

Thanks
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 31 January 2022 7:28 AM
To: s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au
Cc: Kate Logan <Kate.Logan@dfat.gov.au>; HK Yu <HK.Yu@dfat.gov.au>; Greg Wilcock <Greg.Wilcock@dfat.gov.au>;
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Jenny Dee <Jenny.Deed@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Martin Walker
<Martin.Walker@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Consular: Japan child custody: Parent outreach sessions [REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 29 January 2022 12:47 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Kate Logan <Kate.Logan@dfat.gov.au>; HK Yu <HK.Yu@dfat.gov.au>; Greg Wilcock <Greg.Wilcock@dfat.gov.au>;
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Jenny Dee <Jenny.Dee@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>;
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Martin Walker

████████████████████

s 47C(1), s 47E(d)

s 47F(1)

Mobile: s 47F(1)

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s 47C(1)

3 of 117

s 47C(1)

s 47C(1), s 47E(d), s 47F(1)

Happy to discuss further if you would like.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director
 Consular Policy Section
 Consular Communication and Policy Branch
 Consular and Crisis Management Division
 Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 21 January 2022 7:49 PM
To: s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Kate Logan <Kate.Logan@dfat.gov.au>; HK Yu <HK.Yu@dfat.gov.au>; Greg Wilcock <Greg.Wilcock@dfat.gov.au>;
 s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Jenny Dee <Jenny.Dee@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>;
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 <Martin.Walker@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Consular: Japan child custody: Parent outreach sessions [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hello s 47F(1)

Thank you for your response. We are very happy to hold off on the cancellation advice to the parents until clearance from you.

s 47C(1), s 47E(d), s 47F(1)

Please let me know if you would like to discuss further.

Thank you

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director
 Consular Policy Section
 Consular Communication and Policy Branch
 Consular and Crisis Management Division
 Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 21 January 2022 9:43 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Kate Logan <Kate.Logan@dfat.gov.au>; HK Yu <HK.Yu@dfat.gov.au>; Greg Wilcock <Greg.Wilcock@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Jenny Dee <Jenny.Dee@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Consular: Japan child custody: Parent outreach sessions [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47C(1)

While it sounds like a sensible approach to us, we do have a few questions.

1. Will DFAT convey to the families why it is being cancelled?
2. Do you have any advice on how we expect the other families will react?
3. Was it considered to keep holding the group without s 47F(1) ?

Important from our perspective that the individual sessions continue (as you note below).

Many thanks.

s 47F(1)

Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mobile: s 47F(1)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 20 January 2022 5:47 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Kate Logan <Kate.Logan@dfat.gov.au>; HK Yu <HK.Yu@dfat.gov.au>; Greg Wilcock <Greg.Wilcock@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Jenny Dee <Jenny.Dee@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Consular: Japan child custody: Parent outreach sessions [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

Subject: Consular: Japan child custody: Parent outreach sessions [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47F(1)

As you know, DFAT has been holding outreach sessions (18 December 2020 and 23 June 2021) with Australian parents affected by child abduction and custody issues in Japan s 33(a)(iii)

In the June 2021 session, parents were explicitly reminded that the sessions were considered private briefings and that parents should not record or release information provided in them. Despite this, we have today become aware that two video recordings - which include footage of DHOM Tokyo's response to questions from one of the parents, s 47F(1) - from the December 2020 outreach session were posted on [TikTok](#) last week. In addition, an SMH [article](#) in August last year quoted an Embassy official from the June 2021 session saying "This is an issue where certainly Australian ways and Japanese ways do not align".

s 47E(d)

When post sends notice tomorrow cancelling the February session, we will include a broad update on progress made on the issue since the last talks in June (including the AGD-Ministry of Justice talks on the issue on 21 December 2021) knowing that it too may be made public. In lieu of the group session, we will continue to update parents on an individual basis as we discuss their cases.

It is possible that further videos from the first or second session may be released by the parent/s. Readouts of the sessions are in s 47E(d).

s 33(a)(iii)

With NSD, we propose the FM continues to raise Australia's interest in addressing the issue, including in her upcoming bilateral with Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi in the margins of the Quad meeting.

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director
Consular Policy Section
Consular Communication and Policy Branch
Consular and Crisis Management Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

www.dfat.gov.au

Japan Child Custody Issues: Talking Points following cancellation of the parent outreach sessions

Media Talking Points

- I (Minister Payne) remain concerned about the number of Australian-Japanese children subject to parental abduction (both domestic and international) and custody disputes in Japan.
- We consider it important that children at the centre of parental conflict are able to maintain meaningful relationships with both parents, and extended family.
- Australia continues to work sensitively on this issue to encourage Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and focuses on the best interests of the children.
- The Australian Government will continue to communicate with affected parents regarding their individual consular cases and to provide updates on our advocacy work.

Talking Points: to respond to questions from parents or MPs

Why were the outreach sessions cancelled?

- The Australian Government remains concerned about the number of Australian-Japanese children subject to parental abduction and custody disputes in Japan. This remains a priority for the Australian Government and we are committed to working sensitively with Japan on this issue.
- The Australian Government will continue to communicate with affected parents regarding their individual consular cases and to provide updates on our advocacy work when available.
- Our Embassy in Tokyo held periodic private sessions with affected parents to provide update on our advocacy work and to allow parents an opportunity to ask questions.
- Due to privacy considerations of consular clients, as well as in relation to our staff, we are not planning to continue group sessions at this stage.

Why has the Australian Government cut off communication with affected parents?

- The Australian Government continues to communicate with affected parents regarding their individual consular cases and to provide updates on our advocacy work.
- DFAT provides consular assistance to affected Australians in accordance with the Consular Services Charter.

If raised: Is this in response to video recordings being released on social media [TikTok]?

