

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

Program 1.1

Question No. 54

Senator Trood asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

Regarding the intercountry adoption MOU with Ethiopia:

- a. Was an initial draft taken to Ethiopia for consideration by the Ethiopian government in June 2009?
- b. Have discussions on the contents of the MOU concluded with the state or territory governments?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a. Yes. An early draft Memorandum of Understanding was taken to Ethiopia during a delegation visit in June 2009, to commence informal discussions. The new MOU, when finalised, will replace the outdated 1994 bilateral agreement with Ethiopia for intercountry adoption.
- b. State and Territory Governments have, and will continue to be, consulted on the draft MOU. The draft MOU, which reflects input from State and Territory Governments, will be taken to Ethiopia shortly to commence formal negotiations.