



## Transferring prisoners and compensating seafarers

The transfer of prisoners and the working conditions of seafarers on ships will be considered by the Treaties Committee at a public hearing on Monday.

The treaty to allow the transfer of prisoners between Australia and India will enable Australians imprisoned in India and Indian citizens imprisoned in Australia to apply to serve the remainder of their sentences in their home country. Australia has similar treaties with China, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Hong Kong. It is also a party to the Council of Europe Convention that allows transfer of prisoners between Australia and 60 other countries.

Since Australia's international transfer of prisoners scheme commenced in 2002, 78 prisoners have transferred from Australia and 22 prisoners have transferred to Australia.

Committee Chair, Mr Angus Taylor MP, said that allowing prisoners to return home to serve out their sentences assists rehabilitation of prisoners by removing language and cultural barriers.

"It is not just the prisoners but their families that suffer when someone is imprisoned overseas. Providing support for family members in these circumstances can often present a substantial financial burden. This treaty will relieve families as well as providing a culturally supportive environment to encourage rehabilitation," he said.

The second treaty deals with amendments to the *Maritime Labour Convention* that will provide financial assistance to seafarers abandoned by ship owners; and provide a compensation scheme in the case of work related long term disability or death.

Mr Taylor said that the amendments will affect about 100 Australian registered ships that are critical to Australia's international and domestic trade and commerce and it is important that the men and women who work on these ships and their families have this type of protection.

**Public Hearing: Monday 9 November 2015,  
Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House Canberra**

**11.10am Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of India concerning Transfer of Sentenced Persons**  
**11.45am Amendments of 2014 to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006**  
**12.20pm Close**

The hearing will be broadcast through: [www.aph.gov.au/live](http://www.aph.gov.au/live)  
Hearing programs, copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at:  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties)  
Alternatively, email [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au) or phone (02) 6277 4002.

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