

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 1.3

Question No. 84

Senator Hanson-Young asked the following question at the hearing on 23 February 2009:

In relation to Australia becoming a party to the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture*:

- a) do we have any updates on where the consultation process with states and territories about Australia becoming a party to the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture* is up to, and
- b) do we have more of an idea about a timeframe for a possible outcome?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) On 10 June 2008, the Department wrote to State and Territory Governments seeking submissions. As at March 2009 five submissions have been received: Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory and Norfolk Island.
- b) Timing for Australia becoming a party to the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture* is a matter for government.