Response to Questions from Senator Abetz.

1. Lee: We've become a member of the International Anti-Death Penalty Alliance, which is promoting the ratification of the optional second protocol on the ICCPR.

Abetz: How many countries are a member of that out of interests?

RESPONSE:

Australia became a member of the international anti-death penalty alliance 'Friends of the Protocol', which promotes ratification of the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in October 2018. Other members are Belgium, Canada, Chile, France, Norway, Spain and Switzerland – 8 countries, including Australia.

2. Lee: And just going back to multilateral, there are a number of resolutions on the death penalty which we have supported historically and will continue to do so.... Similarly in September we co-sponsored the UNHRC's biannual motion... It was adopted with an increased number of votes... and 13 votes against.

Abetz: Can you tell us who those 13 votes were from on notice?

RESPONSE:

The 13 countries that voted against the HRC36 (September 2017) resolution on 'The question of the death penalty' are: Bangladesh; Botswana; Burundi; China; Egypt; Ethiopia; India; Iraq; Japan; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; UAE; and USA.