



Inquiry into Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill 2013

On 30 May 2013 the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs was referred the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill 2013.

The purpose of this Bill is to introduce a range of improvements across Australia’s intellectual property system, making refinements to existing arrangements and implementing new initiatives aimed at increasing efficiency and effectiveness.

Three of the key provisions in the Bill are:

- amendments that will clarify and improve the operation of the Crown use provisions in the Patents Act to reduce uncertainty in the operation of these provisions. Crown use permits Commonwealth or a State to exploit an invention described in a pending patent application or in a granted patent without the need for authorisation by the owner;
- amendment of the Patents Act to allow Australian pharmaceutical manufacturers to supply developing countries with the patented medicines they need to respond effectively to public health problems; and
- streamlining of the processes for applying for patents in Australia and New Zealand, and for the examination of common applications.

A public hearing for this inquiry will be held this week with representatives from IP Australia and Dr Matthew Rimmer.

Date: Thursday 6 June 2013

Time:.....9.00am – 10.00am

Venue: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House Canberra

Webcast: Live on www.aph.gov.au/live (audio only)

For further information please visit the Committee website www.aph.gov.au/spla

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0423 280 131.

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

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