- We take our obligations to protect the privacy of our consular clients, as well as our staff, seriously. Unfortunately, we are unable to achieve this through the group outreach sessions.
- Australia will continue to advocate and engage with Japan on this issue, and provide individual updates to affected parents when available.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

What is the Government doing to assist Mr X/Ms X (whose children have been abducted by their spouse in Japan)?

- Due to privacy, it is not appropriate to comment on individual cases.
- DFAT provides consular assistance to affected Australians in accordance with the Consular Services Charter.
 - We encourage Australians to seek legal advice and representation in Japan.
- The Australian Government is concerned about the number of Australian-Japanese children subject to parental abduction and custody disputes in Japan.
 - We are aware of disputes where parents have been unable to exercise their parental rights under Japanese Law.
 - While these are matters for the Japanese courts, we consider it important that children at the centre of parental conflict are able to maintain meaningful relationships with both parents, and extended family.
- DFAT continues to work sensitively on this issue to encourage Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and focuses on the best interests of the children.
 - The Australian Embassy in Tokyo continues to make representations to Japanese authorities and work with other likeminded embassies in Tokyo.
 - I (Foreign Minister) have raised this matter with my Japanese counterpart (most recently on 9 June 2021 with the then-foreign Minister Motegi).
 - It was raised at officials' level during the inaugural Australia-Japan consular consultations last year (31 March 2021).
 - DFAT continues to work with the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) on a whole-of-government response to this issue
 - : including by sharing information with Japanese authorities on Australian family law and shared parental responsibility arrangements
 - o and most recently in discussions on the issue between AGD and Japan's Ministry of Justice, held in December 2021.

s 33(a)(iii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 33(a)(iii)**Why did Australia sign a significant defence agreement with Japan while our children are still missing?**

- We consider targeted and sustained advocacy on child custody with the Japanese Government and other stakeholders is the best approach to support favourable outcomes for parents
 - and will be more effective in seeking family law reform.
- Australia continues to make representations to Japanese authorities, both through the Australian Embassy in Tokyo and through DFAT in Canberra encouraging Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and respectful of the best interests of children
 - Attorney-General's Department continues to work with the Japanese authorities to resolve Hague Convention cases.
- An Australian parliamentary e-petition (PN2796) on the matter of defence agreements with Japan was referred to me (Minister Payne) in August 2021. A response has been provided and was tabled on 29 November 2021. The response is submitted against the e-petition.
- The signing of the Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan on 6 January 2022 was a significant achievement for Australia and Japan, as it will enhance our already strong defence and bilateral ties with Japan.

If raised: How can we expect to see change within Japan's family law system when the RAA took 7 or 8 years to achieve (which will involve Japan introducing new legislation)

- We are aware of growing calls for change within Japan and the Japanese Government is considering possible reforms of the current family law system.
- We will continue to work with Japan on this issue, including seeking to address domestic family laws to ensure parents are able to have shared access to their children, when it is in the best interests of the child.
 - DFAT continues to work with the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) on a whole-of-government response to this issue
 - including by sharing information with Japanese authorities on Australian family law and shared parental responsibility arrangements
 - most recently in discussions on the issue between AGD and Japan's Ministry of Justice, held on 21 December 2021.

Why won't the Australian Government respond to petitions on this issue?

- An e-petition (PN2796) on this matter was referred to me (Minister Payne) on this matter in August 2021. A response has been provided and was tabled on 29 November 2021. The response is submitted against the e-petition online.

Why doesn't Australia make a public statement on this issue when they do when calling for the resolution of the abduction of Japanese citizens by the DPRK?

- The Australian Government remains concerned about both issues.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

- The Australian Government has consistently spoken out against the North Korean Government for its history of abductions and other human rights abuses, which are among the worst in the world
- State-sponsored abductions by the DPRK and domestic custody disputes between parents are different issues which should be pursued in different ways.
 - Our engagement with Japan on state-sponsored abductions by the DPRK provides us with another avenue to discuss the problems Australians face in Japan with child custody, and that many of the emotions and torment that are felt by Japanese parents of children abducted by the DPRK are shared by Australian and other parents dealing with these custody disputes.
- However, we believe quiet but persistent advocacy on child custody, engaging the Japanese Government constructively and using our strong bilateral relationship with Japan, will be more effective in seeking family law reform.
 - We continue to assess that public statements would not be helpful at this time.

Why doesn't Australia make a public statement on this issue when other countries (such as France, Italy, Lithuania and now the US) are publicly supporting affected parents? Why won't the Australian Ambassador meet with us?

- We believe quiet but persistent advocacy on child custody, engaging the Japanese Government privately and using our strong bilateral relationship with Japan, will be more effective in seeking family law reform.
 - We continue to assess that public statements would not be helpful at this time.
- Our current approach of targeted and sustained advocacy on child custody with the Japanese Government and other stakeholders is the best approach to support outcomes
 - This approach will be more effective in seeking family law reform.
- We appreciate Japan's ongoing and constructive engagement with Australia on this issue.
- Australia continues to make representations to Japanese authorities, both through the Australian Embassy in Tokyo and through DFAT in Canberra to encourage Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and respectful of the best interests of the children.

Why we continue to consider this to be a domestic legal issue and not a violation of human rights?

- We assess that, at this stage, to achieve meaningful progress, we should continue to pursue sensitive, tailored advocacy with Japan
 - We want to avoid approaches that would be counter-productive
- The breakdown of relationships and separation of families is a difficult time for everyone affected. Custody and care arrangements for children following parent separation are governed by the domestic family laws of the relevant legal jurisdiction – usually the country in which the family resides.
- Where parents are unable to agree on custody and care arrangements, they should seek the assistance of lawyers to pursue their case through the relevant family courts.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Background [not for release]

As a longstanding feature of Japanese domestic family law, shared parental authority or alternating custody is not recognised following separation of parents, leaving access to a child solely to the goodwill of the parent with whom the child lives.

s 33(a)(iii), s 47F(1)

On 9 August 2021, Minister Payne received e-petition [EN2796](#) lodged with 151 signatories asking the House to suspend all defence agreements with Japan until child custody and abduction issues were resolved. The petition was submitted by [s 47F\(1\)](#), a parent receiving consular assistance. [s 47F\(1\)](#) is vocal on his views on this issue, including on the Japanese Embassy in Canberra's Facebook page. Minister Payne's response to the petition of 22 October 2021 – which outlined Australia's ongoing actions on this issue (copy of petition and response attached) – was [tabled](#) on the APH website and on the e-petition's website.

