



Extension for submissions – Inquiry into draft Premises Standards

The Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee has announced an extension of time for people interested in making a submission to its Draft Premises Standards inquiry. The Draft Premises Standards are intended to make public buildings more accessible for people with mobility, vision and hearing impairments.

The Committee understands that more time may be needed for submissions to this inquiry, particularly because relevant draft Australian Standards have only become available.

The Committee will accept submissions through out the entirety of the inquiry but to ensure that issues raised in submissions are properly considered, it encourages individuals and organisations to submit by **13 March 2009**. Individuals and organisations are also encouraged to contact the secretariat if they require additional time.

The Committee has commenced its public hearing program with hearings to be conducted on the following dates.

26 February: Canberra
12 March: Canberra
19 March: Canberra
25 March: Sydney
30 March: Melbourne
3 April: Brisbane

Further information on the program for each hearing will be made available on the Committee website closer to the dates.

The Committee has been asked to inquire and report on the following terms of reference:

1. The appropriateness and effectiveness of the proposed Premises Standards in achieving their objects.
2. The interaction between the Premises Standards and existing regulatory schemes operating in state and territory jurisdictions, including the appropriateness and effectiveness of the proposed Model Process to Administer Building Access for People with Disability.
3. Whether the Premises Standards will have an unjustifiable impact on any particular sector or group within a sector.
4. Any related matters

The Committee is due to report on this inquiry by 1 June 2009.

For interview:

Contact the Committee Chair, Mr Mark Dreyfus QC, MP on (02) 6277 4305 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (03) 9769 1955. Or Mr Dreyfus' media adviser, Tim Lisle-Williams on 0431 178 280.

For background information, including the full terms of reference, please visit the inquiry website at www.apf.gov.au/laca or contact the Committee Secretariat on ph (02) 6277 2358 or fax (02) 6277 4427.