SENATE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
OUTPUT 1.2
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Senator Ridgeway asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:

What level of funding and resources does the Department provide to the National Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee?

I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

The Attorney-General's Department provides secretariat support to the National Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (NAJAC) within existing resources. The Department provides funds to cover some of the costs associated with holding up to three NAJAC meetings a year such as venue hire and accommodation and meal allowances for NAJAC members. In the past two financial years, these costs have not exceeded $15,000pa.

SENATE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
OUTPUT 1.2
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Senator Ridgeway asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:

What is the purpose and functions of the NAJAC?

I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

According to its Strategic Plan 2000-2002, the National Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (NAJAC) is an "independent forum that enables members to exchange ideas, discuss best practice models and to work together to achieve qualitative and equitable standards on criminal and social justice issues and legislation as they impact on Indigenous peoples".

NAJAC is an advisory body to Government. It provides advice and recommendations, on request, to relevant ministerial councils such as the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) and the Ministerial Council on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA) on Indigenous justice issues, particularly in regard to the implementation of recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the Outcome Statement of the 1997 Ministerial Summit on Indigenous Deaths in Custody.

SENATE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
OUTPUT 1.2
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Senator Ridgeway asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:

What funding and resources has the Department made available to the review of the National Indigenous Justice Strategy (NIJS) that it is undertaking?

I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

The Attorney-General's Department is undertaking a revision of the National Indigenous Justice Strategy (NIJS) within existing resources.

A number of departmental officers are involved in the revision and contribute at various points in the revision process. The Department has estimated that the salary dollars for departmental staff involved in the revision is approximately $42,500.

SENATE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
OUTPUT 1.2
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Senator Ridgeway asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:

What role will the NAJAC have in the Government's review of the NIJS?

I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

The Government will consult with the National Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (NAJAC) on the revision of the National Indigenous Justice Strategy.

FAMILY LAW (HAGUE CONVENTION ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION) REGULATIONS 1998
Schedule 2 Convention countries

(paragraph 4(a))

Country	**Date**
Andorra	1 December 1998
Austria	1 September 1999
Brazil	1 July 1999
Burkina Faso	1 December 1998
Burundi	1 February 1999
Canada — in relation only to the following provinces:	
(a) Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and the Yukon Territory	1 December 1998
(b) Northwest Territories	1 April 2000
(c) Nova Scotia (d) Ontario	1 October 1999 1 December

	1999
Chile	1 November 1999
Colombia	1 December 1998
Costa Rica	1 December 1998
Cyprus	1 December 1998
Czech Republic	1 June 2000
Denmark	1 December 1998
Ecuador	1 December 1998
El Salvador	1 March 1999
Finland	1 December 1998
France	1 December 1998
Georgia	1 August 1999
Iceland	15 August 2000

Israel	1 June 1999
Italy	1 May 2000
Lithuania	1 December 1998
Mauritius	1 January 1999
Mexico	1 December 1998
Moldova	1 December 1998
Monaco	1 October 1999
Mongolia	30 November 2000
Netherlands	1 December 1998
New Zealand	1 January 1999
Norway	1 December 1998
Panama	1 January 2000

Paraguay	1 December 1998
Peru	1 December 1998
Philippines	1 December 1998
Poland	1 December 1998
Romania	1 December 1998
Spain	1 December 1998
Sri Lanka	1 December 1998
Sweden	1 December 1998
Venezuela	1 December 1998

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SENATE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
OUTPUT 1.3
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Senator Harradine asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:

Please provide a list of countries with which Australia currently has an intercountry adoption agreement.

I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

Australia is a signatory to the Hague *Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption* (the Convention). Under the Convention arrangements for adoption can be made between Australia and each of the 48 other countries which have completed the process of ratification or accession to the Convention. In practice, the majority of these countries are 'destination' rather than 'source' countries. I have attached a list of Convention Countries from the Permanent Bureau at the Hague.

