

Submission No. 1
Date Received 03-10-06

NH

Mr. Peter Slipper MP
Chairman of Committee on Legal & Constitutional Affairs.
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT

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25th September 2006

Dear Sir,

BY: LACA

Re: Media release 20 September 2006 = Older people and the Law.

Older people will have similar problems with the Law as most other people. They view the law very sceptical **as they can find no justice** as far as the law is concerned.

Most laws are **a lawyer's picnic** and when it comes to dealing with any aspect of it, **people come away disillusioned.**

Your committee intents to look at six aspects in particular: Fraud, Financial abuse, General and enduring power of attorney provisions, Family agreements, Discrimination and barriers to older Australians accessing legal services.

You state: "Studies have suggested that older people are less likely to take legal action where abuse has occurred".

May I suggest to you, that people in general are reluctant to take legal action as they know that it is going to cost them, an arm and a leg, and that in the end they will not receive justice at all!

You also make reference to the fact that the legal framework is complex. That points to the fact that laws are made too difficult to be understood by mere mortals instead of a simple set of rules that can be understood by everybody.

Also we need judges who have **not become anaesthetised** and **totally immune** to the problems of ordinary people.

If you can solve these problems you will have come a long way in overcoming many of the difficulties we face in Australia today.

I will be happy to discuss this with you at any time.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Jack Backer