



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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

Issue date: 23 October 2017

Final public hearing on family violence and the family law system

The [Parliamentary Inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence](#) will hold what is expected to be its final public hearing on Tuesday. So far, the Committee has held 10 public hearings in Canberra and interstate. This week, the Committee will be hearing from academics with an interest in parenting matters and the capacity of family report writers. The Committee will also hear from the organisation Parents Beyond Breakup.

The Chair of the Committee, [Sarah Henderson MP](#), said “Throughout this inquiry, the Committee has held 10 public hearings, both in Canberra and interstate. We have conducted site inspections and spoken to people who have been affected by family violence and who have had to navigate the family law system. We have also heard about the role of family report writers in the family law system, and we look forward to exploring that further at this week’s hearing.”

This week’s public hearing is expected to be the inquiry’s last. Ms Henderson said, “The Committee has been carefully considering the evidence we have received throughout the inquiry, including the countless personal stories relayed to us by individuals both in person and through the 5,490 responses to the Committee’s online questionnaire. We thank all those who have taken the time to assist us with this inquiry. Over the coming months we will be formulating our report to the Parliament, which will contain recommendations to the Government.”

A detailed program for the hearing is available from the [Inquiry website](#).

Public hearing details:

4.30 pm to 6.00 pm, Tuesday 24 October
Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

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| 4.30 pm | Ms Zoe Rathus AM, Dr Samantha Jeffries, and Dr Helena Menih |
| 5.15 pm | Parents Beyond Breakup |

Audio of the hearing will be streamed live at 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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