



17 May/June 03
Submission No: ...17.....

THE CABINET OFFICE
NEW SOUTH WALES

22 JUL 2003

TCO/09963 - IRB

The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Committee Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Bishop

I refer to your recent request for comments in relation to treaties tabled in Parliament on 17 June 2003. NSW makes the following comments:

- *Agreement on Medical Treatment for Temporary Visitors between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway*

NSW has no specific concerns in relation to this Agreement, but is concerned at the impact on States and Territories of Reciprocal Health Care Agreements (RHCAs) in general. NSW is particularly concerned that States and Territories receive no additional funding to cover the cost of health care provided to overseas visitors.

NSW notes that the Commonwealth undertook a review of RHCAs in 2001, including an analysis of the costs and benefits. To assist in the preparation of more detailed advice to JSCOT on future Agreements, NSW would appreciate advice as to the outcome of this review.

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- *Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean*

NSW supports ratification of the Convention. Given the potential impact on commercial, recreational, and fisheries conservation interests, however, NSW considers that implementation of the Convention by the Commonwealth must include multi-lateral consultation on any proposed allocation mechanism for fish stocks.

Further instruments of ratification are required before the Convention will enter into force. It is therefore hoped the Commonwealth will use this period to consult with States and Territories over implementation of the Convention.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these treaties. If your officers have any queries in relation to this advice, they may contact Ms Phaedra Parkins, Senior Policy Officer, Inter-Governmental and Regulatory Reform Branch, on 02 9228 3338.

Yours sincerely



Leigh Sanderson
Acting Director-General