Our Embassy in Tokyo previously held periodic talks with Australian affected parents to provide updates on our advocacy and for parents to raise issues and voice their concerns directly. These talks were held virtually on 23 June 2021 and 18 December 2020, both hosted by DHOM Tokyo.

s 47E(d)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

- On 11 January 2022, video recordings of the December 2020 outreach session were used in [TikTok](#) videos. The videos included recordings of DHOM Tokyo and affected parents speaking. Other parents and staff at Post were also visible in the recording – Counsellor (Management) & Consul-General, Counsellor (Political), Second Secretary & Consul, and a locally engaged consular officer.
- On 14 August 2021, the Sydney Morning Herald published an [article](#) on child abduction and custody issues alleging the Japanese Government had organised sessions with Japanese parents in locations around the world advising them how to retain custody of their children following separation. The article included quotes from affected Australian parents [s 47F\(1\)](#) and quoted DFAT officials from the parent outreach session held in June 2021.

The Australian *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) places obligations on how certain Commonwealth agencies manage personal information. The obligations imposed by the Privacy Act do not apply to individuals. Therefore, the covert recording and subsequent disclosure of personal information of affected parents or their children (or Departmental staff) is not prohibited by the Privacy Act.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 31 January 2022 7:10 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc:
Subject: FW: Important Update: Virtual Meeting with Australia's Deputy Ambassador to Japan, Ms HK Yu, Wednesday 9 February 2022 and Future Group Sessions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi all

FYI – we've sent the cancellation to parents.

s 47C(1), s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – Please send to FMO with the finalised talking points. I'll forward your email up to HOM, HK and Greg here for visibility.

With thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Consular Tokyo <Consular.Tokyo@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 January 2022 5:05 PM
Subject: Important Update: Virtual Meeting with Australia's Deputy Ambassador to Japan, Ms HK Yu, Wednesday 9 February 2022 and Future Group Sessions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Australian Parents

We continue to review how best to share information with affected parents on our advocacy efforts on child custody and abduction issues. This issue remains a priority for the Australian Government and we appreciate your engagement to date.

Due to privacy considerations of consular clients, as well as in relation to our staff, we are not planning to continue group sessions at this stage. Instead, we will continue to provide updates on our advocacy with Japan and report significant and important developments to you on an individual basis during individual case updates. We may also consider group emails to advise of noteworthy updates if appropriate.

As such, we will not be proceeding with the planned virtual conference on 9 February 2022.

In lieu of the 9 February 2022 session, I will provide a brief update in this email. As per the group sessions, I remind you this information is to be treated as private for the affected parents only.

We are pleased to advise that on 21 December 2021, the Embassy chaired an introductory virtual call between Australia's Attorney-General's Department (AGD) and Japan's Ministry of Justice (MOJ). This followed a written submission of information about Australia's family law and shared parenting arrangements in July 2021. We hope this is the first meeting in what will be constructive and ongoing engagement on this issue between the two agencies.

The MOJ participants were engaged and keen to understand Australia's practice of shared parental responsibility and our own family law reforms.

MOJ confirmed that the review of the current Japanese system by the Family Law Subcommittee of the Legislative Council was ongoing. We plan to seek further engagement with MOJ, including regular updates on the progress of this review.

Looking forward, we will continue engagement with Japanese Government representatives where appropriate. We are seeking to schedule our next round of annual consular consultations with Japan over the coming months, where we will raise our interests in this issue, along with other important consular matters, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Thank you to those who had already submitted questions for the 9 February session; s 22(1)(a)(ii) will respond to you individually in the coming weeks. Given the interest in citizenship enquiries from parents, we are seeking information from the Department of Home Affairs to share with you in due course.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) continue to be available to discuss your cases individually so please don't hesitate to reach out to when you have updates to provide.

Best regards,

HK Yu PSM | ヘギョン (HK) ・ユ
Minister and Deputy Head of Mission

Australian Embassy Tokyo | オーストラリア大使館

2-1-14 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8361 | 〒108-8361 東京都港区三田2-1-14



follow us @australiainjpn japan.embassy.gov.au



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY TOKYO
在日オーストラリア大使館



*The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.
We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.*

JAPAN: CHILD ABDUCTION AND CUSTODY

ISSUES

- DFAT continues to provide appropriate consular support to affected parents in Japan.
- Concerned by the number of Australian-Japanese children subject to child abduction and custody disputes in Japan.
- Particularly concerned about domestic abduction and custody disputes which fall outside the jurisdiction of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (of which both Japan and Australia are signatories).
- Aware of cases where Australian parents have not had access to their children for some time, irrespective of the legal status of the parents' relationship, often resulting in one parent being unable to exercise their parental rights.
- We consider it important that children at the centre of parental conflict are able to maintain meaningful relationships with both parents, and extended family.
- Reaffirm our deep respect for the legal differences between Japan and Australia, as well as bonds of friendship that unite our two countries.
 - Nevertheless, we will continue to work sensitively with Japan on this issue to find a solution acceptable to all and focusses on the best interests of the children.

What is the Australian Government doing to assist Australian parents facing child abduction and custody issues in Japan?

