

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

Program 1.2

Question No. 58

Senator Ludlam asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

- a) Is the 2007 election commitment to close the immunity gap for suspected war criminals still a priority of the government?
- b) What steps have been made since November 2007?

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

- a) The Government is committed to meeting Australia's international obligations and ensuring that Australia is not a safe haven for war criminals. The Government supports the detection, investigation and prosecution of accused war criminals in accordance with Australia's legislation and international obligations.
- b) Australia has an established framework for protecting the Australian community from the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide and for ensuring that they are brought to justice. This framework is based on three pillars: border security, domestic investigation and prosecution and international crime cooperation.

The Department is considering options to further strengthen this framework.