

## **Alexander Downer**

### **Minister for Foreign Affairs**

Alexander Downer was born on Sept. 9, 1951, in Adelaide. He was educated at Radley College, Oxford University, and at the University of Newcastle on Tyne. He has an honours bachelor of arts degree in politics and economics.

Mr. Downer was an economist with the Bank of New South Wales from 1975 to 1976. He then served in the Australian diplomatic service for six years and was posted in Brussels to work with the European Economic Community, NATO, and the countries of Belgium and Luxembourg. He also served as senior foreign affairs representative in South Australia.

Mr. Downer was elected in the federal constituency of Mayo, on the edge of Adelaide, in 1984. He served as shadow minister in a number of portfolios before becoming Leader of the Opposition in 1994. Mr. Downer resigned as Liberal Party Leader in January 1995 and became shadow minister for Foreign Affairs.

Appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1996, Mr. Downer was reappointed in 1998 and 2001.

Mr. Downer and his wife, Nicky, have four children.