

Introduction

Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report contains advice to Parliament on the review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of two treaty actions tabled in Parliament on 13 May and 25 June 2009. These treaty actions are:
- the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (New York, 8 December 2005)*;¹ and
 - the *Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters, (The Hague, 15 November 1965)*.²
- 1.2 One of the powers of the Committee set out in its resolution of appointment is to inquire into and report on matters arising from treaties and related National Interest Analyses (NIAs) presented. This report deals with inquiries conducted under this power, and consequently the report refers frequently to the treaties and their associated NIAs. Copies of each treaty and its associated NIA may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:
- www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/13may2009/tor.htm
www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/25june2009/tor.htm

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. 106, p. 1194; Australia, Senate 2008-09, *Journal*, No. 78, p. 2221.

- 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.³ 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 a public hearing on 17 August 2009 in Canberra. A list of witnesses who appeared at the public hearing is at Appendix B. Transcripts of evidence from the public hearing may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:
www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/13may2009/hearings.htm
www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/25june2009/hearings.htm

3 The Committee's reviews of the proposed treaty actions were advertised in *The Australian* on 27 May and 8 July 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.