



Public hearings to discuss Whistleblower protections for public servants Sydney 27 October, Brisbane 28 October

The House Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee will hear from a broad range of witnesses in Sydney and Brisbane as part of its inquiry into whistleblower protections within the Australian Government public sector. The aim of the inquiry is to consider and report on a preferred model for legislation to protect public interest disclosures (whistleblowing) within the Commonwealth public service.

The Committee Chair, Mark Dreyfus QC MP said, "It is important that the Committee hears a variety of perspectives on the best means to protect the interests of those who speak out about wrongdoing in the workplace. These hearings will enable the Committee to listen to academics, public integrity bodies, media organisations, unions and whistleblowers themselves".

"The integrity of our public institutions can be strengthened by a culture of disclosure that supports people who come forward when they know of improper practices around them. A responsible and comprehensive legislative approach has a fundamental role in underpinning such a culture." Mr Dreyfus said.

Sydney public hearings:

Date: Monday 27 October 2008

Time: 9:00am – 3:15 pm

Location: Lodge Room 2
Sydney Masonic Centre
66 Goulburn Street, Sydney

Witnesses include: NSW Council for Civil Liberties (Submission 17)
Whistleblowers Australia (Submission 26)
The Australian Press Council (Submission 21)
The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (Submission 30)

Brisbane public hearings

Date: Tuesday 28 October 2008

Time: 8:30am – 10:45am

Location: Udumbi Room
Queensland State Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets, Brisbane

Witnesses include: Professor Charles Sampford, Griffith University
'Whistle While They Work' Project team, Griffith University
Qld Council of Unions with the Qld Nurses Union (Sub 36)

The full program of each public hearing is available through the Committee website:

www.aph.gov.au/laca

For interview:

Contact the Committee Chair, Mr Mark Dreyfus QC, MP on (02) 6277 4305 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (03) 9769 1955.

Or Mr Dreyfus' media adviser, Tim Lisle-Williams on 0431 178 280.

For background information, including the full terms of reference, please visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/laca or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358.