

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

Program 1.1

Question No. 49

Senator Trood asked the following question at the hearing on 22 February 2011:

Senator TROOD—Have you identified the kinds of changes which need to be undertaken or made to the [Ethiopian intercountry adoption] 1994 agreement?

Ms Kelly—I understand that is the case, but I do not have any detail on that. We could perhaps come back to you at a later time.

Senator TROOD—Perhaps you would do that and perhaps you could identify for me the areas of the agreement which may need amendment or are under consideration for change. Is that possible?

Ms Kelly—Yes.

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

The changes under consideration are directed to ensuring the 1994 agreement more accurately reflects contemporary practice in relation to the Ethiopia-Australia Intercountry Adoption Program. The areas under consideration for possible amendment include references to the parties to the agreement (the original parties no longer have responsibility for intercountry adoption in their respective countries), the accountability and reporting requirements, inclusion of references to relevant international instruments, and references to development assistance.