



# Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Chairman, Mr Bob Charles, MP

CANBERRA

19 July 2004

## INDIGENOUS LAW AND JUSTICE INQUIRY: PUBLIC HEARING IN ALICE SPRINGS ON THURSDAY, 22 JULY

Parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee will hold a public hearing into Indigenous Law and Justice on **Thursday, 22 July** at the **Council Chamber Room, Alice Springs Town Council, Alice Springs**.

The Committee will hear from witnesses, including representatives of a Women's Legal Service, a Family Violence Prevention Legal Service and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service that operate through the Central Australian area of the Northern Territory as well as the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council which represents women from Central Australia across the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia.

Public Accounts and Audit Committee Chairman, Mr Bob Charles MP, said: "The Committee is concerned about the access of legal services to Indigenous women, youth and children in domestic violence and family law matters particularly in remote areas of Australia."

"Many different types of organisations, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, Legal Aid Commissions and an array of generalist and specialist community legal services, provide legal services to Indigenous people. The Committee is concerned to see that service providers complement one another to ensure that the distribution of legal services is as adequate as limited resources permit."

"The problems of providing legal services to Indigenous people in remote areas are compounded by cross border issues between state and territory jurisdictions."

"This is the fourth hearing in a program that will see the Committee take evidence on the provision of legal services to Indigenous people around the country."

A further hearing is scheduled for Adelaide on 19 August.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Council Chamber Room, Alice Springs Town Council, Alice Springs

**Thursday, 22 July 2004**

- 9.00 am Central Australian Women's Legal service
- 9.45 am Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council
- 10.40 am Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit
- 11.25 am Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service
- 12.10 pm ADJOURN

**For media comment**, contact Mr Bob Charles, MP, on telephone (03) 9762 4066.

**For information**, contact the inquiry secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4613.

More information about the JCPAA and its inquiries can be found at:  
[www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/index.htm)

Media Release

