



**ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
THE HON PHILIP RUDDOCK MP**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION TALKS WITH INDONESIA**

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock has encouraged Indonesia to consider developing a bilateral agreement with Australia that would establish a framework for handling parental child abduction disputes.

Mr Ruddock raised the prospect of such an agreement with the Indonesian Minister for Law and Human Rights, Dr Hamid Awaluddin, in Jakarta today.

"Dr Awaluddin and I talked about providing a basis for a consultative structure for dealing with cross-border child welfare issues," Mr Ruddock said.

"Child abduction can have a devastating effect on families. Parents who wrongfully remove their child to another country ultimately leave the child wounded."

The Attorney-General said he hoped legal arrangements could be put in place to handle international child abduction issues across the Asia-Pacific region.

"I am committed to establishing mechanisms that can assist parents who are seeking the return of their children from another country," Mr Ruddock said.

"My discussions with Dr Awaluddin will hopefully increase awareness about this important issue within the entire region."

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction provides an international framework for dealing with child abduction issues.

Australia also has a bilateral arrangement with Egypt, which has decided not to accede to the Convention. A similar agreement is being negotiated with Lebanon.

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