



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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

Issue date: 13 June 2017

Family violence and law reform - what's being done?

The [Federal Parliamentary Committee](#) examining family violence and the family law system will hold a public hearing with representatives of key government departments today.

The **Attorney General's Department** is responsible for family law services, and the **Department of Social Services** provides social services assistance to people affected by family violence.

The Chair of the Committee, [Ms Sarah Henderson MP](#), said the inquiry is examining the effectiveness of the federal family law system in supporting and protecting those affected by family violence, especially those who are most at risk.

"We must ensure the family law system provides adequate support and protection in cases where family violence has occurred. The Committee will consider what has been done so far and what more can be done to meet the needs of vulnerable people in family law proceedings.

"Due to the nature of family violence, and the close connection to family breakdown, the federal family law system has an important role in resolving cases which involve the victims of family violence and their children," Ms Henderson said.

Ms Henderson noted that the Committee had already received 90 submissions and many more letters from individuals. The Committee had also received over 3,000 responses to its anonymous questionnaire.

Next week, the Committee will hold public hearings with the Chief Justice of Family Court of Australia, the Honourable Diana Bryant AO, and the Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia, Chief Judge John Pascoe AC CVO. Details are available on the inquiry's [website](#). Both hearings will be webcast live (audio and visual) at aph.gov.au/live

Public hearing details: 5.45 pm to 7.15 pm, Tuesday 13 June 2017, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

5.45 pm Attorney General's Department and Department of Social Services
7.15 pm *Close*

Media enquiries:

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



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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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