

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES – REPORT NO.32

Recommendation

"The Committee recommends that the Attorney-General and the Minister for Family and Community Services monitor the operation of the two child and spousal maintenance treaties to ensure that they operate in a fair and reasonable manner, without limiting the rights of custodial parents, non-custodial parents or children; or impeding the contact between non-custodial parents and their children. The monitoring should culminate in a comprehensive review of the operation of the treaties and their impact upon all parties three years after binding action is taken. A copy of the review report should be provided to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties".

Response

The Government welcomes the support by the Committee for accession to the *Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions Relating to Maintenance Obligations* and for the conclusion of the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand on Child and Spousal Maintenance*. The Government accepts the recommendation by the Committee that the operation of the two treaties should be monitored and that their operation and impact should be reviewed after three years. This work will be undertaken jointly by the Attorney-General's Department and the Child Support Agency. A copy of the report on the proposed review will be provided to the Committee.