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30 NOV 2005

BY: *[Signature]*

**SENATOR THE HON. CHRISTOPHER ELLISON**

Minister for Justice and Customs  
Senator for Western Australia  
Manager of Government Business in the Senate

05/17886

Dr Andrew Southcott MP  
Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Southcott

I write in response to the recommendations that the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties made on 17 August 2005 in Report 66 about the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The Attorney-General has referred this matter to me because I have responsibility for the ratification and implementation of UNCAC.

As detailed in the National Interest Analysis, the Australian Government is confident that Australia meets all of UNCAC's mandatory requirements. My Department has consulted with relevant Australian Government departments and agencies and with the States and Territories, and has determined that no new legislation is required. Accordingly, the Australian Government does not intend to use the external affairs power to pass additional legislation to implement UNCAC.

The only domestic change that is necessary to implement UNCAC is to make regulations under the *Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1987* (Cth) and under the *Extradition Act 1988* (Cth). These regulations will give effect to the extradition and mutual assistance obligations in UNCAC.

The Australian Government is completing the final steps that are required for ratification as a matter of high priority and hopes to be able to ratify UNCAC by the end of 2005.

I have provided the Attorney-General with a copy of this letter for his information.

Yours sincerely

**CHRIS ELLISON**  
Senator for Western Australia