**Message from former Ambassador**

**YOUNG PORTUGUESE NOW ABLE TO VISIT AND WORK IN AUSTRALIA**

Young people from Portugal can now enjoy an extended holiday in Australia while undertaking short term work.

A new Work and Holiday visa arrangement for young adults aged 18 to 30 from both countries that was signed in Canberra on 23 September and came into effect on 23 November, will allow successful applicants to visit and work in the other country for up to a year.

Welcoming the new visa arrangement, Australian Ambassador to Portugal Anne Plunkett said it was a tangible affirmation of the two countries’ expanding and deepening links.

“The people-to-people engagement which this visa arrangement encourages – economic, social, cultural, linguistic and intellectual – is key to unlocking much as yet unrealised potential within both Australia and Portugal,” she said.

“It will provide a unique cultural exchange experience for young adults that will both enrich the lives of the young participants and help strengthen the bonds between our two countries.”

For those visiting Australia, the Work and Holiday visa will allow eligible young people to:

* stay for up to 12 months;
* work for up to six months with each employer;
* study for up to four months; and
* leave and re-enter Australia any number of times while the visa is valid.

There is an annual limit to the number of Work and Holiday visas issued to each country. Individuals wishing to visit Australia under the arrangement must apply from outside Australia, have enough money to support themselves on a working holiday and meet a number of other requirements.

More information on the Australian Work and Holiday visa (subclass 462) and its requirements can be found at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/462.aspx>

<http://www.secomunidades.pt/web/guest/jovens?p_p_id=56_INSTANCE_7bDv&p_p_action=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-1&p_p_col_pos=0&p_p_col_count=1&>

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