



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE SCRAFTON EVIDENCE

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Senate Select Committee on the Scrafton Evidence met for the first time in Canberra late yesterday evening (30 August). The Committee met in private to plan the progress of the inquiry and to adopt appropriate procedures for its implementation.

“The Committee is keen to expedite the inquiry, and has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday 1 September” said Labor Senator Robert Ray, the inquiry chair. “The Committee will be inviting witnesses who are well placed to know details relevant to the matters under investigation to provide written submissions and appear in person at the hearing.”

The Select Committee's terms of reference direct it to inquire into matters arising from the public statements made by former ministerial staffer, Mr Mike Scrafton, about the conversations he had with the Prime Minister, Mr Howard, about the ‘children overboard’ affair on 7 November 2001 and the implications of these statements for the findings of the Select Committee on a Certain Maritime Incident. The Committee is to report its findings by 24 November 2004.

The Select Committee's members comprise ALP Senators Ray and John Faulkner, Government Senators George Brandis and Alan Ferguson and Australian Democrats Senator Andrew Bartlett. Senators Bartlett, Brandis, Faulkner and Ferguson were members of the former Select Committee on a Certain Maritime Incident.

Information about the inquiry is available on the parliament website www.aph.gov.au and from the Committee Secretariat on 02 62773527.