

**Message of Greeting from
Federal Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier
for the United Buddy Bears Exhibition in Sydney**

19.01.2006



Just as there are no two people alike, so the Buddy Bears each have their own unmistakable personality, thanks to their multiple creators from 140 different countries. After several stops in Europe and Asia, the Buddy Bears' world tour has now brought them to Sydney, Australia.

The colourful troupe is a unique work of art, a symbol of the universal longing for a world in which people and cultures learn to know and live in peace with one another, a world of tolerance, friendship and mutual understanding. At the same time the Buddy Bears serve as splendid ambassadors for Berlin and a Germany that seeks contact with the rest of the world.

I am delighted the travelling Buddy Bears can now enjoy a stopover in Sydney, against the world-famous backdrop of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. I hope the Australians will take them to their hearts – and perhaps even be inspired to plan a trip to Germany.