



# Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Chairman, Mr Bob Charles, MP

CANBERRA

19 July 2004

## INDIGENOUS LAW AND JUSTICE INQUIRY: PUBLIC HEARING IN DARWIN ON WEDNESDAY, 21 JULY

Parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee will hold a public hearing into Indigenous Law and Justice on **Wednesday, 21 July** at the **Litchfield Room in Parliament House, Darwin**.

The Committee will hear from witnesses, including representatives of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and a Family Violence Prevention Legal Service that operate across the Top End area of the Northern Territory, the local ATSIC Regional Council, the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission and the Law Society Northern Territory.

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

"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."

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

Further hearings are scheduled in Alice Springs on 22 July and in Adelaide on 19 August.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Litchfield Room, Parliament House, Darwin

### **Wednesday, 21 July 2004**

- 9.30 am North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service
- 10.10 am ATSIC Yilli Rreung Regional Council
- 11.00 am Top End Women's Legal Service
- 11.40 am Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission
- 12.20 pm The Law Society Northern Territory
- 1.00 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

