



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION ISLAMABAD

11 April 2016

Media Release

Australia Day in Spring 2016 – Engaging Youth

Australia's Paper Pilots, Dylan Parker and James Norton, will lead more than 500 school children in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad on a journey of flight as part of the Australian High Commission's *Australia Day in Spring 2016 - Engaging Youth* celebrations from 11 to 18 April.

Dylan and James founded "The Paper Pilots" in 2008 to educate and inspire students across Australia by using the simple concept of paper planes to teach students about the science of flight and encourage them to develop problem solving skills to design the perfect paper plane. Their true life story inspired the 2015 award winning Australian family film *Paper Planes* directed by Robert Connolly.

Pakistan is the first country outside Australia in which the Paper Pilots will hold their paper plane making and flying workshops.

Australia Day in Spring 2016 events will also include a visit by NSW State parliamentarian Dr Mehreen Faruqi to Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. Dr Faruqi is the first Australian of Pakistani origin to be elected to public office and is her party's spokeswoman on the status of women and youth. She will meet with women and youth parliamentary caucuses and will participate in panel discussions with members of Pakistani youth parliaments together with Australia Awards alumni to explore the role of youth in development and global governance.

Business events with the Pakistan Australia Business Forum will engage young entrepreneurs in Karachi and Lahore focusing on innovation and vocational training and an art exhibition in Islamabad of young Pakistani artists from the National College of the Arts Rawalpindi will showcase their art in Islamabad.

Australian High Commissioner Margaret Adamson welcomed the outreach to Pakistani youth by the Paper Pilots, Dr Faruqi and the Pakistan Australia Business Forum.

"Pakistan's large youth population is Pakistan's future and Australia is helping Pakistan develop its potential through education and training opportunities and strengthened links between our people," Ms Adamson said.

Contact: Media Officer 051-8355422, media.islm@dfat.gov.au