

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Chairman, Mr Bob Charles, MP

CANBERRA 8 June 2004

INDIGENOUS LAW AND JUSTICE INQUIRY: PUBLIC HEARING IN CANBERRA, WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE

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Parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee will begin a program of public hearings into Indigenous Law and Justice on **Wednesday**, **9 June in Committee Room 1R1**, **Parliament House**, **Canberra**.

The Committee will hear from witnesses, including Commonwealth Government agencies, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

Public Accounts and Audit Committee Chairman, Mr Bob Charles MP, said "during the morning the Committee will take evidence from key Commonwealth Government agencies with responsibilities for the funding of Indigenous specific legal and family violence prevention services. Later in the day, we will hear from a provider of legal services to Indigenous Australians and other interested parties."

"This is the first hearing in a program that will see the Committee take evidence on the provision of legal services to Indigenous people in urban centres around the country. The Committee will also travel to regional and remote communities."

Further hearings will be held in Sydney on 13 July, in Darwin on 21 July and in Alice Springs on 22 July.

PUBLIC HEARING

Committee Room 1R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Wednesday, 9 June 2004

10.45 am Commonwealth Government

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services;
- Attorney General's Department;
- Australian National Audit Office;
- Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet; and
- Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

1.30 pm South Eastern Aboriginal Service

2.15 pm Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

3.00 pm ADJOURN

For comment, contact Mr Bob Charles, MP, on telephone (03) 9762 4066. **For information**, contact the inquiry secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4613.

More information about the JCPAA and its inquiries can be found at: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/index.htm