



Australian Government

Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office



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Mr Kelvin Thomson MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
Canberra

SUBMISSION No.86

**Nuclear Non-proliferation and
Disarmament**

Dear Mr Thomson

Inquiry into Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament

On reading the transcripts of JSCOT's recent hearings on this subject, I was concerned to see that Senator Ludlam suggested I had received "an industry promotion award" from the Australian Uranium Association (AUA) (transcript of 25 March, page TR44, and transcript of 26 March, page TR32). The AUA is an industry body, representing the interests of Australian uranium companies. The implication of these suggestions seemed to be that the integrity of my office and my professional integrity had been compromised.


As Mr Angwin, the Executive Director of the AUA, made clear on 26 March (pages TR32-33), the AUA does not give awards, and has not made any award to me.

In fact, last year I received the Annual Award of the Australian Nuclear Association (ANA). The award recognized my "outstanding contributions to progressing safeguards and non-proliferation on behalf of Australia over many years". The ANA is not an industry organisation, it is an independent professional body comprised of individuals with an interest in nuclear topics. The ANA's aims include "to make awards to recognise outstanding contributions to nuclear science and technology, and to support education and training."

I had explained to Senator Ludlam at the Senate Estimates hearings on 23 October 2008 that the award in question was from the Australian Nuclear Association, for my contribution to global non-proliferation and safeguards efforts. The transcript of this discussion in Senate Estimates is posted on Senator Ludlam's web site. As I said to Senator Ludlam at the time, I accepted this award on the basis that I was pleased to see recognition of the importance of nuclear non-proliferation.

The implication of impropriety by a statutory officer is a serious matter. I would appreciate it if you would ensure that the record is set straight with the members of your Committee.

Yours sincerely



John Carlson
Director General