

**Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Public Hearing on 15 June 2009**

**Agreement on Employment of the Spouses and Dependants of Diplomatic and  
Consular Personnel between the Government of Australia and the Portuguese  
Republic**

**Questions taken on Notice**

**1) Are unmarried partners (de facto) accepted in Portugal in terms of accreditation?**

Portugal recognises de facto heterosexual partners. Portugal does not recognise same sex partners.

**2) Have DFAT staff not applied for a posting to Portugal because their dependants were not permitted to work, or because there was no bilateral employment agreement?**

We have no evidence that DFAT staff have not applied for a posting to Portugal. The Department would not necessarily be aware of the reasons for a staff member's decision not to apply for a particular posting. Opportunities to engage in paid employment are certainly a factor that influences DFAT staff member's decision on which posting to apply for.

**3) A list of current agreements and arrangements:**

**Treaties**

There are six bilateral employment treaties (Belgium; Chile; France; Netherlands; Spain and USA); Portugal would make the seventh.

**Arrangements – Non-Treaty**

We currently have 31 less than treaty status bilateral employment arrangements: Brazil; Canada; Croatia; Cyprus; Denmark; Ecuador; Fiji; Germany; Ghana; Greece; Hungary; India; Israel; Kenya; Malta; Mauritius; Mexico; Mongolia; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; PNG; Poland; Samoa; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Sweden; Turkey; UK; Venezuela; Zimbabwe