



JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

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MEDIA RELEASE

**Review of Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement amendments
and other proposed treaties**

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, chaired by Dr Andrew Southcott MP, will on Monday 20 June hold a public hearing to examine amendments to the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement and six other proposed treaties.

Amendments to the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) are the result of a Ministerial Review conducted a year after SAFTA's entry into force. The amendments relate to: the recognition of law degrees; Government procurement; rule of origin certificates; agreement on food standards and horticultural products.

'One of the amendments will recognise law degrees from two more Australian universities, increasing the number to eight under SAFTA. This will allow citizens or permanent residents of Singapore graduating from these universities to have their law degree recognised for practice in Singapore', Dr Southcott said today.

'The Committee will inquire into the proposed SAFTA amendments and also examine the progress of SAFTA after a year of operation with a view to gauging its impact', Dr Southcott said.

The Committee will also hear evidence on six other proposed treaties including: an agreement with the Republic of Korea on energy and mineral resource cooperation; an agreement with the Republic of Singapore concerning the use of Shoalwater Bay Training Area; and a measure to establish a permanent Secretariat for the Antarctic Treaty.

The public hearing will be held in **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra** on **Monday, 20 June 2005** from **10.00 am - 12.30 pm**. A public hearing program is attached.

Further information on the inquiry is available on the Committee's website:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/15march05/index.htm>
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/11may2005/index.htm>

MEDIA CONTACTS

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PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

Monday, 20 June 2005
10.00 am to 12.30 pm
Committee Room 2R1

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| 10.00 am | Singapore - Australia Free Trade Agreement Amendments |
| 10.20 am | Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in the Fields of Energy and Mineral Resources (Canberra, 30 August 2004) |
| 10.40 am | Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Singapore concerning the Use of Shoalwater Bay Training Area and the Use of Associated Facilities in Australia |
| 11.00 am | Mutual Recognition Agreement on Conformity Assessment in Relation to Medicines Good Manufacturing Practice Inspection and Certification between the Government of Australia and the Government of Canada (Canberra, 16 March 2005) |
| 11.20 am | Amendments to Annex III, and additional Annex VI, to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, done at Rotterdam on 10 September 1998 (Geneva, 24 September 2004) |
| 11.40 am | Final Protocol and Partial Revision of the 2001 Radio Regulations, as incorporated in the International Telecommunication Union Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03), done at Geneva on 4 July 2003 |
| 12.00 pm | Measure 1 (2003) Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty, adopted at Madrid, Spain on 20 June 2003, under the Antarctic Treaty, done at Washington on 1 December 1959 |
| 12.30pm | Close |