



New Parliamentary inquiry to examine Child Support Program

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs has commenced a new inquiry into the Child Support Program, as requested by the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP.

The inquiry will focus on how the Child Support system works, including:

- dealing with under or over payments, and enforcement options for payments,
- flexibility for families, and providing the best options for children in conflict situations,
- how the program fits with mediation and Family Assistance frameworks, and
- links between the child support program and the Family Court.

The Committee has created an anonymous, online questionnaire for individuals to complete, giving anyone with an experience of the Child Support Program the opportunity to make a personal contribution to the inquiry.

‘The Child Support Program assists families at moments of great stress, and it is designed to focus on the needs and costs of children. The Committee wants to look at the way it operates to ensure that it works for all families, and to see if it is flexible and supportive enough to deal with the range of different family situations,’ George Christensen, the Chair, said.

‘We want to hear from individuals about their experiences, and that is why we have created a comprehensive online questionnaire. I would encourage everyone who has a personal experience of the Child Support Program to go online and tell us their story. This kind of information will be crucial to our understanding of how the program operates in reality.’

The Committee looks forward to the contribution of stakeholder groups throughout the inquiry, providing submissions on their organisational views, and encouraging their clients and members to complete the questionnaire.

A link to the questionnaire, as well as the inquiry’s terms of reference and particular areas of interest to the Committee, are available on the inquiry website: www.aph.gov.au/childsupport.

The Committee will conduct a series of hearings around Australia. All available information, including the draft hearing schedule and advice on contributing to the inquiry, is available on the inquiry website or through the phone information line (02) 62772223.

For media comment – please contact Lynn Bonanno in the Chair’s office on (07) 4944 0662.

For inquiry information – please contact the Secretariat:

Childsupport.reps@aph.gov.au | (02) 6277 2223 | www.aph.gov.au/childsupport
