pm – Briefing at Victorian Electoral Commission, Liz Williams, Electoral Commissioner, and Paul Thornton Smith, Senior AdvisorL11, 530 Collins Street  
4 - 4.30pm – Meeting with Moreland CEO, Peter Brown, on role of council administration (Interpreters – Joao Jong/Mayra Walsh)                                                                 |
| **Friday 26 Oct** | 9 -10am – Briefing on Brunswick Culture & Leisure Precinct Project, Will Coogan, Place Manager Brunswick (0418 572 201) & Aditya Andley, Urban Designer, including tour of Brunswick Town Hall & Brunswick Baths project  
1 - 2pm – Lunch  
2 - 4pm – Visit to Moreland Council Depot, 7-9 Walter Street, Glenroy, briefing on waste management, Tammy Sherar, Environmental Education Officer & Allan Keane, Works Officer Waste Services, Moreland City Council  
3 - 4pm – Briefing on infrastructure planning and road maintenance (Interpreter – Katrina Langford)                                                                 |
<p>| <strong>Saturday 27 Oct</strong> | 11am -12pm – Observe local government election - visit polling booth at Coburg West Primary School, Reynard Street, Coburg (with Chris Adams), plus visit to Darebin Community safety display and St Kilda Beach |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| Sunday 28 Oct| 10 - 11.30am – Travel to Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary  
11am - 12.30pm – Visit Sanctuary  
12.30 - 1.00pm – Travel to Moora Moora  
1 – 3pm – Visit Moora Moora Cooperative Community, Nyora Road, Mt Toolebewong (near Healesville), incl. lunch with Dr Peter Cock & Sandra Cock, discussion about friendship relationship with Besilau  
3 - 4.30 – Return to Melbourne  
(Interpreter – Eusebio Goveia)                                                                                                                     |
| Monday 29 Oct | 9.30 - 10.30am – Visit Resource & Recovery Centre, Bolinda Road, Campbellfield, Katie Nuttall, Hume Waste & Litter Education Office, briefing on waste recycling  
11am -12pm – Attend Turkish-English children’s bilingual story session, Hume Library,  
1 - 2pm – Lunch  
2 - 3pm – Visit Sunbury Visitor Information Centre, contact Virginia Smedley, (0402 413 140)  
3 - 4 pm – Visit local tourist attraction, The Nook  
(Interpreter – Joao Jong)                                                                                                                              |
| Tuesday 30 Oct| 11.30 - 12.30 – Visit North Richmond Community Health Centre, Lennox Street, Richmond, Dr Martin Hall & Ms Sally Vong, discussion about Aileu Oral Health Project  
12.30 -1.30 – Lunch  
1.30-6.30pm – Visit Katrina Langford  
6.30 - 8.30pm – Friends of Aileu Community Committee meeting, Moreland Civic Centre  
(Interpreter – Katrina Langford)                                                                                                                     |
| Wednesday 31 Oct | 9-am-12.30pm – Meeting with people from Aileu  
2-4pm – meeting with Ermera D/DA, Sr Danilo, Endeavour Hills  
7 - 9.30pm – Farewell dinner, The Uleg Indonesian Restaurant, 312 Sydney Road, Brunswick                                                                 |
| Thursday 1 Nov | 2.20pm – Depart Melbourne, Jetstar JQ61  
5.05pm – Arrive Darwin                                                                                                                                     |
| Friday 2 Nov  | 6.30am – Depart Darwin, Air North TL512  
7.15am – Arrive Dili                                                                                                                                                                                  |
ATTACHMENT 2. PEOPLE MET DURING VISIT

The following were among the people Sr Vidigal met during the visit:

Aditya Andley, Urban Designer, Moreland Council
Allan Keane, Works Officer Waste Services, Moreland Council
Amy Glastonbury, Moora Moora Community
Andrew Day, Director Social Development, Moreland Council
Cathy Marshall, Coordinator Social development, Hume Council
Chris Adams, Friends of Aileu member
Dalal Hazim, team Leader, Hume Learning
Donna Edwards, Community Engagement Officer, Hume Library
Emanuela Camera, Tourist Development officer
Eusebio Goveia, interpreter
George Osborne, Hume Council Manager of Economic Development
Joao Jong, Office Manager, Timor-Leste Consulate
Katie Nuthall, Waste and Litter Education Officer, Hume Council
Katrina Langford, interpreter
Kevin Bailey, Consul-General for Timor-Leste
Liz Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, Victorian Electoral Commission
Margarita Caddick, Director City Communities, Hume Council
Dr Martin Hall, Oral Health Manager, North Richmond Community Health
Mayra Walsh, interpreter
Paul Thornton-Smith, Senior Electoral Advisor, Victorian Electoral Commission
Peter Brown, CEO, Moreland Council
Dr Peter Cock, Moora Moora Community
Robert Kacela, Assistant Waste Management Engineer, Hume Council
Roxanne Coles, Administrative Officer, Hume Learning
Sally Vong, Dental nurse, North Richmond Community Health
Sandra Cock, Moora Moora Community
Tammy Sherar, Environmental Education Officer, Moreland Council
Virginia Smedley, Visitor Centre Officer, Hume Council
Wendy Byron, Branch Coordinator, Hume Library
Will Coogan, Place Manager Brunswick, Moreland Council