



Hon. Robert McClelland MP
Attorney-General

MEDIA RELEASE

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DIALOGUE WITH JAPAN ON INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

Attorney-General Robert McClelland today met with Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Ikuo Yamahana in Canberra to discuss Japan's ratification of the *Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*, known as the Hague Convention.

Mr Yamahana arranged to meet with the Attorney-General to hear first-hand about Australia's experiences in implementing Convention, which provides a strong mechanism to resolve international parental abduction cases between countries.

"Australia strongly supports Japan's decision to ratify the Hague Convention on international child abduction," Mr McClelland.

"The Hague Convention facilitates the return of abducted children to their country of habitual residence so that issues of residence and contact can be resolved by the courts of that country.

"Japan's decision to proceed with preparations for ratifying the Convention will lead to a stronger process to resolve international parental abduction cases with Japan and affecting Australian citizens – and vice versa."

Mr Yamahana requested Australia's continued assistance as Japan prepares to ratify the Hague Convention and to openly share its experiences on child abduction.

Mr McClelland said Australia would continue to work with Japan on the sensitive issue of parental abduction of children and as it moved forward towards implementing the Convention.

"The Australian Government is committed to doing everything it can to ensure the return to Australia of children who are wrongfully removed to or retained in another country," he said.

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