

The “**Friends of Syria**” Group in Australia was formed in 2004, the same year of establishing the Syrian Embassy in Canberra. It comprises mainly former Australian ambassadors and diplomats who served in Syria, archaeologists who participated in excavation works in Syria, academics, journalists, authors and Members of the Australian Parliament. With more than 400 members, the Group was able to make significant achievements for the bilateral relations between Syria and Australia. The Group is non-political and aims at bringing together the cultural interests to meet in an informal forum at the Syrian Embassy.

The Syrian Embassy in Canberra holds regular functions for the “**Friends of Syria**” Group with the active participation of Australian friends who visited, studied, worked in or have special passion towards Syria.

The Australian tourism to Syria is growing extensively, at a time that Syria is undertaking a

very serious effort led by **H. E. Mr. Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic**, towards modernising the country and providing the best services to tourists to see the ancient civilisations live in front of the eyes of visitors.

Together with the Australian Syrian Parliamentary Friendship Committee in the Australian Parliament, the **“Friends of Syria”** Group is playing a constructive role in the Australian Syrian Friendship towards better relations between the two countries.

Tammam Sulaiman
Ambassador