19 May 2026

Dear Members,

Last Friday's visit to Shenzhen was a timely reminder of why proximity to the Greater Bay Area is one of Hong Kong's most powerful advantages. We were proud to lead our largest delegation to date, with more than 50 participants joining alongside members of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. The scale of participation sends a clear message: our community is ready to engage more deeply with the region.

Our visits to **BYD** and **BGI** were standout moments. Seeing the speed of innovation across electric vehicles, battery technology and genomics firsthand shifts the conversation from theory to reality. The ambition, scale and openness of engagement were striking. When Australian businesses step directly into the GBA ecosystem, the opportunity is not abstract, it is immediate.

That same momentum is evident in Hong Kong's capital markets. Hong Kong entered 2026 as the number one IPO market globally, raising US$13.3 billion in Q1 alone, more than double the second-ranked exchange and the city's second strongest first quarter on record. Total equity capital raised reached US$30.6 billion, the strongest start to a year since 2021. Performance has been solid, with healthy aftermarket gains and strong participation from global investors including BlackRock, Fidelity International, Temasek, UBS GAM and ADIA. Around 75% of larger IPOs attracted international cornerstone support.

AI has been a defining theme. Listings by Minimax and Zhipu, part of China's "Six AI Tigers," underscore Hong Kong's role in backing next-generation technology leaders. Consumer, healthcare, and resources companies have also been active, and A-to-H listings continue to reinforce Hong Kong's unique bridge between Mainland and international capital. The forward pipeline remains strong, supported by regulatory initiatives aimed at enhancing competitiveness while maintaining standards.

For Australian businesses across technology, resources, financial services and healthcare, the alignment is clear: capital, connectivity and regional growth are converging in Hong Kong.

This was reinforced last week at the Asia Summit on Global Health. Australian companies Heidi, Jianai and NEXSEN Limited each signed Memoranda of Understanding with Hong Kong partners including EC Healthcare, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, IHH Healthcare North Asia and the AI Evaluation Laboratory of HKU Business School.

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The signings were witnessed by the **Australian Ambassador to China, H.E. Mr Scott Dewar**, underscoring the importance of deeper Australia–Hong Kong cooperation in innovation-driven sectors. These agreements span clinical collaboration, AI-enabled healthcare and research partnerships, demonstrating how Australian capability in digital health and life sciences can connect directly with Hong Kong's capital markets and institutional networks.

As always, the Chamber is here to help members stay informed, connected and well positioned in this evolving environment. Our committees remain the engine room of that engagement, bringing together leaders and emerging talent across sectors to exchange insights, build relationships and create practical outcomes.

In particular, we look forward to seeing many of you at tonight's **Women in Business Network** event, ***Women and Wealth: Our Relationship with Money***. It promises a thoughtful and practical discussion on financial confidence, life-stage planning and wealth perspectives, grounded in real experience.

We also encourage our younger members (and those young at heart) to join the upcoming **Aussie x Brit Mixer: Y-Network Sips & Synergies**, where **AustCham Young Professionals** and BritCham come together for cross-chamber networking and fresh connections across the Australia–Hong Kong business community.

These are exactly the kinds of forums that make our committee structure so valuable. I encourage you to stay engaged, participate actively and make the most of the breadth of expertise across the AustCham network.

Warm regards,
Mary Simpson, AustCham Hong Kong Chief Executive

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