



Asia–Pacific Studies Lecture
Fall 2006

Australia and the U.S.: Mates—Past, Present, and Future

The Honorable

Graham Edwards

Member of Parliament, Australia

**Thursday, 5 October
11:00 A.M.
238 HRCB**

In 2004, Graham Edwards was re elected to the seat of Cowan and has taken on the role of Deputy Chair of the Joint House Standing Committee on Defense, Foreign Affairs and Trade and is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Shadow Minister for Defense. Edwards government service has included being a member of the House of Representatives for the Federal Electorate of Cowan; leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and Shadow Minister for Fisheries and Tourism; minister for Police; Emergency Services, the Aged, sport and recreation, youth, and consumer affairs. Prior to his public service, Edwards had been employed by the Commonwealth Public Service as an officer in the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs and the Vietnam Veterans Counseling Service, where his Vietnam war experience was invaluable. He had served in the Army as a member of the Pioneer Platoon, 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and lost both legs in a land mine blast while serving in Vietnam. A tireless advocate for disadvantaged people and those with disabilities, Edwards was chairman of a task force that produced a key discussion paper on the subject AA Fair Go for People with Disabilities, which led to the passing of equal opportunities legislation for people with disabilities. Born in Kalgoorlie, he was educated at St. Johns Convent, Scarborough; Christian Brothers College, Perth; and Leederville Technical College. Edwards and his wife, Noelene, are the parents of two daughters.