



Transferring prisoners and compensating seafarers

A [report](#) on a treaty between Australia and India which will enable the transfer of prisoners in and out of Australia was tabled yesterday in Parliament.

Australia has similar treaties with China, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Hong Kong and is also a party to the Council of Europe Convention that allows transfer of prisoners between Australia and 64 other countries.

Committee Chair, Mr Angus Taylor MP, said that these agreements play an important role in international crime cooperation. Additionally, the agreements significantly aid the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners and contribute to community safety.

“Allowing prisoners to return home to serve out their sentences removes language and cultural barriers, improving access to support networks. In Australia this may mean access to relevant counselling for drug, alcohol or gambling issues. The agreements also relieve the hardship and financial burden imposed on the families of such prisoners.

“Convictions are recorded in Australia and prisoners released on parole can be effectively monitored and managed,” he said.

The committee report also deals with a treaty on amendments to the *Maritime Labour Convention* that will provide financial assistance to seafarers abandoned by ship owners and provide a compensation scheme in the case of work related long term disability or death.

Mr Taylor said that the amendments will make sure that vulnerable seafarers have appropriate workplace protections in place in the event of abandonment or sickness, injury or death.

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

MEDIA CONTACTS

Media contact: Mr Angus Taylor MP
Background: Committee Secretariat

(02) 4822 2277
(02) 6277 4002