  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Senator the Hon. Bob Carr

May 17, 2013

**Consul-General in New York**

Foreign Minister Bob Carr today announced the Honourable Stephen Bracks AC as Australia’s next Consul-General in New York.

Mr Bracks is expected to take up his appointment in September 2013 replacing Mr Phillip Scanlan AM.

Mr Bracks was elected to the Victorian Parliament in 1994 and became Victoria’s 44th Premier in 1999.

Mr Bracks served as Victoria’s Premier, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, and Minister for Veterans’ Affairs from 1999 until he retired from the Victorian Parliament in 2007.

Mr Bracks also acted as a Senior Adviser to two former Victorian Premiers and the Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Communications.

Mr Bracks now holds several honorary positions including: Adviser to the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Xanana Gusmão; and, as a Director of the Bionics Institute of Australia Board. He is also Honorary Chair for the Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University; the John Button Foundation; and The Union Education Foundation.

He is Chairman of the superannuation fund Cbus, Chair of the Industry Superannuation Network, a Director of Jardine Lloyd Thompson Australia, a non-Executive Director of the Bank of Sydney and a Member of the National Australia Bank’s Philanthropic Board.  He was a Senior Adviser to KPMG from 2007 to 2012.

He is also Independent Chair of the Australian Subscription TV and Radio Association (ASTRA).

In 2011 Mr Bracks was appointed Member of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Council for Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR).

Mr Bracks received a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2010 for services to the Parliament and community of Victoria.

Mr Bracks holds a Diploma of Business Studies in Accounting and a Graduate Diploma of Education in Economics from Ballarat University. He has also received the Order of the Cedar of Lebanon and Timor Leste Solidarity Medal and Honorary Doctorates from both Ballarat and Deakin Universities. Mr Bracks is a leading advocate for both multiculturalism and Aboriginal reconciliation. He is married with three children.

The Consulate-General actively promotes Australia’s interests in influential business, media, political, educational and cultural circles.  It liaises closely with New York financial sector representatives to promote the resilience and strength of Australia’s financial services sector, including the advantages of Australia’s close proximity to the fast growing Asian markets.  The Consulate-General also works to deepen two-way investment and commercial links, including through the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement.

An important role of the Consulate-General is to influence perceptions of Australia and raise awareness of Asia Pacific issues, through its extensive contacts with New York-based media and think tanks, as well as educational and cultural institutions.  It also provides consular and passport services to Australians who live in and visit New York and surrounding areas.

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