



Mr. Peter N Varghese AO



Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr Varghese took up his position as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on 3 December 2012.

Prior to this appointment, Mr Varghese was Australia's High Commissioner to India from 2009 to 2012. Between 2004 and 2009, he was Director-General of the Office of National Assessments. Before that he was the Senior Adviser (International) to the Prime Minister. Mr Varghese was Australia's High Commissioner to Malaysia from 2000 to 2002. He has also served overseas in Tokyo (1994), Washington (1986-88) and Vienna (1980-83).

Mr Varghese has held a wide range of senior positions in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra, including as Deputy Secretary (2002-2003), First Assistant Secretary (FAS) of the International Security Division (1997), Head of the White Paper Secretariat (1996-97) which drafted Australia's first white paper on foreign and trade policy, FAS Public Affairs Division (1994-96), and Assistant Secretary of Staffing (1991-92). He was seconded to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as FAS International Division (1998-1999).

Mr Varghese was born in 1956 in Kenya to Indian born parents. He migrated to Australia as a young child in 1964. Mr Varghese is a graduate and university medalist in history from the University of Queensland. He is married with one adult son.

He was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) in 2010 for distinguished service to public administration, particularly in leading reform in the Australian intelligence community and as an adviser in the areas of foreign policy and international security. He was awarded a Doctor of Letters honoris causa by the University of Queensland in July 2013 in recognition of his distinguished service to diplomacy and Australian public service.