

Chris Hemsworth visits Australian Parliament House to meet with Julie Bishop and Tony Abbott

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Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop is all smiles with actor Chris Hemsworth at Parliament House today. *Source: News Corp Australia*

A CHANCE meeting at the footy saw actor Chris Hemsworth make a surprise appearance at Parliament House today.

The *Thor* star's visit almost went unnoticed with much of the attention focused on anti-terror announcements from Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

But Foreign Minister Julie Bishop managed to squeeze in a meeting with the actor, who was in town to discuss the work of the [Australian Childhood Foundation](#). Hemsworth is an ambassador for the foundation along with his brother and actor Liam Hemsworth.




Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop and Actor Chris Hemsworth in Parliament House in Canberra Source: News Corp Australia



Foundation chief executive officer Joe Tucci said that Hemsworth had met Ms Bishop while attending the AFL grand final in Melbourne on the weekend and she had invited him to Parliament to meet the Prime Minister and brief them on the work of the organisation.

In particular the foundation is hoping to gain support for its [Safeguarding Children](#) program, which focuses on preventing child abuse in the workplace.



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This involves accreditation for organisations that meet the foundation’s recommendations for protection and an audit on their safeguards.

“It was very positively received,” Mr Tucci said of their discussions.

He said further meetings with advisers and other ministers would hopefully be set up in the next few weeks.

“We’re hoping that they will see it as a valuable, important program for the community and that they will partner with us and support a rollout across the country,” he said.

Hemsworth launched the program recently and has been encouraging people to support it by sharing their most memorable childhood experience on social media with the hashtag [#notanotherchild](#)

In an interview recently on Sunrise, Hemsworth said he wanted to put a spotlight on child abuse.

“Unfortunately there’s more reports of abuse in Australia than ever before, there’s 750 per day last year, which was roughly one every two minutes,” Hemsworth said.

“So we want to put a spotlight on the issue, and make child protection the number one focus for all Australians.”

Mr Tucci said that Hemsworth had been an ambassador for the organisation for about six years and he was an important patron for them.

“He understands children, he’s got three kids himself and so it’s a personal interest as well as being an interest in children’s rights.

“He’s also really kind, he’s a very sensitive person with a lot of depth of understanding about children and what they need.”

Hemsworth’s parents have been involved with the organisation for many years, particularly his father who has worked in child protection.

There’s no doubt that Hemsworth’s public profile is also an asset.



On the red carpet in 2013 with his wife Elsa Pataky. Picture: Tim P. Whitby/Getty Images for PACMEDIA. Source: Getty Images

“People are always stopping him (Hemsworth) in the street and asking him for a photo, I’ve never seen him say no,” Mr Tucci said of working with star, who has appeared in Hollywood blockbusters like *The Avengers* as well as Australian soap *Home and Away*.

He said Hemsworth’s profile encouraged people to think about child abuse.

“Child abuse is a really confronting topic, most people prefer not to think about it, he (Hemsworth) makes it easier for them to think about the topic and to think that it’s something they can do about it.

“This problem is not going to go away, unless we all take action to understand it and know what to do about it.”

SOURCE: <http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/celebrity-life/chris-hemsworth-visits-australian-parliament-house-to-meet-with-julie-bishop-and-tony-abbott/story-fn907478-1227076940930>