



THE HON STEPHEN SMITH MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**MESSAGE FROM  
THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, STEPHEN SMITH MP:  
ADVICE TO SPORTING BODIES**

**08 MAY 2009**

I am writing to seek your help with an initiative to raise awareness about safe travel among Australian sportsmen, sportswomen, coaches, officials and teams who may be planning to participate in sporting events overseas.

Australians face many risks when they travel overseas and our sportspeople are no exception. The recent attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore, Pakistan, showed that sporting teams and competitors are not immune from terrorist attack. The Australian Government wishes to ensure that individual Australians and Australian teams travelling overseas to compete in sporting events are fully informed of the safety and security risks they may encounter. I also wish to encourage individuals, groups and teams to register their travel plans on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Online Register of Australians Overseas (ORAO). Online registration and up to date travel advice are available at [smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au).

The smartraveller website also has a number of helpful hints, information brochures and links that aim to assist people with their international travel plans. This initiative is also intended to draw to the attention of our sporting men and women the range of resources and consular assistance available to them when planning and undertaking travel overseas.

I would be grateful if you could distribute the attached flyer "Travelling Safe" to your members and sporting networks. If you would like to discuss this initiative in more detail, please contact DFAT on 1300 555 135.

Overseas travel provides Australian sportsmen and sportswomen with a wonderful opportunity to experience new and interesting countries, to compete against the best in the world and to contribute to Australia's proud sporting history. With your help, we can ensure that they are well-informed about the possible risks when travelling overseas and ways that they can minimise these risks.

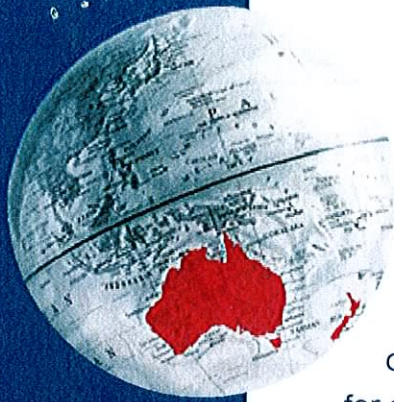
I wish to thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Smith'.

Stephen Smith

# Safe Travel Information for Australian sportsmen, sportswomen, coaches, officials and teams travelling overseas



## Travelling Safe

Australia is a proud sporting nation. Many Australians travel overseas to play, coach or officiate in international sporting competitions. All overseas travel brings with it a measure of risk. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has developed an extensive range of information and resources to prepare Australians for the risks they may face when travelling overseas. It is important that Australians understand how to properly prepare for overseas travel to participate in sporting competitions.

### Register your travel details

Before you travel overseas **register** your travel and contact details at [smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au). This will help us to find you in an emergency. Group travel can be registered by sending an email to [Registrationhelp@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Registrationhelp@dfat.gov.au). If you run into any difficulties, please call 1300 555 135.

### Travel Insurance

If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel. Before you depart, take out comprehensive **travel insurance** that will cover any overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. Confirm that your insurance covers you for the whole time you'll be away and check what circumstances and activities are not included in your policy. The Australian Government will not pay for a traveller's medical expenses or medical evacuation costs overseas.

### Travel Advice

DFAT provides information about risks overseas through our travel advisories. The content and level of the advice is kept under constant review to ensure it remains up-to-date, objective, and accurately reflects the level of risk to Australians in a particular destination. **Subscribe** to the travel advice for your planned destinations so that you can receive free email notification each time our travel advice is updated.

### Consular Services

DFAT provides consular services to Australians through our headquarters in Canberra and at our overseas posts. When you are overseas, be aware that local laws and penalties apply to you and that DFAT's consular assistance cannot override local laws. Familiarising yourself with the information on the smartraveller website will help you to avoid trouble overseas.

### What to do in an emergency

If you find yourself in trouble overseas you should:

- make contact with the relevant local authorities
- contact your family (or business contacts) for assistance, or just to let them know that you are safe
- if you require consular advice or assistance, contact the nearest Australian embassy, high commission or consulate. You will find these contact details in the travel advisory for each country. Outside normal business hours you can call DFAT's 24 hour Consular emergency hotline +61 6261 3305.

[smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au)

A must see destination.



# Top 10 Tips for Safe Travel

1. **Check the latest travel advice** for your destination and subscribe to receive free e-mail notification each time the travel advice for your destination is updated.
2. **Take out appropriate travel insurance** to cover hospital treatment, medical evacuation and any activities, including adventure sports, in which you plan to participate.
3. **Before travelling** overseas register your travel and contact details online or at the local Australian embassy, high commission or consulate once you arrive, so we can contact you in an emergency.
4. **Obey the law.** Consular assistance cannot override local laws, even where local laws appear harsh or unjust by Australian standards.
5. Check to **see if you require visas** for the country or countries you are visiting or transiting. Be aware that a visa does not guarantee entry.
6. **Make copies** of your passport details, insurance policy, travellers cheques, visas and credit card numbers. Carry one copy in a separate place to the originals and leave a copy with someone at home.
7. **Check with health professionals** for information on recommended vaccinations or other precautions and find out about overseas laws on travelling with medicines.
8. **Make sure your passport has at least six months validity** and carry recent copies of a passport-size photo with you in case you need a replacement passport while overseas.
9. **Leave a copy of your travel itinerary** with someone at home and keep in regular contact with friends and relatives while overseas.
10. Before departing Australia check whether you are regarded as a national of the country you intend to visit. **Research whether holding dual nationality has any implications for your travel.**

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