



REPUBLIC OF CHILE  
CONSULATE-GENERAL IN MELBOURNE  
for South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia

Melbourne, 21<sup>h</sup> April 2010

**Chile Earthquakes 2010 (update 6)**

The Consulate-General of Chile in Melbourne is pleased to inform to the Australian Community the following developments on the February 27<sup>th</sup> Earthquakes-relief effort, in the frame of the "Communities of Australia help with schools and health" campaign to help in the US\$ 30-billion reconstruction process in Chile:

- a) On April 14<sup>th</sup>, Australia Trade Minister Simon Crean signed in Santiago an agreement with the Government of Chile, represented by the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Fernando Schmidt, and in presence of the First Lady of Chile Ms. Cecilia Morel. The Agreement committed A\$ 3 million of the A\$ 5 million pledged by the Government of Australia to fund 50% of the reconstruction of pre-school daycare facilities network of "Integra", that tend to nearly 2,894 infants. This significant contribution will allow 14 major facilities to be restored in the 800 km affected territory, thus allowing the mothers to concentrate in their work and jobs ([http://www.minrel.gov.cl/prontus\\_minrel/site/artic/20100414/pags/20100414181528.php](http://www.minrel.gov.cl/prontus_minrel/site/artic/20100414/pags/20100414181528.php)).
- b) On April 15<sup>th</sup>, through a long process of evaluation, the Ministry of Education of Chile has agreed to focus the Australian States' Governmental and communities support in the reconstruction of a major educational facility, namely the Liceo de Niñas A-33 of Concepción, a school that tends to 2,700 girls lying at the epicenter of the 8.8 earthquake. The total reconstruction budget is estimated at US\$ 2 million.

This outcome reflects the expressed will of the communities to donate to a specific project to which they could keep supporting in the future, in view that the reconstruction is a long haul process. The facility will also be able to assist other students which schools were grounded by the series of earthquakes. This will become a tangible milestone of the support from Australia to the Chilean People, serving as an inspiration for the coming generations and a perennial bond in the frame of our common social solidarity values.

On this matter, the State Governments' contributions of Queensland (A\$ 500,000) and South Australia (A\$ 250,000) have been transferred as the initial funding for the initiative. These are to be complemented with donations received from the public, from corporations and from fundraising events organized by the Chilean and other communities, which have been deposited in the 3 official accounts opened by the Embassy of Chile (Canberra) and the Consulate-Generals in Melbourne and Sydney.

c) By mid April, the first container of donations in kind, with some 60 cubic meters of help, cloth, furniture and supplies, was closed in the premises of Duratray int., a company that adds this storage and consolidation effort to the previous support to send the Volunteer Rescue Fireman Mr. Ramon Venegas to the disaster zone, on the wake of the earthquakes.

d) In mid-may, some 157 clinical and examination beds, anesthesia machines and 4 tons of medical supplies will be shipped to Chile from Melbourne in 4x40 footer containers. These



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donations in kind have been matched by the free transportation provided by a Japanese shipping line and free warehousing provided by a major Melbourne-based storage enterprise. These beds are to help the replacement of some 2,000 units lost during the disaster.

e) On other development, a group of Victorian residents from various fields of activity related to the academic, corporate, business, government and community sectors are rallying support to launch an Australia Initiative on Chile's Earthquake Reconstruction, aimed at the pooling of capabilities to support the recovery of the extensive damaged region by means of direct engagement, investment, and cooperation with the affected social and productive sectors.

f) Continuing with the mega event of May 27 in Melbourne, Sydney held two successful large initiatives, and Adelaide and Perth are working towards 3 mega events.

With deep gratitude and respect



*Diego Velasco-von Pilgrimm*  
Cónsul-General de Chile in Melbourne