



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Standing Committee on Petitions

Inquiry into the e-petitioning system of the House of Representatives Petitions Committee

Issue date: 17 October 2017

Federal MPs talk e-petitions with ACT Assembly

What works, what doesn't and what's different between the two jurisdictions, will be on the agenda tomorrow when the federal parliament's Petitions Committee meets with representatives from the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Representing the ACT Legislative Assembly will be the Assistant Speaker, Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA, and the Deputy Clerk, Mr Max Kiermaier, both of whom are expected to speak on their experiences with e-petitions, and the Legislative Assembly's own e-petitioning system.

The following Wednesday, the Committee will also hear from the Clerk of the Parliament of Tasmania, Mr Shane Donnelly, about their e-petitioning system, as well as representatives from the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA), who are expected to provide a unique perspective about the accessibility needs of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The Chair of the Committee, Member for Robertson, Ms Lucy Wicks MP, said that learning from other jurisdictions and community groups is an important part of the improvement process.

"Since our e-petitioning system was launched at the beginning of this Parliament, we have been able to make petitioning more and more accessible, but there are still areas in which we can improve," the Chair said.

"Giving people the opportunity to put their voice to Parliament is an important part of democracy, and we want to be able to eliminate any barrier to this. Hearing about what certain community groups need, and what other Parliaments have done to make their process easier, will inform the Committee about what we can do moving forward."

The Committee also have an online survey to capture the views of e-petition system users. The survey can be accessed via the inquiry webpage: www.aph.gov.au/epetitionsinquiry

Public hearing details:

10:45am – 11:30am

Wednesday 18 October 2017

Committee Room 1R1, Parliament House

10:40am – 11:30am

Wednesday 25 October 2017

Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House

ACT Legislative Assembly

Mr Max Kiermaier, Deputy Clerk

Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA, Assistant Speaker

Parliament of Tasmania

Mr Shane Donnelly, Clerk

Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

Dr Emma Campbell, Director



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MEDIA RELEASE

The hearings will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live

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Standing Committee on Petitions

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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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