- DFAT is providing consular assistance to affected Australians in accordance with the Consular Services Charter.
- Important to remember that these are matters for the Japanese courts.
 - We encourage Australians to seek legal advice and representation in Japan.
- Due to privacy, it is not appropriate to comment on individual cases.
- The Australian Government continues to work sensitively on this issue to encourage Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and focuses on the best interests of the children.
 - I (Minister Payne) have raised Australia's interests in this issue with my Japanese counterpart [with **Foreign Minister Hayashi** in

Prepared By:

Name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Branch: Consular Communication and Policy Branch (CIB)

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:

Name: Jenny Dee

Position: AS CIB

Branch/Division: CIB/CCD

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

02 February 2022

QB22-000002

February 2022 [redacted] in June 2021 with the then-Foreign Minister Moteji].

- The Australian Embassy in Tokyo continues to make representations to Japanese authorities and to work with other embassies in Tokyo.
- DFAT continues to work with the Attorney-General's Department on a whole-of-government response to this issue
 - including by sharing information with Japanese authorities on Australian family law and shared parental responsibility arrangements;
 - and in discussions on the issue between AGD and Japan's Ministry of Justice, held in December 2021.
- The issue was raised during our inaugural bilateral consular consultations on 31 March 2021.

How many parents has this affected in the past 10 years? Are case numbers going up/down?

- DFAT has information on how many parents have sought consular assistance, not how many families this has affected in Japan (i.e., there may be affected parents who have not sought consular assistance).
- Since 2004, the Australian Government has provided consular assistance with respect to a total of 77 domestic and international child custody and abduction cases in Japan [Note: this represents 77 individual cases for children].
- In recent years, DFAT has seen an increase in the number of Australian parents contacting our Embassy in Tokyo to report and/or seek assistance in relation to child custody issues in Japan.

Will the Australian Government join international calls for trade and diplomatic sanctions against Japan to assist in the return of abducted children? Why hasn't the Australian Government publicly supported the European Union resolution on this issue?

- We assess our current approach of targeted and sustained advocacy on child custody with the Japanese Government and other stakeholders is the best approach to support favourable outcomes,
 - and will be more effective in seeking family law reform.
- We appreciate Japan's ongoing and constructive engagement with Australia on this issue.
- Australia continues to make representations to Japanese authorities, both through the Australian Embassy in Tokyo and through DFAT in

Prepared By:

Name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Branch: Consular Communication and Policy Branch (CIB)

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:

Name: Jenny Dee

Position: AS CIB

Branch/Division: CIB/CCD

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

02 February 2022

QB22-000002

Canberra encouraging Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and respectful of the best interests of children.

- Attorney-General's Department continues to work with Japanese authorities to resolve Hague Convention cases.
- Australia also continues to liaise with likeminded countries including from the European Union on this issue.
- Quiet but persistent and targeted advocacy on child custody, engaging with the Japanese Government and using our strong bilateral relationship with Japan, will be more effective in seeking family law reform.

Why did Australia sign a significant defence agreement with Japan while Australian children are still missing?

- The signing of the Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan on 6 January 2022 was a significant achievement for Australia and Japan, as it will enhance our already strong defence and bilateral ties with Japan.
- Australia continues to make representations to Japanese authorities, both through the Australian Embassy in Tokyo and through DFAT in Canberra encouraging Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and respectful of the best interests of children.
- We consider targeted and sustained advocacy on child custody with the Japanese Government and other stakeholders is the best approach to support favourable outcomes for parents
 - and will be more effective in seeking family law reform.
- The Australian Government continues to make representations to Japanese authorities encouraging Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and in the best interests of the children
 - Attorney-General's Department continues to work with the Japanese authorities to resolve Hague Convention cases.
- Australia has a range of interests with respect to Japan, as we do with many other countries
 - The Australia-Japan relationship is our closest and most mature in Asia, and is fundamentally important to both countries' strategic and economic interests
 - the Government is continuing to engage with Japan on child custody issues while at the same time seeking to deepen our strategic and trading relationship with Japan in the interests of both countries.

Prepared By:

Name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Branch: Consular Communication and Policy Branch (CIB)

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:

Name: Jenny Dee

Position: AS CIB

Branch/Division: CIB/CCD

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

02 February 2022

QB22-000002

Why has the Australian Government cut off communication with affected parents?

- Due to privacy considerations of consular clients, we are not planning to continue group sessions at this stage.
- However, the Government continues to communicate with affected parents regarding their individual consular cases and to provide updates on our advocacy work.

Japan's Ambassador has objected to Australia's use of the term 'abductions'. Why does Australia continue to use it in this context?

- We are aware of recent media coverage of this issue last year (2021), including Ambassador Yamagami's views on the use of this term [Sydney Morning Herald article on 14 December 2021 with a response by Ambassador Yamagami on 15 December 2021]
- We have reviewed the use of the terminology 'abduction'.
 - The term is appropriate for both the Australian domestic context and is consistent with international legal definitions and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Background

As a longstanding feature of Japanese domestic family law, shared parental authority or alternating custody is not recognised following separation of parents, leaving access to a child solely to the goodwill of the parent with whom the child lives.

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) and the Hague Liaison Judge from the Family Court of Australia have ongoing engagement with Japanese authorities on the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Hague Convention).

Since 2020 there has been an increase in the advocacy by Australian parents facing domestic abduction and custody issues within Japan, which remain a matter for the Japanese courts (and are not covered by the Hague Convention).

s 33(a)(iii)

Government engagement

s 33(a)(iii)

Prepared By:

Name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Branch: Consular Communication and Policy Branch (CIB)

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:

Name: Jenny Dee

Position: AS CIB

Branch/Division: CIB/CCD

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

02 February 2022

QB22-000002

s 33(a)(iii)

AGD has provided information on Australian family law and custody arrangements practices which was shared with the MOJ and the expert working group on 29 July 2021. The Embassy also arranged virtual talks between the MOJ and AGD to further exchange on the information shared on 21 December 2021.

