



# Treaties Committee supports Prisoner Exchange Agreement with Cambodia

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee has given the green light for Australia to ratify a prisoner exchange agreement with Cambodia.

In an unusual step, the Committee has tabled a short report well before its scheduled reporting date in order to facilitate the swift entry into force of the Agreement.

"The Committee has taken the slightly unusual step of tabling this short report to allow the other domestic requirements for the Agreement's entry into force to be completed as quickly as possible," Committee chair Dr Andrew Southcott said.

"The Committee intends to table a full report at a later date. The Committee thought it was important to ensure that any Australians who would access the provisions of the Agreement once it has entered into force would have the opportunity to do so as soon as possible," Dr Southcott said.

According to evidence received by the Committee, as at 5 December 2006, there are 5 Australians currently serving sentences in Cambodia and 13 Cambodians currently serving sentences in Australia. One of the Australians currently serving a prison sentence in Cambodia is Gordon Vuong, who was 16 when arrested in January 2005 for drug related offences.

Report 82 is available on the Committee's website:

[www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm)

or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

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