



Committee receives overdue response to Crimes at Sea inquiry

The Government has presented its response to a landmark inquiry into crimes committed at sea, which was conducted in 2012 and 2013.

The inquiry was conducted by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs, and looked at the arrangements surrounding serious crimes committed at sea. The inquiry focussed on serious crimes against the person, and followed from the coronial inquest into the tragic death of Ms Diane Brimble on a P&O (Carnival Corporation) cruise over ten years ago.

The inquiry made eleven unanimous recommendations aimed at better protecting Australians who take cruises, an urgent priority given the continued strong growth of the Australian cruising market.

The Committee has noted with concern that the Government response to a majority of recommendations was either 'not agreed' or only 'agreed in principle'. The Committee will consider the response in detail over coming months, and will formally reply to the Government in early 2015.

Committee Chair George Christensen MP said 'The Committee is relieved that the Government has now responded to this crucial inquiry. However, Committee members are seriously concerned about the substance of the response. The Committee will consider the response in detail, and will have more to say about this extremely important inquiry in early 2015. This importance of serious Government action in this area is underlined by the recent disappearance of another individual from a cruise ship whilst off Australian waters.'

The inquiry report was tabled in June 2013, and the Government response was due by February 2014.

The Government response has been published on the Committee's website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs

The original inquiry report, *Troubled Waters*, can also be accessed on the Committee's website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=spla/crimes%20at%20sea/report.htm

For media comment – please contact the Chair's office on (07) 4944 0662.
