



JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Indigenous Law and Justice Inquiry

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 30 March 2005

Indigenous Law and Justice Inquiry to Hold Public Hearing in Perth

Federal Parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee will continue its inquiry into the provision of legal aid services to Indigenous Australians with a public hearing tomorrow afternoon in Perth.

Chair of the Committee, Mr Bob Baldwin MP, stated: "The Perth hearing will bring to a close two days of travel across Australia to gather evidence from providers and clients of legal services to Indigenous Australians. Over the last two days the Committee has taken evidence regarding the provision of legal services in regional New South Wales, a remote area community in the Northern Territory and will close with a metropolitan area of Western Australia."

"The evidence from this program of public hearings will be considered together with evidence taken at public hearings in Canberra, Sydney, Darwin, Alice Springs and Adelaide during the last Parliament as well as written submissions received by the Committee."

"In Perth the Committee will hear from the Aboriginal Legal Service and the Legal Aid Commission and will be interested in their views of the tendering out of Aboriginal Legal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services which is drawing to a close in the State."

PUBLIC HEARING

Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices, Level 39, Stock Exchange Plaza, 2 The Esplanade, Perth

Wednesday, 30 March 2005

- 3.45 pm Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia
- 4.30 pm Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia
- 5.15 pm Western Australian Government

For media comment: please contact Mr Bob Baldwin MP on telephone

For **more information**, contact the inquiry secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4615 or visit the Committee's website at

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/index.htm

Telephone: 02 6277 4615

HOUSE

Facsimile: 02 6277 4516

ACT 2600

E-mail: jcpa@aph.gov.au

Website: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa

PARLIAMENT

CANBERRA