



Federal departments on homelessness legislation

The House of Representatives Community and Housing Committee will hear from three federal government departments for its inquiry into homelessness legislation this week. The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA); the Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations (DEEWR); and the Department of Health & Ageing (DoHA) will attend the public hearing at 10:10am on Wednesday 28 October at Parliament House in Canberra.

The White Paper on homelessness, *The Road Home*, states that, "homelessness is not just a housing problem. Homelessness has many drivers and causes, including the shortage of affordable housing, long term unemployment, mental health services, substance abuse and family relationship breakdown".

The Acting Chair Judi Moylan MP said, "This public hearing will provide an opportunity for the Committee to hear how the departments are intending to work together to achieve a coordinated response to homelessness, as well as to discuss various issues which have arisen throughout the inquiry."

FaHCSIA has prime responsibilities for addressing homelessness and manages the delivery of \$1.1 billion in funds under the National Partnership on Homelessness. As stated in FaHCSIA's submission, "People facing homelessness commonly have a diverse range of needs ... There is no framework to encourage services to see a client as the centre of a multi-service response".

"A holistic response allowing homeless people or people at risk of homelessness access to mainstream services including social security services, mental health, disability, education and employment services is needed. At present, they have to approach each service separately, often repeating their story over and over again," Mrs Moylan said,

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

Wednesday, 28 October 2009 - Committee Room 2R2 - Parliament House, Canberra
10:10am-11:00am.

This hearing will be webcast on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

- **Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs**
- **Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations**
- **Department of Health & Ageing**

Further details are provided on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/fchy.

For media comment, please contact the Acting Committee Chair, The Hon Judi Moylan MP, on (08) 9294 3222 (electorate office).

For all other inquiries please contact the Inquiry Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4566 or by email fchy.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/fchy