DFAT has strengthened the wording in the Travel Advice for Japan on child custody issues and the Embassy added a page to its website to provide more detailed information for Australian parents in Japan [in December 2020].

s 33(a)(iii)

Prepared By:

Name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Branch: Consular Communication and Policy Branch (CIB)

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:

Name: Jenny Dee

Position: AS CIB

Branch/Division: CIB/CCD

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

02 February 2022

QB22-000002

s 33(a)(iii), s 47F(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

In December 2021, AGD confirmed the term was appropriate in both the Australian domestic context and in relation to cases under the Hague Convention. s 33(a)(iii)

DFAT confirmed Australia's use of the term 'abduction' was appropriate as an internationally recognised term, consistent with international legal definitions and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction international definitions.

Ministerial correspondence

On 18 October 2021, you (Minister Payne) received a letter from Shayne Neumann MP (Member for Blair) regarding the experience of a constituent seeking to access his children in Japan. The constituent is a current consular client and was involved in parent outreach sessions. The constituent submitted the petition (referenced below). Your (Minister Payne's) response was sent on 7 December 2021.

On 9 August 2021, you (Minister Payne) received an e-petition (EN2796) lodged with 151 signatories requesting: *"We therefore ask the House to Suspend all defense [sic] agreements with Japan until Joint custody has been adopted and implemented. Australia should denounce Japan and not align with a country that is actively denying the rights of Australian children and supporting child abuse."* The petition was submitted by s 47F(1), a parent receiving consular assistance. s 47F(1) is vocal on his views on this issue, including on the Japanese Embassy in Canberra's Facebook page. Your (Minister Payne's) response to the petition of 22 October 2021 – which outlined Australia's ongoing actions on this issue – was tabled on the APH website and on the e-petition's website.

s 47F(1) has lodged another e-petition (EN3897) seeking to cease Australia's alliance with Japan. This closed for signature on 9 March 2022 and received four signatures. This has not yet been referred to you (Minister Payne) for response.

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Branch/Division: CIB/CCD
Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Consular Issues: Japan Child Custody Issues

Handling Note: FAS CCD Kate Logan to lead on consular issues. FAS NSD to lead on bilateral issues (noted in questions below)

Questions relating to cases which fall under the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* should be referred to the Attorney-General's Department

Strategic Message

- DFAT is providing consular assistance to 14 Australian affected parents (in respect of 22 children) facing difficulties exercising parental rights in Japan.
- Some domestic abduction and custody disputes fall outside the jurisdiction of the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Hague Convention). Hague Convention matters are managed by AGD.
- Japanese domestic law does not allow for joint custody, and we continue to work sensitively to encourage Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and in the best interests of the children.
- DFAT continues to engage the relevant Japanese agencies on the issue, liaise with other embassies in Tokyo, and maintain contact with affected parents on developments.

What is the Australian Government doing to assist Australian parents facing child abduction and custody issues in Japan?

- The Australian Government is concerned about the number of Australian-Japanese children subject to parental abduction and custody disputes in Japan
 - We are aware of disputes where non-custodial parents in Japan have been unable to exercise their parental rights
 - While these are matters for the Japanese courts, we consider it important that children at the centre of parental dispute are able to maintain meaningful relationships with both parents, and extended family.
- DFAT provides consular assistance to affected Australians in accordance with the Consular Services Charter
 - We encourage Australians to seek legal advice and representation in Japan.
- DFAT continues to work sensitively on this issue to encourage Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and in the best interests of the children.
- We continue to raise Australia's concerns with Japanese authorities
 - In February [12 February 2022], Minister Payne raised Australia's interests in this issue with Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi.
 - The Australian Embassy in Tokyo continues to make representations to Japanese authorities and to work with other embassies in Tokyo.
 - DFAT raised the issue at officials' level during the inaugural Australia-Japan consular consultations last year [31 March 2021].

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- DFAT continues to work with the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) on a whole-of-government response to this issue
 - including by sharing information with Japanese authorities on Australian family law and shared parental responsibility arrangements
 - : including discussions on the issue between AGD and Japan's Ministry of Justice held on 21 December 2021.

What is the Government doing to assist Mr X/Ms X (whose children have been abducted by their spouse in Japan)?

- Due to privacy, it is not appropriate to comment on individual cases.
- DFAT provides consular assistance to affected Australians in accordance with the Consular Services Charter
 - We encourage Australians to seek legal advice and representation in Japan.
- The Australian Government is concerned about the number of Australian-Japanese children subject to parental abduction and custody disputes in Japan
 - We are aware of disputes where parents have been unable to exercise their parental rights under Japanese Law.
 - While these are matters for the Japanese courts, we consider it important that children at the centre of parental dispute are able to maintain meaningful relationships with both parents, and extended family.
- DFAT continues to work sensitively on this issue to encourage Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and which focuses on the best interests of the children.
 - Minister Payne raised this matter with her Japanese counterpart
 - On 12 February 2022 with Foreign Minister Hayashi and
 - On 9 June 2021 with the then-Foreign Minister Motegi.
 - The Australian Embassy in Tokyo continues to make representations to Japanese authorities and work with other likeminded embassies in Tokyo.
 - DFAT raised the issue at officials' level during the inaugural Australia-Japan consular consultations last year (31 March 2021).
 - DFAT continues to work with the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) on a whole-of-government response to this issue
 - : including by sharing information with Japanese authorities on Australian family law and shared parental responsibility arrangements
 - o and in discussions on the issue between AGD and Japan's Ministry of Justice, held in December 2021.

How many parents has this affected in the past 10 years? Are case numbers going up/down?

- DFAT has information on how many parents have sought consular assistance, not how many families this has affected in Japan (i.e., there may be affected parents who have not sought consular assistance).

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- Since 2004, the Australian Government has provided consular assistance with respect to a total of 77 domestic and international child custody and abduction cases in Japan *[Note: this represents 77 individual cases for children]*.
- In recent years, DFAT has seen an increase in the number of Australian parents contacting our Embassy in Tokyo to report and/or seek assistance in relation to child custody issues in Japan

Why were the outreach sessions with affected parents cancelled?

