



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Inquiry into older people and the law

**MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 13 July 2007

**Chairman: Peter Slipper MP**

# Public hearings and open forums on older people and the law

*Have your say in Brisbane and Buderim 16 – 17 July*

The question of how well the legal system meets the needs of older Australians will be on the agenda of public hearings in Brisbane next Monday (16 July) and in Buderim next Tuesday (17 July) to be held by the House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

“I look forward to talking with organisations and individuals in Queensland”, Committee Chairman Peter Slipper said. “Evidence before the Committee indicates that about 12% of the population of Queensland is aged 65 years or over, and by the year 2051 that proportion is expected to grow to between 26-38%. This has implications for how we deal with those issues affecting older people such as fraud and financial abuse, power of attorney and family agreements, and access to legal services and discrimination”, said Mr Slipper.

Organisations appearing before the Committee in Queensland include the Caxton Legal Centre, Carers Queensland, the Assets and Ageing Research Team of the University of Queensland, and the Association of Residents of Queensland Retirement Villages.

Mr Slipper has also called for members of the public to have their say on older people and the law at an open public forum at both hearings. “We have organised open forums to capture the views of people who may not have made submissions but who still wish to make a contribution”, Mr Slipper said. “It is important for the Committee to hear and take into account the perspectives of ordinary Australians”.

**An open forum will be held at each hearing from 11:30am to 12:30pm**

The venues for the public hearings and open forums are as follows:

- 16 July - Brisbane, at the UQ Downtown Conference Centre, Level 19, Central Plaza 1, 345 Queen Street;
- 17 July - Buderim at the Buderim War Memorial Community Association Hall, Main Street.

The Committee is not able to investigate individual cases or provide legal advice.

**For media interviews:**

Please contact the Committee Chairman, Peter Slipper MP on (07) 5443 3555 (electorate office) or on (02) 6277 4975 (Canberra).

Or Mr Slipper's media adviser, Richard Bruinsma, on 0417 486 673.

**For background information**, including the full terms of reference and copies of submissions, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358 or visit the inquiry website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/olderpeople/index.htm> .