



Ships and superannuation

Pensions and superannuation and pollution from ships are the focus of a report released late yesterday by the Treaties Committee.

The report examines the Agreement on Social Security between Australia and the Republic of India. This agreement ensures that the responsibility for providing benefits is shared and that people moving between Australia and India to live or work will find it easier to claim benefits including the aged pension and superannuation.

Committee Chair, Wyatt Roy MP, said Australia is a party to 29 such bilateral social security agreements which aim to close gaps in social security coverage for people migrating between two countries.

“In today’s mobile world, it is essential that benefits are portable and that both employers and employees are not disadvantaged. While it is important to make sure that employees receive their full entitlements, employers should not be required to pay compulsory payments in both countries simultaneously.”

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships is the key international treaty addressing the problem of marine pollution from ships. A number of amendments have been made to the treaty to reduce the risks of marine pollution, reduce risks to the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Amendments will introduce a compulsory audit process to ensure compliance with international standards, require stability instruments to be fitted to all oil tankers from January 2016 and streamline the measurement of nitrogen oxide emissions.

The full report is available on the committee’s website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jsct> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

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