

12th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Salvador, Brazil, April 10th – 17th, 2010.

Purpose of travel

The purpose of this overseas travel was to attend and participate in proceedings of the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Benefits of travel for the State of New South Wales

United Nations Crime Congresses are held once every five years. They provide a rare opportunity to meet with and discuss world's best practice approaches towards crime prevention and criminal justice with public representatives, policy-makers and non-government organisations from across the globe. Numerous workshops are held as part of the Congress, with experts from a range of different areas presenting and leading discussion on important issues in contemporary justice. Accordingly, after the Federal Minister for Home Affairs extended me an invitation to the Congress, I decided it would be worth my attending.

During my time at the Twelfth Congress, I had face to face meetings with the following individuals:

- Mr Shawn Tupper, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Safety and Partnerships Branch, Federal Department of Public Safety, Canada;
- The Hon Mr Justice DH van Zyl, Inspecting Judge, Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services, Republic of South Africa;
- Ms Ciatta Z. Baysah, Senior Attorney/Chief Operations Officer, International Justice Project, NJ, United States of America
- Ms Catherine J Cummings, Executive Director, Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography and International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, NJ, United States of America.

Attending the congress also gave me an opportunity to meet and speak with other members of the Australian delegation, including senior officers from the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department and Michael O'Connell, the South Australian Commissioner for Victims' Rights.

I also attended and participated in the following sessions and workshops at the Congress:

- Opening Plenary Session, which included an address by the President of the Congress, His Excellency, Mr. Luiz Paulo Teles Barreto, Minister of Justice of the Federative Republic of Brazil;
- Children, youth and crime – as this was a plenary session of the Congress, it included presentations from a number of national delegates on practices and developments within their countries, including Chile, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, Canada and Argentina;
- Workshop on practical approaches to preventing urban crime, with presentations from experts on initiatives in Sao Paulo, Brazil; Lagos, Nigeria; and Cairo, Egypt;
- Making the UN Guidelines on Crime Prevention Work, which included a briefing from Professor Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture;

- A Global Campaign to Fight Child Pornography, session led by Ms Catherine J Cummings;
- Victims Rights: Principles and Reality, with: Professor Irvin Waller from the University of Ottawa; Marc Groenhuijsen, Director INTERVICT Victims Research Institute (Tilburg University, The Netherlands); and Michael O’Connell, Commissioner for Victims’ Rights, South Australia;
- School Violence and Prevention Strategies, with Janice Joseph (Stockton University), and Maocyr Buttencourt (PLAN international); and
- Alternatives to Prison for Drug Using Offenders, with David Turner from the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

As a result of these meetings and workshop sessions, I have asked my office and the Department of Justice and Attorney General to investigate a number of new ideas for New South Wales. These include:

- Options for improving compliance procedures under the NSW Charter of Victims Rights, looking at best practice models in a number of US states;
- Expanding mentoring programs for youth, looking in particular at the ‘Hobbema Cadet Program’ run through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police;
- Improving our efforts to fight child pornography, in particular looking at whether overseas initiatives to catch offenders through the financial system could be adopted in Australia, and considering whether NSW should join the International Coalition Against Child Pornography; and
- Looking at drug diversion initiatives in other jurisdictions to improve our focus on forcing drug using offenders to address their addiction and other problems which might causing them to commit crime.

On the whole, the Congress was a very informative experience. It not only provided me with new ideas for pursuing further law reform in New South Wales, but also confirmed that we are a world leader in many areas, in particular in our approach to drug diversion, crime prevention and the advancement of victims’ rights.

Estimated costs and details of travel

Minister	The Hon John Hatzistergos MLC
Portfolio	Attorney General
Countries visited	Brazil
Date of travel	April 10 th – 17 th 2010
Number of accompanying:	
(a) Ministerial Staff	(a) 1
(b) Government Officials	(b) 0

Accompanied by spouse in an official capacity	No
Air fares	
(a) Minister and Ministerial Staff	(a) \$22537.40 AUD
(b) Government Officials	(b)
Accommodation and meals	
(a) Minister and Ministerial Staff	(a) \$2473.92 AUD **
(b) Government Officials	(b) \$19.63 AUD *
Official hospitality expenses	
(a) Minister and Ministerial Staff	(a)
(b) Government Officials	(b)
Other expenses (including some meals, refreshments, surface travel and travel allowances)	
(a) Minister and Ministerial Staff	(a) \$356.53 AUD *
(b) Government Officials	(b)
Total estimated travel costs	
(a) Minister and Ministerial Staff	(a) \$25367.85 AUD
(b) Government Officials	(b) \$19.63 AUD

*** Charged in Brazilian Reais and converted based on exchange rate on 22nd June 2010 \$1AUD = 1.55417 Brazil Reais**

**** \$947.52 AUD was charged in AUD at the time of purchase and \$1526.40AUD was converted based on the exchange rate on 22nd June 2010 of \$1AUD = 1.55417 Brazil Reais**