



## Treaties Committee supports Agreement with USA on cooperation for homeland security

Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, today (Wednesday 16 August) tabled *Report 76*, which includes a recommendation that Australia ratify the *Agreement with the United States of America on Cooperation in Science and Technology for Homeland/Domestic Security Matters*.

The Agreement establishes a framework to encourage, develop and facilitate bilateral cooperative activities in science and technology to enhance the domestic security capabilities of both nations.

The Agreement complements the Agreement relating to scientific and technical cooperation with the United States, but in addition, provides for the planning and undertaking of cooperative activities in science and technology relating to domestic security. Such activities include, but are not limited to: development of threat and vulnerability analyses, staff exchange, prototype development and any events which have implications for domestic security such as extreme weather, pandemics and countering terrorism.

“The Agreement strengthens Australia’s long-standing relationship with the US in the area of science and technology and enables Australian scientists and counter-terrorism agencies to benefit from collaborative research activities,” Dr Southcott said.

In addition to the above treaty action, *Report 76: Treaties tabled on 28 March 2006 (3) and 10 May 2006* outlines the Committee’s review and recommendations that binding treaty action be taken in relation to five other treaties. These are: an Agreement with Indonesia for cooperation in scientific research and technological development; Amendments to the International Organization for Migration Constitution; the Namibian war graves agreement; a social security agreement with Norway; and amendments to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance Statutes.

Report 76 is available on the Committee’s website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/report.htm>

or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

### MEDIA CONTACTS

<b>Media contact:</b>	<b>John Deller (Dr Southcott’s Office) (mobile)</b>	<b>(02) 6277 4283 0439 802 767</b>
<b>Background:</b>	<b>James Rees (Committee Secretary)</b>	<b>(02) 6277 4642</b>