



Public hearing – Friday 7 February 2003, Canberra

Inquiry into ageing - first public hearing *Government departments and agencies appearing*

The House of Representatives has established a Committee to examine long-term strategies to address the ageing of Australia's population over the next 40 years.

The Committee, chaired by Dr Andrew Southcott MP, will be holding its first public hearing this Friday, 7 February, in Canberra.

At this first hearing the Committee will hear from a range of government departments and agencies, as well as a senior academic and the national peak body representing church and charitable aged care providers (Aged and Community Services Australia).

"It is clear that the ageing of Australia's population will have a profound impact on all facets of social, economic and political activity," Dr Southcott said.

"In terms of economics, population ageing will have an impact on economic growth, savings, investment and consumption, labour markets, pensions, taxation and intergenerational transfers. In the social policy area, population aging affects health and health care, family composition and living arrangements, housing and migration. Politically, population ageing may influence voting patterns and representation.

"In comparison to other developed countries, Australia is well placed to deal with an ageing population. However, this does not mean we can be complacent. It is critical that public policy is developed that takes into account population ageing. This inquiry is a significant part of the process of laying the strong foundations that can be built on to meet the future needs of all Australians."

The Committee has received more than 100 submissions. They, and other background materials, are available on the inquiry website at: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ageing/strategies/index.htm

HEARING PROGRAM

Friday 7 February 2003, Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra

9am – 9.45am	Commonwealth Dept of Health and Ageing
9.45am – 10.30am	Commonwealth Dept Family and Community Services
10.45am – 11.30am	Commonwealth Dept of Veterans' Affairs
11.30am – 12.15pm	Commonwealth Department of Treasury
1.15pm – 2.00pm	Centrelink
2.00pm – 2.45pm	Commonwealth Department of Immigration
3.00pm – 3.45pm	Professor Peter McDonald
3.45pm – 4.30pm	Aged and Community Services Australia

For comment, contact Dr Andrew Southcott on (02) 6277 4283 (Parl House)

For information and/or copies of submissions, contact the inquiry secretariat, on (02) 6277 4613, or visit the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ageing>