Under the Convention it is not necessary for there to be a further agreement before adoptions between Convention countries can occur. In these countries once an applicant has been assessed as suitable by the Australian authorities, the application can be forwarded to the Central Authority of the source country. Under these arrangements the State and Territory Central Authorities have sent applications to the following source countries:

- Sri Lanka
- Philippines
- Colombia
- Mexico
- Chile.

Some Convention countries, however, require a further working agreement. Australia has such an agreement with Lithuania and is in the process of negotiating such an agreement with Bolivia and Ecuador.

Australia also has a number of programmes which were established under bilateral agreements prior to Australia becoming a signatory to the Convention. Some of these agreements are formal written agreements and some are not. The countries with which we have bilateral agreements are:

- Ethiopia
- Korea
- India
- Thailand
- Fiji
- Taiwan
- Guatemala
- Mauritius
- Hong Kong
- China.

Of the countries listed above, India, Thailand and Guatemala have each indicated their intention to join the Hague Convention in the future.

SENATE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
OUTPUT 1.3
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Senator Harradine asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:

Is the Department trying to facilitate intercountry adoption with any other countries?

I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

The States and the Commonwealth have agreed that new programmes will only be developed with countries which have ratified or acceded to the Convention.

Australia is not facilitating adoptions with countries other than those with which we have an existing agreement or which are parties to the Convention.

SENATE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
OUTPUT 1.3
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Senator Harradine asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:

Please provide a list of countries with which Australia has had an intercountry adoption agreement but does not currently.

I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

The Department is only able to answer this question from the time that it assumed some responsibility for intercountry adoption on 1 December 1998. Since that time no agreements have been terminated.

SENATE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
OUTPUT 1.3
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Senator Harradine asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:

What are the reasons Australia no longer has agreements with these countries?

I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

See answer to Question 92

Country of origin	1988–89	1989–90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Bolivia	—	5	6	1	—	1	—
Brazil	3	6	10	10	7	7	3
Cambodia	—	1	10	—	—	1	1
Chile	10	5	8	9	15	6	4
China	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colombia	6	15	5	15	26	22	16
Ethiopia	—	—	1	—	—	3	—
Fiji	4	18	11	14	6	7	6
Guatemala	—	—	2	1	3	—	11
Hong Kong	4	7	11	6	5	8	—
India	29	33	41	41	20	22	29
Korea	236	235	203	106	50	64	71
Mauritius	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Middle East	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Not stated	36	23	—	—	—	—	—
Oceania	1	1	—	1	1	1	1
Other Africa	0	4	1	1	1	—	2
Other Americas	5	3	1	6	7	2	3
Other Asia	1	3	5	—	—	3	1
Other Europe	5	1	5	5	2	2	—
Phillipines	13	31	30	37	17	14	22
Poland	—	1	—	4	1	—	4
Romania	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Sri Lanka	34	17	24	43	38	33	18
Taiwan	2	1	4	2	6	6	3
Thailand	2	10	15	34	22	20	25
Tonga	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uganda	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	394	420	393	338	227	222	224

1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001–02	Total
3	3	5	3	5	6	3	41
6	3	—	—	—	—	—	55
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	14
7	2	2	—	—	3	—	71
3	1	—	—	1	15	39	59
40	23	14	11	17	15	9	234
5	16	37	34	46	37	36	215
13	5	18	12	5	3	5	127
6	7	7	6	2	3	6	54
8	2	1	6	3	3	10	74
20	35	28	30	37	40	40	445
94	84	69	70	77	75	93	1527
—	—	—	—	29	—	—	33
1	—	—	1	1	1	—	6
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59
—	—	—	1	—	—	—	7
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
—	—	2	—	1	1	—	31
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
—	5	—	1	1	2	—	29
22	27	19	14	—	18	12	276
2	3	1	2	2	—	—	20
—	5	5	17	36	22	2	90
14	9	3	5	3	4	3	248
10	4	8	6	2	6	6	66
18	34	26	25	33	35	28	327
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
274	269	245	244	301	289	294	4134