Minister for Home Affairs Minister for Justice

10/34975

Bill Rowlings Civil Liberties Australia PO Box 7438

FISHER ACT 2611

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Dear Mr Rowlings

Thank you for Civil Liberties Australia's submission on the exposure draft of the *Extradition* and *Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation Amendment Bill 2011* (the Bill) which was released for public comment in January of this year. I am pleased to inform you that the Bill has now been introduced into Parliament.

As you are aware, the Bill was first released for public consultation in July 2009. Several significant changes were made to the Bill as a result of the feedback received during this consultation process and it was decided to release the amended Bill for a further period of consultation commencing in January 2011.

A number of submissions were received in this second round of consultation, including comments from Government agencies, State and Territory Governments, industry bodies and the general public. Submissions were generally supportive of the amendments the Government made to the draft Bill in response to concerns and issues raised following the release of the first exposure draft.

Your submission suggests the Government consider incorporating recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties in its consideration of the Treaty on Extradition between Australia and the State of the United Emirates in *Report 91: Treaties tables on 12 March 2008*.

As part of the Government Response to the Report the Government has agreed to include additional information on persons extradited from Australia in the Annual Reports of the Attorney-General's Department, including information on:

- a) extradition requests granted by Australia and the categories of the relevant offences by reference to the countries which made the request
- b) the number of Australian permanent residents extradited, and
- any breaches of substantive obligations under bilateral extradition agreements noted by Australian authorities.

The Attorney-General's Department also informs the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) whenever an Australian citizen or permanent resident is extradited and also informs them of the terms of the extradition and any special conditions applying to the case. DFAT monitors all extradited Australian citizens and permanent residents through the consular network, to the extent that this is practically and legally possible.

I trust this information is of assistance and thank you again for your submission.

Yours sincerely

Brendan O'Connor