

Despatch BOX



“It is this political freedom that leads to free expression”

HAVE YOUR SAY

Send your letters to:
About the House Mail,
International and Community
Relations Office,
PO Box 6021, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600,
or email: news@aph.gov.au
or fax: (02) 6277 8521

Please include name, address and daytime contact details. Letters may be edited to fit available space and for clarity.

HEART OF AN ENDURING DEMOCRACY

Twenty-three years after opening Australia’s new and permanent Parliament House on 9 May 1988, Her Majesty the Queen returned to parliament’s Great Hall for a reception in her honour during her most recent visit to Australia.

“The Great Hall lies at the heart of Australia’s enduring democratic institutions,” Her Majesty said. “It is easy enough to talk about democracy, but it must never be forgotten that it represents a compact between the Australian people to accept the wishes of the majority, while always remaining conscious, and sympathetic, to those whose voices are not always heard.

“It is this political freedom that leads to free expression, which encourages new development in areas as varied as the arts, sport and commercial enterprise. With this foundation, Australia has flourished and achieved excellence on the world stage.”



AAP/ONE

IN HER HONOUR: Warm reception for the Queen at Parliament House

The Queen’s visit comes two years ahead of celebrations planned for the 25th anniversary of Parliament House, coinciding with the centenary of Canberra in 2013.

To stay updated about the 25th anniversary celebrations, join our email alert list by emailing your details to: news@aph.gov.au

NEW FOCUS ON THE ASIA PACIFIC

President Barack Obama became the fourth President of the United States of America to address Australia’s parliament when he delivered a speech to members and senators in the House of Representatives chamber on 17 November 2011.

The President’s speech focused on the enduring friendship between our two countries and our military and diplomatic partnership in the Asia Pacific region.

“The bonds between us run deep,” President Obama said. “In each other’s story we see so much of ourselves.”

Looking to the future, he said the United States would increase its role in the Asia Pacific as the region grows in economic importance.

“Here we see the future,” President Obama said.

“Our new focus on this region reflects a fundamental truth — the United States has been, and always will be, a Pacific nation.”

President Obama said the future the United States seeks in the Asia Pacific is one of security, prosperity and dignity for all.

“So let there be no doubt: in the Asia Pacific in the 21st century, the United States of America is all in.”



AAP/ONE

FRIEND AND ALLY: President Barack Obama addresses the Australian parliament