



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

HUMAN RIGHTS SUB-COMMITTEE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE

Inquiry into organ trafficking and transplant tourism

Issue date: Friday 23 June 2017

DETERRING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN ORGAN TRAFFICKING

The Human Rights Sub-Committee of the [Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade](#) has commenced an inquiry into international human organ trafficking. The inquiry will examine how the Australian legal system deters organ trafficking and what more can be done to prevent this offence from occurring both in Australia and internationally.

In particular, the inquiry will consider the offence of Organ Trafficking under division 271 of the Criminal Code and whether it would be practicable or desirable for:

- this offence to have extraterritorial application; and
- Australia to accede to the 2014 Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs.

Organ transplantation is now widely practiced around the world. Organ shortages are an ongoing constraint to treatment and recovery for many patients experiencing organ failure. These shortages have created a demand for organs that is being exploited by traffickers and through the practice of organ transplant tourism.

Chairman of the Human Rights Sub-Committee, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP said this inquiry will consider how widespread organ trafficking and organ transplant tourism is:

“We will also examine what activities and measures Australia is taking through its work with other partner countries to strengthen regional criminal laws that relate to organ trafficking and transplant tourism,” Mr Andrews said.

The Human Rights Sub-Committee invites submissions from anyone with an interest in the issues raised by these terms of reference. Those interested in providing evidence to the inquiry should note that the majority of the evidence for the inquiry will be provided by submissions, and there will not be an opportunity to appear at a public hearing.

Submissions addressing the terms of reference should be lodged by **Monday 7 August 2017**. Further details about the about the inquiry, including how to contribute, can be obtained from the Committee's [website](#) or by contacting the Committee Secretariat.

Media enquiries:

The Hon Kevin Andrews MP (Menzies, Victoria), Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

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For background:

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