



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

File Number: 08/1223

19 February 2010

Mr Kelvin Thomson MP  
Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Care of: the Clerk Assistant (Committees)  
House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**Joint Standing Committee on Treaties: Question on Notice**

Dear Chair

On 1 February 2010, you (Mr Kelvin Thomson MP) asked Mr Andrew Byrne, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: *"Looking beyond Lebanon and on a worldwide basis, how many children are abducted from Australia each year? Do you have anything about that?"*.

In answer to your question, the numbers of new child abduction cases over the last three years are:

2009: 33  
2008: 54  
2007: 42.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'A Byrne'.

Andrew Byrne  
Assistant Secretary  
Consular Policy Branch