



First public hearings for skin cancer inquiry

The House of Representatives Health Committee will this week hold the first two public hearings for its inquiry into skin cancer in Australia.

The hearings are a continuation of an inquiry started by the health committee of the previous parliament, which held a skin cancer roundtable in June 2013.

Australians have more than 12 times the global average rate of melanoma of the skin—the highest recorded incidence in the world.

“Skin cancer affects people from all walks of life in communities across Australia,” said Committee Chair Steve Irons MP.

“These initial Canberra-based hearings are intended to provide a broad snapshot of the current state of play nationally, before the committee embarks on a comprehensive program of hearings around Australia in both cities and regional centres”.

The committee is investigating the awareness, prevention, early diagnosis and management of both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.

“The committee is interested both in the success of awareness campaigns in improving skin cancer prevention, and in the effectiveness of our health system in making sure skin cancer patients have access to the best possible diagnosis and treatment services.”

Details of the hearings are as follows:

Tuesday 25 March – 12.15 to 1.00pm
Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

- National Rural Health Alliance

Friday 28 March – 12.30 to 2.00pm
Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Department of Health

The hearings will be broadcast live (audio only) at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>

The closing date for written submissions to the inquiry is Friday 28 March 2014. Organisations and individuals intending to make a submission after this date should inform the secretariat as soon as possible by email to health.reps@aph.gov.au.

Further information on the inquiry, including the full terms of reference, are now available on the committee’s website: www.aph.gov.au/health

For media comment please contact Jonathan Martin from the office of Mr Steve Irons MP on 0419 993 677. **For all other enquiries**, please contact the committee secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/health.