

SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN AUSTRALIA

Terms of Reference

On 28 March 2007 the Senate referred to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 26 June 2008:

- (1) Ongoing efforts towards improving mental health services in Australia, with reference to the National Action Plan on Mental Health agreed upon at the July 2006 meeting of the Council of Australian Governments, particularly examining the commitments and contributions of the different levels of government with regard to their respective roles and responsibilities.
- (2) That the committee, in considering this matter, give consideration to:
 - (a) the extent to which the action plan assists in achieving the aims and objectives of the National Mental Health Strategy;
 - (b) the overall contribution of the action plan to the development of a coordinated infrastructure to support community-based care;
 - (c) progress towards implementing the recommendations of the Select Committee on Mental Health, as outlined in its report *A national approach to mental health – from crisis to community*; and
 - (d) identifying any possible remaining gaps or shortfalls in funding and in the range of services available for people with a mental illness.
- (3) That the committee have access to, and have power to make use of, the evidence and records of the Select Committee on Mental Health.

Written submissions are invited and should be addressed to:

**The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

Closing date for the receipt of submissions is 31 July 2007.

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. Publication of submissions includes loading them onto the internet and their being available to other interested parties including the media. 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 protected.

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