



## Public hearing on changes to extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters

The Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs is conducting a public hearing on the **Extradition and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation Amendment Bill 2011**. The Bill was referred for scrutiny after the Selection Committee, responsible for House programming, deemed that it warranted further scrutiny than allowed for in the Chamber.

The Extradition and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 will amend a number of Acts in relation to extradition and mutual assistance and, in short, is intended to:

- For extradition: address privacy matters, delays, availability of bail, waivers, prosecutions within Australia, consent, the definition of ‘political offence’ as well as requiring Australia to refuse to extradite a person who may be prejudiced by reason of his/her sex or sexual orientation.
- For mutual assistance: increase law enforcement assistance to other countries and streamline these processes and to strengthen protections against providing assistance where there are death penalty or torture concerns.

Committee Chair Graham Perrett MP said, ‘The changes proposed to extradition and mutual assistance have already been the subject of extensive stakeholder consultation during the development of the Bill, and the scrutiny of this Committee provides a further check on the streamlining and safeguards it proposes.’ He added, ‘The Committee has received submissions from concerned parties, and the public hearing is a further opportunity to interrogate the proposed changes.’

### Public hearing schedule

Time: 4 - 6 pm Monday 15 August 2011  
Venue: Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House  
Witnesses: Australian Lawyers Alliance  
Attorney-General’s Department  
Australian Federal Police

**For media comment**, contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0408 883 312.

**For background information**, contact the Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs on 02 62772358 or go to

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/spla/reports.htm>