



# Scientific and technical cooperation Agreement with the United States of America

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, chaired by Andrew Southcott MP, will hold a public hearing in Canberra on Monday 14 August to examine the proposed Agreement between Australia and the United States of America (US) on scientific and technical cooperation.

The Agreement is expected to expand opportunities for mutually determined agency-to-agency collaboration for peaceful purposes, in science and technology between Australia and the US. Activities provided for under the Agreement include but are not limited to: joint research projects, training of scientists and technical experts, visits and exchanges of individual scientists, engineers and other appropriate personnel, exchanges of information on activities, policies, practices, laws and regulations concerning research and development.

“This Agreement will provide protection for Australian researchers when negotiating intellectual property issues in the US market. The Committee will examine the benefits and otherwise of the scientific and technical cooperation Agreement with the US,” Dr Southcott said.

The Committee will also investigate amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Agreement between Australia and Japan on the Japanese Nuclear Fuel Cycle.

The public hearing will be held in **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra on Monday, 14 August 2006 from 10.00 am**. The public hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring Service on Channel 10, radio frequency 98.3MHz and on the Parliament House website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/live/webcast3.asp#>

Further information about the inquiry is available on the Committee’s website: [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/20june2006/tor.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/20june2006/tor.htm) and [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/8august2006/tor.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/8august2006/tor.htm)

**PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM – 10.00 am-12.30 pm, 14 August 2006**

*Venue:* Committee Room 2R1, second floor, Parliament House, Canberra

- 10.00 am Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Mexican States on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments, and protocol
- 10.15 am Agreement relating to Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America
- 10.30 am Amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material**
- 10.50 am Exchange of Notes constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan to replace the Delineated and Recorded Japanese Nuclear Fuel Cycle Program**
- 11.10 am Exchange of Notes constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Singapore to amend Annex 2C and Annex 2D of the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) to ensure compliance with changes to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to come into effect on 1 January 2007, and  
Exchange of Notes constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America to amend Annex 4-A and Annex 5-A of the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA) to ensure compliance with changes to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to come into effect on 1 January 2007
- 11.20 am Exchange of Letters constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand to Amend Article 3 of the Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA)
- 12.00 pm Revision of the International Health Regulations

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