

SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Senate has referred the following matters to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by 13 September 2002:

- (a) consideration of the adequacy, effectiveness and fairness of proposed legislative participation requirements for parents and mature-age unemployed Australians; and
- (b) the Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Australians Working Together and other 2001 Budget Measures) Bill 2002, with particular reference to:
 - (i) the nature of the participation requirements proposed in the Bill for parents and older unemployed people, including how they compare to existing requirements for other workforce-age income support recipients,
 - (ii) the nature of penalty (breaching) provisions provided in the Bill for parents and older unemployed people, including how they compare to existing requirements for other workforce-age income support recipients, and
 - (iii) the fairness, efficiency and effectiveness of proposed legislative social security penalty provisions.
- (c) That in undertaking this reference, the Committee will consider the report of the Independent Review of Breaches and Penalties in the Social Security System (the Pearce Review) to determine whether implementation of its recommendations would improve the capacity of the participation requirement regime to provide effective and efficient support to workforce-age income support payment recipients while improving rates of compliance.

Written submissions are invited and should be addressed to:

**The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs References Committee
Suite S1 59
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

Closing date for the receipt of submissions is 19 July 2002.

The Committee prefers to receive submissions electronically as an attached document - email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Submissions become Committee documents and are made public only after a decision by the Committee. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not.

Following consideration of submissions, the Committee will hold public hearings. The Committee will consider all submissions and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at the public hearings.

Information relating to Senate Committee inquiries, including notes to assist in the preparation of submissions for a Committee, can be located on the internet at http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm

The Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Australians Working Together and other 2001 Budget Measures) Bill 2002, Explanatory Memoranda, Second Reading speeches and Parliamentary Library Bills Digest may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm>

The report of the Independent Review of Breaches and Penalties in the Social Security System (the Pearce Review) may be accessed at http://www.breachreview.org/reports/final_report.html

For further details contact the Committee Secretary, Phone: (02) 6277 3515,
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E-mail: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au