

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Program 1.1

Question No. 116

Senator Hanson-Young asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:

1. Has the Australian Government decided not to ratify the Convention on Migrant Worker Rights? What is the Australian government's current position on this?
2. Has the Government undertaken any analysis of the implications of ratifying the Convention on Migrant Worker Rights for Australian domestic legislation?
3. What is the status of this analysis, has it or will it be publicly released?

The answers to the honourable senator's questions are as follows:

1. Yes. The Australian Government response to the recommendations made to Australia's first Universal Periodic Review, that was provided to the United Human Rights Council on 8 June 2011, stated that the Australian Government views existing protections in place for migrant workers as adequate and does not intend to become a party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
2. The Government has undertaken an analysis of the Convention on Migrant Worker Rights in making the assessment that existing protections in place for migrant workers are adequate.
3. As the Department of Immigration and Citizenship has primary carriage of this matter, this question is more appropriately directed to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.