



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Inquiry into older people and the law

**MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 24 July 2007

**Chairman: Peter Slipper MP**

# Public hearings and open forums on older people and the law

*Have your say in Perth and Adelaide 30 – 31 July*

The question of how well the legal system meets the needs of older Australians will be on the agenda of public hearings in Perth on 30 July and Adelaide on 31 July to be held by the House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

The Committee will hear from a range of organisations and individuals in relation to its inquiry into older people and the law. Organisations appearing before the Committee in Perth include the Western Australian Government, the Public Advocate of Western Australia, Advocare Inc, the Retirement Villages Association (Perth), and the Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (WA) Inc. Organisations appearing before the Committee in Adelaide include the Public Advocate of South Australia, the Law Society of South Australia, and the Aged Rights Advocacy Service Inc.

“In public hearings to date the Committee has received some valuable evidence on how the legal system deals with fraud and financial abuse against older people, the administration of power of attorney provisions, family agreements, discrimination, and barriers to older Australians accessing legal services. I look forward to further exploring these issues in Perth and Adelaide,” Committee Chairman Peter Slipper said.

Mr Slipper has also called for members of the public to have their say on older people and the law at an open public forum at both hearings. “We have organised open forums to capture the views of people who may not have made submissions but who still wish to make a contribution”, Mr Slipper said. “It is important for the Committee to hear and take into account the perspectives of ordinary Australians”.

The venues for the public hearings and open forums are as follows:

- **Perth, Monday 30 July – 9:30am – 2:45pm** at the Commonwealth Offices, Level 39, Stock Exchange Plaza, 2 The Esplanade, Perth; and
- **Adelaide, Tuesday 31 July – 9:30am – 12:30pm** at the Adelaide Town Hall, 128 King William Street.

**An open forum will be held at each hearing from 11:30am to 12:30pm**

The Committee is not able to investigate individual cases or provide legal advice.

#### **For media interviews:**

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

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, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358 or visit the inquiry website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/olderpeople/index.htm> .

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