



Public hearing for health funding inquiry

Peak representative bodies, a pharmaceutical company and a health promotion foundation will be shedding light on how effectively the billions of dollars spent on health serve the Australian community for a national inquiry into health funding.

Chairman of the House of Representatives Health and Ageing Committee, the Hon Alex Somlyay MP, said the committee will be investigating the complex arrangements currently in place for health funding at the inquiry's second public hearing to be held in Melbourne on 28 June.

"While Australia's health system is among the best in the world, health funding is a source of confusion and unnecessary complexity and it affects health care outcomes across all state and territory lines," Mr Somlyay said.

"As policy makers, we need to understand why the health system is not providing what Australians need in spite of ever increasing improvements in Commonwealth spending on health," Mr Somlyay said.

The Committee will explore funding issues as well as ways that the federal government can improve the efficient and effective delivery of quality health care to all Australians.

The Committee will hear from Orphan Australia, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth). The hearing is open to all members of the public.

The Committee will be continuing its investigation the following day (29 June) in Ballarat, Victoria.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Parliamentary Committee Rooms 2/3, Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne

9.30am – 10.15am	Orphan Australia
10.15am – 11.15am	Rural Doctors Association of Australia
11.15am – 11.30am	Morning tea
11.30am – 12.30pm	Municipal Association of Victoria
1.30pm – 2.15pm	Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
2.15pm – 3.00pm	Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth)
3.00pm	End of program

For media interview with the Chairman: Please contact the Committee Secretary on **02 6277 4579** or **0421 051 837**.

For further information on the public hearing: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145 or email haa.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa