



Committee presses Government for action on crimes at sea

The Australian Government should act to protect Australians from crime aboard international cruises, according to the House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs.

In June 2013 the Committee released its *Troubled Waters* report, which made eleven recommendations designed to improve the safety of Australians on international cruises.

The Australian Government's response to the *Troubled Waters* report was released in late 2014 and rejected a number of the Committee's key recommendations.

The Committee has held a second inquiry to consider the Government response. It has found that the Government did not provide adequate reasons for rejecting some of its recommendations, particularly those relating to independent statistics on crimes at sea, and to compulsory crime reporting and response standards for the cruise industry.

Committee Chair Mr George Christensen MP said: 'The Committee is concerned that many of the *Troubled Waters* recommendations were not taken up. We hope that the recommendations in this report will receive deeper consideration'.

The Committee's new report contains three key recommendations:

- The Australian government should collect and publish independent statistics on how often crimes at sea involving Australian citizens occur, so that Australians have an independent source of information on the risks of cruise travel
- The government should act quickly to make sure cruise passengers are given comprehensive safety information before they leave Australian ports, and
- The government should legislate to create minimum standards for the care of victims of crimes at sea, crime scene management and the reporting of crimes at sea involving Australians.

The Committee's report is available at www.aph.gov.au/spla

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr George Christensen MP, on (07) 4944 0622 or (02) 6277 4538.