



Peter Vardos PSM biographical details

Peter Vardos is the Deputy Secretary for Client Services Group.

A career public servant, Peter joined the Australian Public Service as a graduate in January 1978 after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and economic history from the Australian National University.

Peter served in the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) from 1978 to 1995. During this time he worked in a variety of policy, program and corporate areas in the national office of the organisation.

He also served overseas in Australia's diplomatic missions in the Solomon Islands (1979–81), Kenya (1984–86) and Zimbabwe (1988–90).

In 1992 and 1993, Peter served on the staff of two government ministers. His responsibilities covered both overseas trade and development assistance issues.

He was promoted to Assistant Secretary in the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in November 1995. Between 1995 and 2002 he had responsibility for refugee protection, border security, onshore compliance, detention services and refugee settlement services. During 1999 he was seconded to the Kosovar Safe Haven Taskforce.

Peter was awarded a Public Service Medal (PSM) in the Australia Day Honours list in January 2002. He was promoted to the position of First Assistant Secretary of the Citizenship, Settlement and Multicultural Affairs Division in April 2002. In 2007, Peter headed the Citizenship Test Taskforce.

In March 2008, Peter was transferred to lead the Migration and Visa Policy Division and remained in that position until April 2010, when he commenced an extended period as Acting Deputy Secretary of the Policy and Program Management Group.

He was seconded to the office of the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship in September 2010, following which he was appointed as the special advisor to the secretary.

Peter was promoted to Deputy Secretary of the Client Services Group in April 2011.

Peter is married with two adult children. He is an avid motorcyclist.

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