



Public hearing on the rights of persons with disabilities and the security of information shared between Australia and NATO

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee will hold a public hearing on four treaties including the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and the security of information shared with NATO on Monday 23 February. The four treaties were tabled in parliament on 26 November 2008, 3 December 2008 and 3 February 2009.

The *Optional Protocol* will provide the opportunity for Australians to make a complaint to an expert United Nations Committee about alleged discrimination concerning people living with disabilities, once they have exhausted all domestic legal avenues.

The *Optional Protocol* is intended to demonstrate a country's strong commitment to both promoting the elimination of discrimination against people living with disability and addressing global challenges such as the protection of human rights. The Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations will be giving evidence about this treaty.

The *Agreement between Australia and NATO on the Security of Information* is intended to facilitate greater cooperation between Australia and NATO by setting mandatory standards and procedures for exchanging classified information between the two parties. The Department of Defence will be giving evidence about this treaty.

The *Agreement between Australia and the British Virgin Islands for the Exchange of Information Relating to Taxes* establishes the legal basis for the exchange of tax information between Australia and the British Virgin Islands and will help Australia to combat offshore tax evasion.

The *Agreement between Australia and the British Virgin Islands for the Allocation of Taxing Rights with Respect to Certain Income of Individuals* provides for the allocation of taxing rights between Australia and the British Virgin Islands to help prevent double taxation. Representatives from Treasury will be giving evidence about these two taxation treaties.

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

10.00 am – 11.20 am, Monday, 23 February 2009

Venue: Committee Room 1R6, 1st floor, Parliament House, Canberra

10:00am	Agreement between Australia and NATO on the Security of Information
10:20am	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
11:00am	Agreement between Australia and the British Virgin Islands for the Exchange of Information Relating to Taxes and the Agreement between Australia and the British Virgin Islands for the Allocation of Taxing Rights with Respect to Certain Income of Individuals

The hearing will be webcast (audio only) live on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Further information is available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/jsct

MEDIA CONTACTS

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