Our numerous Australian and US friends from the Australian American Leadership Dialogue (“AALD”) will join me in congratulating Hon Kim Beazley on his appointment as Governor of the great State of Western Australia. Kim’s investiture is scheduled for May 1.

Kim is a founding member of the Australian American Leadership Dialogue and, until the announcement as incoming Governor, has been Co-Chairman of the Board which governs the AALD—the Australian American Education Leadership Foundation. He and Co-Chairman Hon Mark Vaile embody the bipartisan spirit of the Leadership Dialogue, and are best in global class examples of mutual tolerance and personal courtesy in their manner of engagement with hundreds of Australian and US leaders, over more than a quarter century, who have participated in closed sessions of the Leadership Dialogue.

Following conversation with President George HW Bush on Sydney Harbour January 1, 1992 I invited Kim Beazley and Hon Nick Greiner, then New South Wales Premier and current Federal President of the Liberal Party of Australia, to become standard bearers for both sides of politics in preparation for the inaugural AALD in Washington DC, June 1993. Thankfully Kim and Nick agreed, which impressed our US interlocutors, and attracted a first class Australian delegation.

Kim’s track record in Australian political leadership, in particular his role as Defence Minister under Prime Minister Bob Hawke, was an important factor behind top US leaders participating in the June 1993 inaugural AALD. Bipartisan US leaders of the day who roll off the tongue include Jamie Gorelick, Phil Lader, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffey, Joe Duffe

It is no exaggeration to say that, in closed sessions (ie completely off the record), Kim regularly made seminal contributions that were distinguished by their frankness, clarity of insight and anecdotal successfully geared to educate fellow delegates.

It is small wonder that Kim was so successful as Ambassador to the United States, as he brought the legacy of hard negotiations with Reagan Administration officials into the Oval office when presenting his credentials to President Obama. Kim’s stature in both Australia and the United States is evidenced in Prime Minister Abbott extending Prime Minister Rudd’s appointment of Kim as Ambassador, and Prime Minister Turnbull’s warm reception this week of Kim’s appointment as Governor of Western Australia.

The AALD’s tangible expression of commitment to the intergenerational imperative is the Young Leadership Dialogue (“YLD”) and the YLD Alumni, which already number over 300 young leaders from Australia and the USA. The AALD has played an important part in mentoring many Australian and USA delegates of all ages and persuasions. Nobody has done more to mentor his colleagues in the AALD than Kim, including Coalition MPs.

Phil Scanlan
FOUNDER

PO Box 1387 Hawkesbury VIC 3142 Australia | T: +61 3 9510 6111 | F: +61 3 9510 6222 | E: office@aald.org | www.aald.org