

Background

Mr Brian Pontifex will be returning to Australia for a Global Heads of Mission Meeting in Canberra with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and will be travelling to Narrogin. He will be meeting with agricultural, business and education interests to discuss key elements of Australian foreign policy including the public policy issues he deals with at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

This will provide a significant opportunity for him to listen and take stock of the views of all the participants he has the chance to meet with.

Brian hopes to prompt a constructive discussion and sharing of perspectives from participants on a broad range of subject matter which could include: issues relating to the global and domestic economy, trade policy, issues of globalisation and protectionism, regional development/impact of disparities in wealth distribution in countries/economies, and the difficulties encountered by governments in implementing reform.

The OECD, based in Paris, was established in 1961. The Organisation provides independent and evidence-based analysis to help improve the economic and social well-being of citizens in its member countries and globally.

The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. The Organisation works with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change. The OECD measures productivity and global flows of trade and investment; it analyses and compares data to predict future trends. The OECD also sets international standards on a wide range of things, from agriculture and tax to the safety of chemicals. In addition, the OECD looks at issues that directly affect everyone's daily life, like how much people pay in taxes and social security, how much leisure time they can take, it also undertakes extensive work to identify how different countries' school systems are readying their young people for modern life. Drawing on facts and real-life experience, the OECD recommends policies designed to improve the quality of people's lives.

BIOGRAPHY



Mr Brian Pontifex

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the OECD

Mr Pontifex has worked as a Legal Adviser specialising in anti-corruption in the OECD Secretariat in Paris and as a consultant for the Attorney-General's Department to the OECD Working Group on Combating Bribery in International Business Transactions. He was Chief of Staff in the Office of the Premier of Western Australia, the Hon Colin Barnett MLA, and has also worked as Chief of Staff for the former Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison, and as a Barrister and Solicitor with Freehills in Perth.

Mr Pontifex holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Western Australia and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the Australian National University. He holds a Masters in International Law from the University of Edinburgh. He has been admitted to the Supreme Court of Western Australia as a Barrister and Solicitor.

Referenced from:

<http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-people/homs/Pages/ambassador-and-permanent-representative-of-australia-to-the-oecd.aspx>