



Committee to hold roundtable hearings on Friday: Whistleblower protections and Courts & Tribunals bills

The House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee will hold roundtable hearings on Friday 30 November in relation to its inquiries into two bills that are before Parliament. The Committee is inquiring into the:

- Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Bill 2012 and the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2012, and the
- Courts and Tribunals Legislation Amendment (Administration) Bill 2012, which proposes changes to the administration and functions of the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) and the Federal Court, and the administrative arrangements for the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Magistrates Court.

Program: Friday 30 November 2012, Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

9:00am - 11:15am	Roundtable hearing: Public Interest Disclosure Bills
11:30am -12.30pm	Roundtable hearing: Proposed changes to the NNTT and Federal Court
12:30pm -1:00pm	Public hearing: Proposed changes to the Family Court and Federal Magistrates Court

To listen to the proceedings live on your computer, go to:

http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

The Public Interest Disclosure Bills aim to strengthen public integrity by encouraging and facilitating the disclosure of corruption, maladministration and other wrongdoing in the Commonwealth public sector. It does so by providing protection for public officials to make such disclosures. The roundtable hearing on the bills will feature representatives of government agencies, the unions, Whistleblowers Australia and Transparency International.

The Courts and Tribunals Legislation Amendment (Administration) Bill 2012 implements recommendations of the *Strategic Review of Small and Medium Agencies in the Attorney-General's Portfolio* (the Skehill Review), publicly released on 8 June 2012.

The Bill amends the *Native Title Act 1993* to facilitate the transfer of the National Native Title Tribunal's (NNTT) appropriations, staff and some of its administrative functions to the Federal Court of Australia, and to reflect that the NNTT is no longer a statutory agency for the purposes of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

The bill also amends the *Family Law Act 1975* and the *Federal Magistrates Act 1999* to facilitate the merger of the administrative functions of the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia.

For the information about the inquiries, including more detailed programs for the hearings, see the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/spla or contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2358.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0434058200.

For background information, please contact the **Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs:**

PO Box 6021
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 2358
Facsimile: 02 6277 4427
E-mail: spla.reps@aph.gov.au
Website: www.aph.gov.au/spla