



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Parliamentary inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence

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Issue date: 17 October 2017

## Family violence inquiry hears from Professor Patrick Parkinson AM

The [Parliamentary Inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence](#) will return to Canberra to hear from Professor Patrick Parkinson AM on Tuesday 17 October. Professor Parkinson has been the author of numerous reports to government on the family law system and developed recommendations for its reform.

The Chair of the Committee, [Sarah Henderson MP](#), said “Professor Parkinson is an eminent Australian with a wealth of experience in family law. He has made a number of recommendations for the reform of the family law system, including avenues to reduce the adversarial nature of family law proceedings. The hearing is an opportunity for the Committee to take expert evidence on the family law system and how it might be reformed to ensure the safety of families experiencing family violence.”

The Committee will also hear from the Attorney-General’s Department and the Department of Social Services at the public hearing. A detailed program for the hearing is available from the [Inquiry website](#).

Public hearing details:

**4.45pm (approx) to 6.30 pm, Tuesday 17 October**  
**Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra**

4.45 pm            Professor Patrick Parkinson AM

5.30 pm            Attorney-General’s Department; Department of Social Services

Audio and video footage of the hearing will be streamed live at [aph.gov.au/live](http://aph.gov.au/live) and will also be made available from the [inquiry website](#) at a later date.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearing however there will be limited seating available.



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Please be aware that the Committee is unable to intervene or provide advice in relation to individual circumstances. If you are in immediate danger, please contact 000. If you are experiencing distress or would like to speak with someone about your situation, the following support services are available:

- 1800RESPECT national helpline: 1800 737 732
- Women's Crisis Line: 1800 811 811
- Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491
- Lifeline: 131 114
- Relationships Australia: 1300 364 277
- Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

### **Media enquiries:**

Office of Ms Sarah Henderson MP, Committee Chair on (03) 5243 1444.

### **For background information:**

Parliamentary inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence

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Interested members of the public may wish to track the committee via the website. Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.

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