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**THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP**

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Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Message for Australia Latin America Business Council reception**

Thursday 24 May, Sydney

I thank José Blanco for your outstanding service to building Australian and Latin American relations.

For over 28 years, as a founding member and Chair of the Australia Latin America Business Council (ALABC), José has been a driving force in promoting business links and strengthening bilateral relations between Australia and Latin America.

With hundreds of Australian businesses now active in Latin America, thousands of students coming each year from the region, and four Free Trade Agreements completed or in progress, it is clear Australia - Latin American relations have come a long way since ALABC was first founded in 1989.

It has been a pleasure working with you. I am sure that you, as Chair Emeritus, will continue to contribute to strengthening Australia-Latin America relations in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Julie Bishop'.

The Hon Julie Bishop MP  
Minister for Foreign Affairs