



Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Chairman, Mr Bob Charles, MP

CANBERRA

17 August 2004

INDIGENOUS LAW AND JUSTICE INQUIRY: PUBLIC HEARING IN ADELAIDE ON 19 AUGUST

Federal parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee will hold a public hearing into Indigenous Law and Justice on **Thursday, 19 August** at the **Old Chamber Room, Parliament House, Adelaide**.

The Committee will hear from witnesses, including representatives of the Women's Legal Service, the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service and the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement which provide legal services to Indigenous people throughout South Australia. Representatives of the Law Society of South Australia and the Australian Legal Assistance Forum will also appear.

Public Accounts and Audit Committee Chairman, Mr Bob Charles MP, said: "The Committee is building a picture of the various types of legal services available to Indigenous Australians in urban, regional and remote areas of the country."

"The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement and the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service are the only providers of Indigenous specific legal services in South Australia. The Adelaide hearing will provide an opportunity to explore the problems of delivering legal services to Indigenous people over a large area that includes urban, regional and remote communities."

"Indigenous Australians receive legal services through an array of providers. The Committee is concerned to promote the efficient and effective delivery of legal services to Indigenous people. A possible way forward may be improving the coordination and cooperation between Indigenous specific and mainstream providers."

"This hearing continues the evidence gathering phase of the inquiry in a program that has seen the Committee hold public hearings in Canberra, Sydney, Darwin and Alice Springs."

Further public hearings are scheduled for Dubbo and Walgett in western New South Wales on 15 and 16 September.

PUBLIC HEARING

Old Chamber Room, Parliament House, Adelaide

Thursday, 19 August 2004

- 11.00 am Law Society of South Australia
- 11.45 am Women's Legal Service of South Australia
- 1.15 pm Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
- 2.00 pm Warndu Wathilli-Carri Ngura Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Service
- 2.45 pm Australian Legal Assistance Forum

Access to Justice Committee of the Law Council of Australia

For media comment, contact Mr Bob Charles, MP, on telephone (03) 9762 4066.

For more information, contact the inquiry secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4613 or visit the committee website at: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/atsis/index.htm

Media Release