MEDIA RELEASE

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ACCESSION TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON CYBERCRIME

Attorney-General Robert McClelland and Minister for Foreign Affairs Kevin Rudd today welcomed the finding by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties supporting Australia’s accession to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime.

The Committee’s recommendation was tabled in Parliament today, which acknowledged: “... cybercrime constitutes a growing threat in a century where computer-based networks have become the most vital and innovative means of communicating and doing business.”

“This recommendation is an important step towards Australia acceding to the Convention, which will enhance international cooperation whilst providing Australian agencies with necessary tools to combat cyber crime,” Mr McClelland said.

“The Convention serves as a guide for nations developing comprehensive national legislation on cybercrime.

“It criminalises certain types of conduct committed via computer networks and contains a series of powers and procedures such as the search of computer networks and interception.

“While Australian law substantially complies with the obligations in the Convention, there is more we can do to ensure Australia is in the best position to address the range of cyber threats that confront us, both domestically and internationally.”

Mr Rudd noted the Convention is the first international treaty on crimes committed via the Internet and other computer networks, dealing particularly with computer-related fraud, child pornography and violations of network security.

“Australian accession to the Convention is a key part of international efforts to prevent, investigate and prosecute perpetrators of cyber crime through strengthened cooperation.

“Cyber crime knows no national boundaries, so it’s critical the international community works together to combat the threat.

“Australia will continue to work with the international community to develop appropriate measures to address this current and emerging threat.”

The Committee’s recommendations are available here:

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