

Introduction

Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report contains advice to Parliament on the review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of three treaty actions tabled in Parliament on 12 March and 13 May 2009. These treaty actions are:
- the *Agreement on Employment of the Spouses and Dependants of Diplomatic and Consular Personnel between Australia and the Portuguese Republic (Lisbon, 6 February 2009)*;¹
 - the *Agreement between Australia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam concerning the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (Canberra, 13 October 2008)*;² and
 - the *Convention on Cluster Munitions (Dublin, 30 May 2008)*.³
- 1.2 The report refers frequently to the National Interest Analysis (NIA) prepared for each proposed treaty action. These documents were prepared by the Government agencies responsible for the administration of Australia's responsibilities under each treaty. Copies of each treaty text and its associated NIA may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:

1 Australia, House of Representatives 2008-09, *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 89, p. 1011; Australia, Senate 2008-09, *Journal*, No. 68, p. 1925.

2 Australia, House of Representatives 2008-09, *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 89, p. 1011; Australia, Senate 2008-09, *Journal*, No. 68, p. 1925.

3 Australia, House of Representatives 2008-09, *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 83, p. 931; Australia, Senate 2008-09, *Journal*, No. 64, p. 1731.

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/13may2009/tor.htm

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/12march2009/tor.htm

- 1.3 Copies of each treaty action and the NIAs may also be obtained from the Australian Treaties Library maintained on the internet by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Australian Treaties Library is accessible through the Committee's website or directly at:
www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/

Conduct of the Committee's Review

- 1.4 The reviews contained in this report were advertised in the national press and on the Committee's website.⁴ Invitations to lodge submissions were also sent to all State Premiers, Chief Ministers, Presiding Officers of parliaments and to individuals who have expressed an interest in being kept informed of proposed treaty actions. Submissions received and their authors are listed at Appendix A.
- 1.5 The Committee also received evidence at public hearings held on 15 and 22 June 2009 in Canberra. A list of witnesses who appeared at the public hearings is at Appendix B. Transcripts of evidence from public hearings may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:
www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/12march2009/hearings.htm
www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/13may2009/hearings.htm

4 The Committee's reviews of the proposed treaty actions were advertised in *The Australian* on 18 March and 27 May 2009. Members of the public were advised on how to obtain relevant information both in the advertisement and via the Committee's website, and invited to submit their views to the Committee.