



Inquiry into homelessness legislation

The House of Representatives Community and Housing Committee will hear from the Supported Accommodation Providers' Association Inc (SAPA) for its inquiry into homelessness legislation. The public hearing will be at 10:10am on Wednesday 21 October at Parliament House in Canberra.

SAPA is the peak industry body representing private sector providers of level 3 private residential services in Queensland. Level 3 facility residents are people with some form of disability or mental illness, and most are in the population group considered to be at a high risk of homelessness. SAPA's membership has extensive experience in how government policy, legislation and programs impact on the sector, its residents and their families.

Acting Chair of the Committee, Judi Moylan (Member for Pearce WA) said the Committee wants to hear more about the ways in which "private residential services can be improved and expanded to provide stable, secure and safe accommodation for more people who are at increased risk of homelessness because of disability, mental illness or substance abuse issues."

SAPA states in its submission that privately-owned supported facilities play a vital role in overcoming homelessness amongst Australians with intellectual disability, chronic mental illness and/or substance abuse issues but that more needs to be done, and can be done, at a reasonable cost for this group.

"A holistic response to homelessness requires engagement between governments, not-for-profit agencies and for-profit privately run services," Mrs Moylan said. "The submission from SAPA makes interesting comparisons between the provision of accommodation services for the frail aged and accommodation services for people with a disability or mental illness. The Committee is keen to explore these issues further."

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

Wednesday, 21 October 2009 - Committee Room 1R1 - Parliament House, Canberra

10:10am-11:00am Supported Accommodation Providers' Association Inc

Further details are provided on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/fchy.

For media comment, please contact the Acting Committee Chair, The Hon Judi Moylan MP, on (08) 9294 3222 (electorate office).

For all other inquiries please contact the Inquiry Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4566 or by email fchy.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/fchy