- Our Embassy in Tokyo held periodic private sessions with affected parents to provide updates on our advocacy work and to allow parents an opportunity to ask questions.
- Due to privacy considerations of consular clients, we are not planning to continue group sessions at this stage.
- The Australian Government will continue to communicate with affected parents regarding their individual consular cases and to provide updates on our advocacy work when available.

If raised: Is this in response to video recordings being released on social media [TikTok]?

- We take our obligations to protect the privacy of our consular clients seriously. Unfortunately, we are unable to achieve this through the group outreach sessions.
- Australia will continue to advocate and engage with Japan on this issue and provide individual updates to affected parents when available.

s 33(a)(iii)

Why won't the Australian Government respond to petitions on this issue?

- An e-petition (PN2796) on this matter was referred to Minister Payne on 9 August 2021.
- A response was tabled on 29 November 2021 (see attached).

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Why did Australia sign a significant defence agreement with Japan while our children are still missing?

- We consider targeted and sustained advocacy on child custody with the Japanese Government and other stakeholders is the best approach to support favourable outcomes for parents
 - and will be more effective in seeking family law reform.
- The Australian Government continues to make representations to Japanese authorities encouraging Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and in the best interests of the children
 - Attorney-General's Department continues to work with the Japanese authorities to resolve Hague Convention cases.
- An Australian parliamentary e-petition (PN2796) on the matter of defence agreements with Japan was referred to Minister Payne on 9 August 2021. A response was tabled on 29 November 2021.

FAS NSD lead:

- Australia has a range of interests with respect to Japan, as we do with many other countries
 - The Australia-Japan relationship is our closest and most mature in Asia, and is fundamentally important to both countries' strategic and economic interests
 - the Government is continuing to engage with Japan on child custody issues while at the same time seeking to deepen our strategic and trading relationship with Japan in the interests of both countries.

Why doesn't Australia make a public statement on this issue like when it calls for the resolution of the abduction of Japanese citizens by the DPRK? FAS NSD lead

- The Australian Government remains concerned about both issues.
- The Australian Government has consistently spoken out against the North Korean Government for its history of abductions and other human rights abuses, which are among the worst in the world.
- State-sponsored abductions by the DPRK and domestic custody disputes between parents are different issues which should be pursued in different ways.
- We believe quiet but persistent advocacy on child custody, engaging the Japanese Government constructively and using our strong bilateral relationship with Japan, will be more effective in seeking family law reform.
 - We continue to assess that public statements would not be helpful at this time.

Will the Australian Government join international calls for trade and diplomatic sanctions against Japan to assist in the return of abducted children?

- Our current approach of targeted and sustained advocacy on child custody with the Japanese Government and other stakeholders is the best approach to support favourable outcomes for parents
 - and will be more effective in seeking family law reform.

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- We appreciate Japan's engagement with Australia on this issue.
- Australia continues to make representations to Japanese authorities, both through the Australian Embassy in Tokyo and through DFAT in Canberra to encourage Japan to find a solution acceptable to all and in the best interests of the children.
- AGD continues to work closely with the Japanese authorities to resolve Hague Convention matters, including during discussions on the issue between AGD and Japan's Ministry of Justice, held on 21 December 2021.
- Australia continues to liaise with other embassies in Tokyo – including from the European Union – on this issue.

Why does Australia continue to consider this to be a domestic legal issue and not a violation of human rights?

- This is not an either-or question – the issue is how Japan translates its international human rights obligations into domestic law.
- We assess that, at this stage, to achieve meaningful progress, we should continue to pursue sensitive, tailored advocacy with Japan.
- The breakdown of relationships and separation of families is a difficult time for everyone affected. Custody and care arrangements for children following parent separation are governed by the domestic family laws of the relevant legal jurisdiction – usually the country in which the family resides.
- Where parents are unable to agree on custody and care arrangements, they should seek the assistance of lawyers to pursue their case through the relevant family courts.

Japan's Ambassador has objected to Australia's use of the term 'abductions'. Why does Australia continue to use it in this context?

- We are aware of media coverage of this issue last year (2021), including Ambassador Yamagami's views on the use of this term [*Sydney Morning Herald article on 14 December 2021 with a response by Ambassador Yamagami on 15 December 2021*]
- We have reviewed the use of the terminology 'abduction'.
- The term is appropriate for both the Australian domestic context and is consistent with international legal definitions and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Background

As a longstanding feature of Japanese domestic family law, shared parental authority or alternating custody is not recognised following separation of parents, leaving access to a child to the goodwill of the parent with whom the child lives.

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) has ongoing engagement with Japanese authorities on the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Hague Convention).

Since 2020, there has been an increase in advocacy by Australian parents facing domestic abduction and custody issues within Japan (i.e. outside the Hague Convention), which remain a matter for the Japanese courts.

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s 33(a)(iii)

- On 21 December 2021, the Australian Embassy, Tokyo hosted virtual talks between the MOJ and AGD to explore family law and shared parental responsibility in Australia. This followed AGD sharing written material with MOJ on Australian family law and custody arrangements practices.

s 33(a)(iii), s 47F(1)

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s 33(a)(iii), s 47F(1)

Our Embassy in Tokyo previously held periodic talks with Australian affected parents to provide updates on our advocacy and for parents to raise issues and voice their concerns directly. These talks were held virtually on 23 June 2021 and 18 December 2020, both hosted by DHOM Tokyo. s 47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii), s 47F(1)

On 9 August 2021, Minister Payne received e-petition EN2796 lodged with 151 signatories asking the House to suspend all defence agreements with Japan until child custody and abduction issues were resolved. The petition was submitted by s 47F(1), a parent receiving consular assistance from the Embassy in Tokyo. s 47F(1) is vocal on his views on this issue, including on the Japanese Embassy in Canberra's Facebook page. Minister Payne's response to the petition of 22 October 2021 – which used the term 'abductions' to describe the cases and outlined Australia's ongoing actions on this issue (copy of petition and response attached) – was [tabled](#) on the APH website.

s 47F(1) has lodged another e-petition ([EN3897](#)) seeking to cease Australia's alliance with Japan. This closed for signature on 9 March 2022 and received four signatures. This has not yet been referred to Minister Payne for response.

