



Inquiry into the Arrangements Surrounding Crimes Committed at Sea

The jurisdictional and investigative arrangements surrounding crimes committed at sea is the topic of a new inquiry by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs. The inquiry was referred to the Committee by the Attorney General, the Hon. Nicola Roxon, on 11 September 2012. The Terms of Reference highlight three main **technical and legal areas** that the Committee will investigate. The focus of the inquiry is on crimes against the person. The Committee will pay particular attention to:

- The effectiveness of current arrangements for the investigation and prosecution of alleged offences under the *Crimes at Sea Act 2000* and the Intergovernmental Agreement – Crimes at Sea (16 November 2000)
- The cross jurisdictional issues that face the States, Territories and the Commonwealth, including the overlap of various coronial jurisdictions, and
- If improvements could be made in relation to the reporting, investigation and prosecution of alleged crimes committed at sea.

The Committee invites submissions to the inquiry by **Friday 23 November 2012**. If you require additional time to prepare a submission, please contact the Secretariat by phone **02 6277 2358** or email **spla.reps@aph.gov.au**.

It is anticipated that the Committee will hold public and private hearings during the week beginning Monday 28 January. Further details of the hearings will be made available on the Committee's website.

The Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, noted that 'while Australia has a well-established and comprehensive regime to investigate and prosecute crimes committed on land, the issue is more complex for crimes at sea. The Committee will scrutinise current jurisdictional arrangements with a view to ensuring clarity and coverage'. Mr Perrett added 'the Committee understands that victims of crimes at sea will be important contributors to the inquiry, and special hearings for victims will be held during 2013.'

In addition to submissions addressing the legal and technical aspects of crimes committed at sea, the Committee seeks experiences of victims of crimes at sea and those impacted by crimes committed at sea. If your contribution contains personal experiences, please remove any identifying information from the body of your submission. Please note that the Committee cannot investigate particular cases.

For the full terms of reference and advice on making submissions see the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/crimesatsea or contact the committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 2358**.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0434058200.

For background information, please contact the **Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs**:

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