



**Family Law Council, Child Support Agency  
& Lone Fathers' Association at child custody inquiry:  
Canberra public hearing, Friday 17 October**

The House of Representatives Family and Community Affairs Committee's inquiry into child custody arrangements will hold another public hearing in **Canberra** this **Friday, 17 October**. Appearing will be representatives of the Family Law Council, the Child Support Agency, and the Lone Fathers' Association.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Friday 17 October: 8.30am – 1.00pm**

**Venue: Main Committee Room, Parliament House**

**8.30 am Family Law Council (Submission 1400)**  
Professor John Dewar, Chair

**10.30am Child Support Agency (Part of FACS Submission 1251) and Centrelink**  
Mr Mark Sullivan, Secretary, Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services  
Ms Cathy Argall, General Manager  
Ms Sheila Bird, Assistant General Manager  
Mr Keith Bender, Centrelink, Bus Manager, Families Communities Segment  
Ms Theresa Harry, Centrelink, Bus Manager, Family Payments & Child Support

**12.30pm Lone Fathers Association (Submission 1051)**  
Mr Barry Williams, President  
Mr Jim Carter

The submissions are available on the inquiry website. The Child Support Agency previously appeared before the Committee on Monday 15 September. A transcript of this hearing is also available on the inquiry website.

**For media comment from the Chair, please contact:**  
Mrs Kay Hull, MP (Chair), via tel: (02) 6277 4723

**For further details on the inquiry, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4566 or visit the inquiry website at [www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/fca/childcustody/](http://www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/fca/childcustody/)**

**CHILD CUSTODY INQUIRY TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee is to investigate and make recommendations for action on the following matters:

- (a) given that the best interests of the child are the paramount consideration:
  - (i) what other factors should be taken into account in deciding the respective time each parent should spend with their children post separation, in particular whether there should be a presumption that children will spend equal time with each parent and, if so, in what circumstances such a presumption could be rebutted; and
  - (ii) in what circumstances a court should order that children of separated parents have contact with other persons, including their grandparents.

(b) whether the existing child support formula works fairly for both parents in relation to their care of, and contact with, their children.

(c) with the Committee to report to the Parliament by 31 December 2003.

The Committee has been asked to have regard to the Government's recent response to the report of the Family Law Pathways Advisory Group. A link to this report is available on the inquiry website.

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Chairman Mrs Kay Hull MP

Members Hon Alan Cadman MP Mr Chris Pearce MP  
Ms Trish Draper MP Hon Roger Price MP  
Mr Peter Dutton MP Mr Harry Quick MP  
Ms Jennie George MP Mr Cameron Thompson MP  
Mrs Julia Irwin MP