

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

October 2008

Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils (FABC)
and Australian Sangha Association (ASA)

PLEDGE

The FABC and ASA acknowledge each others' roles in developing and promoting Buddhism in Australia, and pledge to work together in harmony for the mutual benefit of all Buddhist traditions in Australia.

BACKGROUND

The FABC is a peak body representing the state Buddhist Councils of NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, WA, and in future possibly other states. The ASA endeavours to support and represent Buddhist monastic traditions in Australia, and includes members from all major monastic traditions. Each organization thus has its own distinct interests, internal organization, and priorities. But there are many issues where the two groups may work together profitably. The relationship between the FABC and ASA has been ongoing since the ASA's inaugural General Meeting in 2005. This Memorandum of Understanding places this relationship on a more formal setting.

LIASON OFFICERS

The ASA Management Committee will appoint an ASA member to act as Liaison Officer with the FABC. This Liaison Officer's role will be to actively participate in the discussion and development of issues with the FABC, to report these activities to the ASA, and to represent the ASA's interests to the FABC. The FABC will appoint an officer with a similar role.

CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES

The ASA and FABC will put into place mechanisms to enable information flow, decision making, delegating of tasks, and issuing joint public statements.

ISSUES

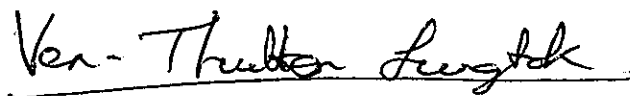
Examples of issues that may be developed jointly by the ASA and the FABC include:

- Visas and immigration
- Policy development
- Chaplaincy
- Interfaith

CONCLUSION

The dissemination and preservation of Dharma in Australia is the shared objective of the FABC and ASA. Working together whenever necessary will ensure that Buddhism and the wider community both benefit from our commitment to achieve these goals.

Signed on behalf of the Australian Sangha Association.



Signed on behalf of the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils.

