

SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Senate has referred the following matters to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by the last sitting day of June 2003.

1. (a) the extent, nature and financial cost of:
 - (i) poverty and inequality in Australia,
 - (ii) poverty amongst working Australians,
 - (iii) child poverty in Australia, and
 - (iv) poverty in Australian communities and regions;
 - (b) the social and economic impact of changes in the distribution of work, the level of remuneration from work and the impact of under-employment and unemployment;
 - (c) the effectiveness of income-support payments in protecting individuals and households from poverty; and
 - (d) the effectiveness of other programs and supports in reducing cost pressures on individual and household budgets, and building their capacity to be financially self-sufficient.
2. That, in undertaking its inquiry, the committee also examine:
 - (a) the impact of changing industrial conditions on the availability, quality and reward for work; and
 - (b) current efforts and new ideas, in both Australia and other countries, to identify and address poverty amongst working and non-working individuals and households.

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 28 February 2003.

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

For further details contact the Committee Secretary, Phone: (02) 6277 3515,
Fax: (02) 6277 5829.

E-mail: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au