

Your Ref:

Quote in reply: International Law and Relations Committee: 21000325/96

17 February 2012

UN and Commonwealth Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
RG Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
BARTON ACT 0221

By Post and Email to: CHOGM@dfat.gov.au

Dear Section

CHARTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the creation of the Charter of the Commonwealth. This response has been compiled with the assistance of our International Law and Relations Committee.

Firstly, it is important for all nations of the Commonwealth to become party to the major human rights instruments. In this regard we also consider that Australia should become a signatory to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Additionally, Australia should consider reviewing reservations under its current treaty obligations. In conclusion we consider that it is essential that Australia takes steps to incorporate treaty provisions into domestic law.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Policy Solicitor, Ms Binari De Saram on (07) 3842 5885 or b.desaram@qls.com.au or our Policy Solicitor, Ms Raylene D'Cruz on (07) 3842 5884 or r.dacruz@qls.com.au.

Yours faithfully

Dr John de Groot
President