

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL POLICY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS Chair – Mr George Christensen MP Deputy – Ms Sharon Claydon MP

MEDIA RELEASE

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Child Support inquiry travels to Hobart and Adelaide

The Federal Parliamentary inquiry into the Child Support Program will continue its program of public hearings in southern Australia this week, with hearings in Hobart and Adelaide.

The inquiry has already held hearings in Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane, and has spoken to witnesses from across the country. This week's hearings will include evidence from health groups, community legal providers, psychologists and social workers. Each hearing will also include statements from individuals, who will have the opportunity to describe their own experience and to make suggestions for improving the program.

The Hobart hearing will be held on Tuesday 5 August at the Tasmanian Parliament, and the Adelaide hearing will be held on Wednesday 6 August at the Stamford Plaza Hotel.

Programs for the public hearings are available on the inquiry website at: www.aph.gov.au/childsupport.

Committee Chair George Christensen MP said that the Committee will use the hearings to investigate the terms of reference in detail.

'We will be digging deeper into the suggestions that people have made, to see how possible reforms might work in practice. We are also keen to understand the interaction that people have with the program, and to explore how we might improve the way it delivers services,' Mr Christensen said.

Programs for the inquiry's public hearings, 'Snapshots' of responses to the Committee's online questionnaire, and further information about the inquiry, can be found on the inquiry website at <u>www.aph.gov.au/childsupport</u>.

For media comment – please contact Lynnis Bonanno in the Chair's office on (07) 4944 0662. For inquiry information – please contact the Secretariat: <u>Childsupport.reps@aph.gov.au</u> | (02) 6277 2223 | <u>www.aph.gov.au/childsupport</u>