

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION NO. 1.1

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

Public Hearing. February 2, 2011.

Treaty Text: Exchange of Letters Constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand to amend Article 3 of the Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA), (Canberra 28 March 1983)

Oxfam Australia response to question taken on notice:

Question:

Senator Stone asked why the Oxfam Australia submission to in relation to the Rules of Origin requirements of the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA) referred to a difficulty in quantifying exports from Samoa to Australia which qualify for special treatment under the SPARTECA.

See Page 11 of the Hearing transcript.

<http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/joint/commtee/J13471.pdf>

Answer:

The overwhelming majority of exports from Samoa to Australia are from a single manufacturing plant, owned by Yazaki Samoa, which exports wire harnesses used in the manufacturing of cars in Australia.

In the period from 1996-2004, it became increasingly difficult to assess Samoa's exports to Australia as a number of exports were re-classified as 'confidential'. In 1996, electrical machinery, equipment and parts (HS-85) constituted two thirds of Australian imports from Samoa. From 2002 to 2004 however the bulk of Samoan imports to Australia were re-classified as combined confidential (HS-99).

The difficulty quantifying Samoa's exports to Australia may arise in part because the Australian Bureau of Statistics restricts the release of statistics where the imports or exports of an individual or a business are identifiable and that individual or business has requested that the details relating to the movement of these goods be suppressed.

For further information see this OECD Report into Australia's preferential tariff regime: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/28/11/36727558.pdf>