



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

New Inquiry: Proposed family law changes

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 22 July 2005

Chairman: Peter Slipper MP

FAMILY LAW INQUIRY SECOND ROUND OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee will be holding two more public hearings in Canberra next week as part of its inquiry into proposed amendments to the *Family Law Act 1975*.

The Chairman of the Committee, Peter Slipper MP, said that the Committee would be hearing from a new set of witnesses regarding the draft Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005.

"We have organised two further days of hearings in Canberra with a range of witnesses across the two days," Mr Slipper said. "A number of different groups will be represented including the Lone Fathers Association of Australia and the Shared Parenting Council", said Mr Slipper.

The draft Bill aims to support and promote shared parenting and to encourage people to reach agreement about parenting of children after separation. It also seeks to promote the benefit for children of both parents having a role in children's lives, recognises the need to protect children from family violence and abuse, and aims to ensure that the court process is easier to navigate and is less traumatic.

Both hearings will be held at **Parliament House, Canberra**. The first hearing will be on **Monday 25 July** from **9:30am – 4:15pm** and the second on **Tuesday 26 July** from **9:00am to 4:00pm**.

On the 25 July the Committee will take evidence from Catholic Welfare Australia, the Family Law Practitioners Association of Queensland Ltd, the Shared Parenting Council of Australia, the Lone Fathers Association (Australia) Inc, Family Services Australia, Anglicare WA, and the Family Law Council. On the 26 July the Committee will take evidence from the Family Court of Australia and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

For interview:

Please contact the Committee Chairman, Peter Slipper MP on (02) 6277 4975 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (07) 5443 3555.

Or Mr Slipper's media adviser, Richard Bruinsma on 0417 486 673.

For background information, including the full terms of reference and copies of submissions when they become available, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358 or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/laca/familylaw/index.htm>.