



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE SCRAFTON EVIDENCE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Telephone: 02 6277 3527
Facsimile: 02 6277 3830
Email: scrafton.sen@aph.gov.au
Website: www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/scrafton_ctte

1 September 2004

MEDIA RELEASE

The Senate Select Committee on the Scrafton Evidence today held a public hearing into its inquiry at Parliament House, Canberra. It took evidence from Mr Michael Scrafton, retired Major General Roger Powell and Commander Michael Noonan. After the hearing the Committee met in private to consider the direction of the inquiry and whether further hearings would be held.

“In light of today's evidence, the Committee has decided to invite four further witnesses to give evidence at a public hearing to be scheduled after the Federal election” said Labor Senator Robert Ray, the inquiry chair. “The Committee agreed that the identity of those witnesses will remain confidential until the election has run its course.”

Senator Ray said that today's hearing had been important in providing the opportunity for additional information to be put on the public record concerning the conversations former ministerial staffer, Mr Scrafton, had had with the Prime Minister, Mr Howard, about the ‘children overboard’ affair on 7 November 2001.

The Committee is to report its findings by 24 November 2004.

A proof (ie. subject to verification) transcript of today's hearing will be loaded on the parliament website this evening. The transcript and other information about the inquiry is available at www.aph.gov.au and from the Committee Secretariat on 02 62773527.