



Last days to complete the Child Support questionnaire

Members of the public have only 2 days left to complete the online questionnaire for the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Child Support Program.

The Questionnaire has been live since May this year, and so far has received over 11,000 responses. During that time, the Committee has published three ‘snapshots’ of responses to the questionnaire, highlighting the kinds of experiences that people have been sharing with the Committee. The questionnaire will be closed for new entries at midday, Friday 29 August 2014.

This week also features three public hearings being held by the Committee, including over two hours of statements from individuals with a personal experience of the Child Support Program, through Community Statement Sessions.

‘The Committee has been very keen to hear from ordinary Australians about the Child Support program,’ said Committee Chair George Christensen. ‘Through our questionnaire and Community Statement Sessions, we have listened to what individuals think of the system as it stands. Some people have very strong criticisms of the program, and other people have more positive experiences to report. We have given people an opportunity to be honest about their experiences, but have also asked people to give us their constructive ideas for improvement.’

‘As we commence our final hearings, the Committee will turn its attention to the report of the inquiry, and consider what kind of recommendations could benefit those involved in the Child Support Program. I encourage those who haven’t completed the questionnaire to go online as soon as possible and contribute to our inquiry,’ Mr Christensen added.

The hearings will be held in Parliament House, Canberra, with some opportunities for members of the public to attend:

Thursday 28 August – 9.30am to 11am – witnesses from the **Departments of Human Services and Social Services** – public welcome to attend;

Thursday 28 August – 5pm to 7pm – **Community Statements** – audio will be streamed live online;

Friday 29 August – 9am – 2.15pm – witnesses including **Dr Bruce Smyth & Dr Bryan Rodgers (ANU), Family & Relationship Services Australia, Economic Security 4 Women, Australian Men’s Health Forum and National Legal Aid.**

Full details of the inquiry, including hearings, are available online, at: www.aph.gov.au/childsupport.

Snapshots of the questionnaire are available here:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs/Child_Support_Program/Snapshots

For media comment – please contact Lynn Bonanno in the Chair’s office on (07) 4944 0662.

For inquiry information – please contact the Secretariat:

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