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s 33(a)(iii)

In December 2021, AGD confirmed the term was appropriate in both the Australian domestic context and in relation to cases under the Hague Convention. s 33(a)(iii)

DFAT confirmed Australia's use of the term 'abduction' was appropriate as an internationally recognised term, consistent with international legal definitions and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction international definitions.

Key Events

Date	Event
s 33(a)(iii)	
16 February 2022	Another video of the same covert recording of the December 2020 parent outreach session was released to TikTok.
s 33(a)(iii)	
31 January 2022	Affected parents were advised of the cancellation of the scheduled February 2022 group outreach session.
11 January 2022	Covert recordings of the December 2020 parent outreach sessions released to TikTok. Discovered by DFAT on 20 January 2022.
21 December 2021	Australian Embassy, Tokyo hosted virtual talks between MOJ and AGD to share further information on Australia's family law and shared parental responsibility arrangements.
s 33(a)(iii)	
22 October 2021	Minister Payne responded to petition EN2796 (attached).
s 33(a)(iii)	

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9 August 2021

Petition EN2796 submitted to the Standing Committee on Positions requesting: *"We therefore ask the House to Suspend all defense [sic] agreements with Japan until Joint custody has been adopted and implemented. Australia should denounce Japan and not align with a country that is actively denying the rights of Australian children and supporting child abuse."*

s 33(a)(iii)

July 2021

French affected father, s 47F(1), undertook a 20-day hunger strike coinciding with the Tokyo Olympics.

23 June 2021

Second outreach session with Australian affected parents, hosted by DHOM Tokyo.

s 33(a)(iii)

18 December 2020

First outreach session with Australian affected parents hosted by DHOM Tokyo.

18 December 2020

Japan travel advice updated with strengthened language on child custody issues. The Embassy added a page to its website to provide more detailed information for Australian parents in Japan.

s 33(a)(iii)

Supporting information

Questions on Notice

Nil

Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

Nil

Recent Ministerial Comments

- The Prime Minister was asked whether he had raised custody issues during his visit to Tokyo in November 2020. In response, the PM said the issues "are very difficult and

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they're very complex and there are different legal systems. And you have to sensitively work our way through those issues".

- On 7 April 2021, Minister Payne responded to written enquiries to Alicia Payne MP, Andrew Wilkie MP (Member for Clark) and Rebekha Sharkie MP (Member for Mayo) who raised custody issues on behalf of their constituents.

Relevant Media Reporting

- On 11 January 2022, video recordings of the December 2020 outreach session were used in TikTok videos. The videos included recordings of DHOM Tokyo and affected parents speaking. A further version of the same video was released on 16 February 2022.
- On 15 December 2021, Japan's Ambassador to Australia, Shingo Yamagami wrote an [opinion piece](#) published by the Sydney Morning seeking to clarify Hague Convention statistics and raising concerns about Australia's use of the term 'abduction' a term reserved in Japan for DPRK state-sponsored abductions - in child custody cases.
- On 14 December 2021, the Sydney Morning Herald published an [article](#) on child abduction and custody issues, which included comment from Ambassador Yamagami suggesting Australian parents were 'confused' by Japan's legal system.
- On 14 August 2021, the Sydney Morning Herald published an [article](#) on child abduction and custody issues alleging the Japanese Government had organised sessions with Japanese parents in locations around the world advising them how to retain custody of their children following separation. The article included quotes from affected Australian parents [s 47F\(1\)](#) and quoted DFAT officials from the parent outreach session held in June 2021.
- [s 47F\(1\)](#) demonstrated support for affected French father, [s 47F\(1\)](#), undertaking a hunger strike in Tokyo in July 2021, by appearing in his video updates and in media articles: [French father on hunger strike awaits Macron in Tokyo - Nikkei Asia](#)
- [s 47F\(1\)](#) wrote an opinion piece in the Sydney Morning Herald on 18 November 2020 [Australia must raise tragedy of child abductions in Japan](#).

Division: Consular and Crisis Management Division

PDR No:

Prepared by:
[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Cleared by Branch/Division Head:
Jenny Dee, AS CIB

Mob: [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) Ext: 1243

Date: 16 March 2022

Date: 22 March 2022

Consultation:

Date: 10 March 2022


Ext: [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

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Name: Japan desk, Tokyo Post, Consular
Operations (Team A), LGD and AGD

Cleared by FAS CCD:

Date: 

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

Title: Japan: Child Custody & Abduction – Recording of virtual outreach session with parents published on social media
MRN: s 47E(d) 27/01/2022 03:01:52 PM ZE9
To: Canberra
Cc:
From: Tokyo
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 47E(d)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

Tokyo post recently became aware of a TikTok channel containing roughly 80 short videos on child custody and abduction in Japan. The most recent five videos are recordings of DHOM's engagement with Australians on the issue. Much of the content asserts that the Australian Government is not doing enough to engage the Japanese Government on the issue. Post will continue to monitor the channel for further uploads.

