



**AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION  
PRETORIA**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Australia continues support for emerging Mozambican leaders**

Tonight, the Australian High Commissioner to Mozambique, HE Mr Graeme Wilson, will host a gathering of Mozambican alumni from the Australia Awards scholarships program.

Speaking in Maputo prior to the function, Mr Wilson noted that the growing people to people links between Australia and Mozambique underpinned the strong bilateral relationship.

‘A very important part of the links between Australia and Mozambique has been the Australia Awards scholarship program which the Australian Government has been running, in cooperation with the Mozambique Government, since the late 1980s’, Mr Wilson said.

Over that time, around 380 Mozambicans have received Masters-level or short-course Australia Awards. Australia Awards aim to contribute to the long-term development needs of Australia's partner countries. They provide opportunities for emerging leaders to undertake full time undergraduate or postgraduate study at participating Australian universities to help develop skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to the development outcomes of their own countries.

There is an active Australia Awards Alumni Association in Mozambique. Complementing the work of the association, the Australian Government appointed in 2013 an Australia Awards Alumni Ambassador in Mozambique, Mr Sérgio Pereira. Mr Pereira is being succeeded by Ms Ana Charles who will be formally appointed this week during a workshop in Lusaka, Zambia.

‘Our Alumni Ambassadors play an important role in promoting the Australia Awards program and supporting awardees as they prepare to depart to Australia to begin their studies’, Mr Wilson said. ‘I would like to take the opportunity to thank Sergio for his hard work over the last year, and wish Ana the best of luck in her role during 2014’, he added.

The next application round for the Australia Award program will open on 1 September 2014. More information on Australia Awards is available at <http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org>

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