



## ***Child Support inquiry to hear from the Lone Fathers Association, Family Studies Institute***

The Federal Parliamentary inquiry into the Child Support Program continues its program of public hearings this week with hearings in Canberra and Melbourne. This follows two days of hearings held in June. The inquiry is examining a range of issues to do with the administration of the Child Support program, in particular payment and enforcement options, flexibility, mediation and links with the Family Court.

The first hearing is in **Canberra from 9.30am-11am on Thursday 17 July** with the Lone Fathers Association.

The second hearing will be in **Melbourne on Friday 18 July from 10.00am-4.00pm**. The Committee will hear from the Australian Institute of Family Studies, Australia's leading family research institute, as well as witnesses such as the Victorian Council of Single Mothers and their Children and academics Professor Belinda Fehlberg and Dr Kay Cook.

The Committee will also hold a community statement session at which members of the public will share their experience with the child support program and make suggestions about how it could be improved. Full programs for the public hearings are available on the inquiry website at:

[www.aph.gov.au/childsupport](http://www.aph.gov.au/childsupport).

'The Child Support system helps people make family arrangements at times of great stress in their lives,' Committee Chair Mr George Christensen MP said.

'The Committee is looking forward to hearing from experts in the field, from groups who represent those who are engaged in the system, and from individual parents and carers. Their knowledge and experience will help us find ways to improve the system.' Mr Christensen said.

Programs for the hearings, 'Snapshots' of responses to the Committee's online questionnaire, and further information about the inquiry, can be found on the website at [www.aph.gov.au/childsupport](http://www.aph.gov.au/childsupport).

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

For inquiry information – please contact the Secretariat:

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