



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Armidale resident's Bali Memorial suggestion passed on to PM

Independent member for New England, Tony Windsor has passed on to the Prime Minister, Mr Howard, a suggestion from Armidale resident, Miss Fiona Taber, for a practical memorial for the victims of the Bali bombing.

The suggestion put forward by Miss Taber is that the Memorial take the form of assistance in funding an upgrade of facilities at the Bali Hospital where so many Australians were treated for their injuries sustained in this terrible event.

"Fiona contacted me yesterday to bring to my attention a suggestion she'd heard that originated from a group in Queensland and that she thought was a positive, practical and appropriate memorial for those who have suffered from this tragic event.

I agree with Fiona that helping to upgrade the Bali Hospital facilities and services would be a practical positive use of funds and also have other benefits to our relationship with Indonesia and other countries," Mr Windsor said.

"I believe that support for this form of Memorial could further be encouraged from corporate entities like QANTAS and other airlines servicing the previously very popular destination.

These groups will no doubt be suffering from a downturn in their business as a direct result of the Bali bombing.

Further support could also be requested from other countries whose citizens were also impacted upon," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that such an upgrading of facilities in Bali would go a long way to helping rebuild confidence in again visiting Bali and reassuring visitors that first class hospital facilities are available not hopefully again for this type of extreme need, but for services that have no doubt been needed in the past that may have required quick return to Australia for treatment.

In his letter to the Prime Minister Mr Windsor said, "I'm sure, Prime Minister that there will be many other international relations benefits from such a practical memorial, however the focus of my suggestion is on providing the many people directly and indirectly impacted on by this tragic event with a memorial that they can see will assist in doing some good a long way into the future and that the lives lost will in some way have a positive legacy that will break through the pain and anguish that such an horrific act has caused so many."

"I thank Fiona Taber for drawing this practical Memorial suggestion to my attention and I look forward to a favourable response from the Prime Minister," Mr Windsor said.

Further information from Tony Windsor - Mob 0427 66 8868 or 02 6761 3080