



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Inquiry into older people and the law

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 20 June 2007

Chairman: Peter Slipper MP

Public hearings and open forums on older people and the law

Have your say in Brisbane, Buderim, Perth and Adelaide

Chairman of the House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Peter Slipper has announced public hearings in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia in July as part of the inquiry into older people and the law. The public hearings will examine how well the legal system meets the needs of Australians aged 65 years and over.

The public hearing dates and venues are as follows:

- **16 July – Brisbane, Queensland** at UQ Downtown Conference Centre Level 19, Central Plaza 1, 345 Queen Street, Brisbane;
- **17 July – Buderim, Queensland** at Buderim War Memorial Community Association Hall, Main Street, Buderim;
- **30 July – Perth, Western Australia** at Commonwealth Offices, Stock Exchange Plaza, 2 The Esplanade, Perth;
- **31 July – Adelaide, South Australia** at Adelaide Town Hall, 128 King William St, Adelaide.

“I look forward to talking with organisations and individuals in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia. I am particularly interested in their views on addressing fraud and financial abuse against older people, the administration of power of attorney provisions, family agreements, discrimination, and barriers to older Australians accessing legal services,” Mr Slipper said.

Mr Slipper also called for members of the public to have their say at open public forums during the hearings.

“We want our inquiry to also take into account what ordinary Australians have to say about older people and the law,” he said. “The public forums will enable the committee to hear the views of people who have not made a formal submission”.

A public forum will be held at each hearing from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

For media interviews:

Please contact the Committee Chairman, Peter Slipper MP on (07) 5443 3555 (electorate office) or on (02) 6277 4975 (Canberra).
Or Mr Slipper’s media adviser, Richard Bruinsma, on 0417 486 673.

For background information, including the full terms of reference and copies of submissions, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358 or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/olderpeople/index.htm>.

Telephone: 02 6277 2358

Facsimile: 02 6277 4427

E-mail: laca.reps@aph.gov.au

Website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/index.htm>

PO Box 6021

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

CANBERRA ACT 2600