On Wednesday, 19 January, s 47C(1), s 47F(1), post became aware of a TikTok channel titled "stopjpnchildabduction". The channel, currently containing 80 short videos, is highly critical of Japan's sole custody system. The channel can be found at the following link: [stopjpnchildabduction \(@stopjpnchildabduction\) TikTok | Watch stopjpnchildabduction's Newest TikTok Videos.](#)

2. Most videos (roughly 70) appear to relate to the experiences of non-Australian parents affected by child custody and abduction in Japan. However, the five most recently uploaded videos (as recent as 15 January 2022) contain recordings of DHOM's December 2020 virtual conference with Australian parents. Two of the videos have unique content while the other three are uploads of the same clip with slightly different typed comments. The recordings were made and published without post's knowledge. The video recordings include DHOM Tokyo and affected parents speaking. Other parents and staff at Post are also visible – Counsellor (Management) & Consul-General, Counsellor (Political), Second Secretary & Consul, and a locally engaged consular officer.

s 33(a)(iii), s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

4. Comments written across the videos assert that a petition filed to the Australian Parliament by affected Australian parent, s 47F(1), to suspend all defence agreements with Japan until Japan adopts joint custody and Australian parents are reunited with their children has been “ignored” despite a 90-day response requirement. We note this petition did receive a response, with the outcome available online ([-petitions – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](#)).

5. Some videos on the channel are uploaded sequentially, recorded in documentary style, and include parents commenting to camera about their experiences. A few of the videos are narrated (and purportedly produced) by an Australian. One video of roughly 30 seconds is a still recording of a user’s Facebook comment on the Sydney Morning Herald article in which Japan’s Ambassador to Australia, Yamagami Shingo, was interviewed about child custody and abduction.

6. During the first virtual conference with parents in December 2020, parents were asked to consider the sessions as private briefings and **not to record or release information provided in them**. Despite this, in addition to the TikTok channel, an SMH [article](#) in August 2021 quoted an embassy official from the June 2021 virtual conference as saying “This is an issue where certainly Australian ways and Japanese ways do not align”.

s 33(a)(iii), s 22(1)(a)(ii)

9. Post anticipates strong reactions to the cancellation from some parents. It is possible that further videos from the December 2020 or June 2021 meetings may be released. Post will continue to monitor the channel for further recordings and other content posted by Australian parents.

text ends

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared
by:Approved
by:Topics: CONSULAR/Services and Policy, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political, PUBLIC
DIPLOMACY/Media

▼ New Distribution

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

Title: Child Custody & Parental Abduction in Japan: Hunger Strike by US National
MRN: s 47E(d) 22/05/2022 04:04:05 PM ZE9
To: Canberra
Cc:
From: Tokyo
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 47E(d)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

A US national has commenced a hunger strike in front of Japan's National Diet Building to protest Japan's child custody laws. The hunger strike commences days ahead of the Quad Leader's Meeting 2022 in Tokyo which US President Joe Biden is due to attend. In contrast to the hunger strike of a French national in July 2021 (s 47E(d) refers), there is no sophisticated social media campaign and the strike is yet to attract any mainstream media attention. Post will continue to monitor media and correspondence from Australian parents and report any significant updates.

text ends

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Prepared by:
Approved by:
Topics: CONSULAR/Case Management, CONSULAR/Services and Policy, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

s 47E(d)

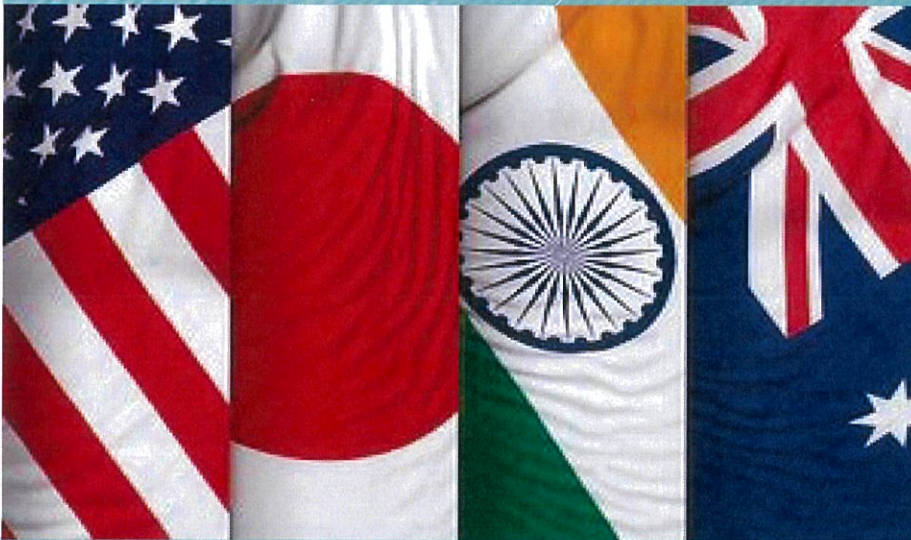
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Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

FOURTH QUAD FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING: BILATERAL MEETING PACK



**SENATOR THE HON MARISE PAYNE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN**

11-12 February 2022, Melbourne

Front Cover Photo: Image of flags of the United States, Japan, India and Australia.

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Meeting Brief: Australia-Japan Bilateral Meeting

H.E. MR HAYASHI YOSHIMASA, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JAPAN

What we want:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

child abduction and custody issues.

cooperation on

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Australia appreciates Japan's engagement on **parental abduction** (both domestic and international) and **child custody disputes** in Japan
 - we remain concerned about the number of Australian parents being denied access to their Australian-Japanese children
 - value our annual consular consultations, and talks between our Attorney-General's Department and Japan's Ministry of Justice [21 December 2021]
 - important we find a solution acceptable to all and in the best interests of the children.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

JAPAN CHILD ABDUCTION AND CUSTODY ISSUES

As a longstanding feature of Japanese domestic family law, shared parental authority or alternating custody is not recognised following separation of parents, leaving access to a child to the goodwill of the parent with whom the child lives. The Japanese legal system purports that limiting the child's exposure to disputes between separated parents is in the best interests of the child.

s 33(a)(iii), s 47F(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

Most recently, on 21 December 2021, the Australian Embassy Tokyo hosted virtual talks between Japan's Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and AGD to explore family law and shared parental responsibility in Australia. s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

