HSC

Human Security Centre

Advisory Board Member

John Hayes ONZM MP

John Hayes ONZM MP is the Member of Parliament for Wairarapa in the New Zealand Parliament, representing the New Zealand National Party.

Hayes initially worked as an agricultural economist, before joining the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Within the New Zealand Foreign Service, he served as Representative to Singapore, India, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. He then served as New Zealand's High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea (1989-1993) and Ambassador to Iran (1993-1995). He also served as Principal Private Secretary to the Minister of Overseas Trade, Mike Moore.

As High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Hayes played an active role alongside Don McKinnon, the former New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, during the Bougainville conflict in the 1990s. He was involved in negotiations for setting up peace-talks by visiting leaders of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) and of its affiliate the Bougainville Interim Government (BIG). One such meeting saw Hayes' helicopter shot down. He was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in recognition of his services to the Bougainville peace process.

Within Parliament, Hayes currently serves as Parliamentary Private Secretary for Foreign Affairs, reporting to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Murray McCully. He also serves as Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee and a member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. Formerly, he has served as a member of the Government Administration Committee and the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee (where he also served as Chairperson).

Outside of Parliament, Hayes is a trustee of the We The Peoples Foundation and the Bridget Nicholls Trust, Chairperson of the Chartwell School Board, and has also served as a Director of the New Zealand Export Import Corporation.