



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Human Rights Sub-Committee

NEW INQUIRY

Australia's human rights dialogue process

Federal Parliament's Human Rights Sub-Committee, of the Joint Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, is to conduct an inquiry into Australia's human rights dialogue process.

In 1997, the Australian Government initiated a high level bilateral dialogue on human rights with China. Similar formal talks commenced with Vietnam in May 2002 and with Iran in December 2002.

The aim of the dialogues is to hold frank and constructive discussions to demonstrate the commitment of both countries to the talks and the overall strength of their bilateral ties with Australia.

The Committee, chaired by Senator Marise Payne, will inquire into and report on Australia's human rights dialogue process, with particular reference to:

- parliamentary participation and oversight;
- involvement of non-government organisations;
- the roles and obligations of participating agencies;
- reporting requirements and mechanisms; and
- the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.

The Committee invites public submissions addressing the terms of reference for this inquiry. The Committee encourages the lodgement of electronic submissions from anyone with an interest in the issues raised by these terms of reference.

For media inquiries, contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Senator Marise Payne, on 02 9893 5151 or via 0405 255 010 (Adam Joseph).

For all other inquiries, contact the Sub-Committee Secretary, on 02 6277 4466 or visit the committee website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt