



RF 2017/4279

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

1 May 2017

University of Adelaide submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties inquiry into the Agreement to Amend the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the current Parliamentary Committee inquiry into the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA).

We acknowledge and commend the initiatives facilitated by that Agreement which will provide greater certainty for Australian lawyers and law firms to operate in Singapore and for such lawyers to practice Singaporean law. We note also the extension of recognition of the JD degrees offered by Australian universities currently listed in SAFTA. These are excellent developments which bring the Australian and Singaporean legal professions closer together. The Adelaide Law School however remains an anomalous omission from the list of recognised providers of law degrees. The Adelaide Law School is the only Group of Eight Law School not included in the SAFTA list (despite having made a number of requests to be included in the list) and seeks an opportunity to be included in any future revisions of the SAFTA list.

The Adelaide Law School is a highly ranked Australian Law School, currently within the top 100 ranked law schools in the world on the QS rankings. It has an ERA ranking of 4 (the highest of any Law School in South Australia) and has produced a number of eminent graduates who have had a significant impact on the law and public life, including Professor John Finnis, Emeritus Professor of Law and Legal Philosophy at Oxford and fellow of the British Academy, and one of the most influential legal philosophers of our time and Professor James Crawford, Whewell Professor of International Law at Cambridge University and current judge of the International Court of Justice. Adelaide Law School has a strong international focus and enjoys a close relationship with Singapore, evidenced through study tours, visiting lectures and professorships, as well as student exchanges. The Adelaide Law School would provide an excellent education for Singaporean graduates and would provide many opportunities of excellence and engagement in both domestic and international educational experiences through its exchange agreements, study tours, internships and clinical opportunities.

Adelaide Law School has a distinguished history and a record of excellence in legal research and education, as well as providing a stimulating and enjoyable place of study. We would therefore value the opportunity to be recognised as a legal education provider in SAFTA.