



Committee examines late effects of polio

The House Standing Committee on Health and Ageing will hold a roundtable on Friday 30 March in Melbourne to learn more about late effects of polio/post-polio syndrome (LEOP/PPS) and its impact on the lives of polio survivors.

Although Australia is now free of polio, during the last century and as recently as the 1980s thousands of Australians were affected by the disease. Many years after recovering from the initial infection, polio survivors are increasingly experiencing the late effects of polio, characterised by a range of symptoms including fatigue, weakness and pain.

Committee Chair, Mr Steve Georganas MP said "The existence of LEOP as a post-viral condition has only relatively recently been recognised. There is no simple or definitive test for the condition, and it often takes years of persistence and frustration before sufferers receive a diagnosis. The roundtable will provide the Committee with an opportunity to learn more about the diagnosis of LEOP, its impact on the lives of sufferers, the options for treatment, and the availability of supports and services."

Roundtable participants include representatives of Polio Australia and polio survivors affected by LEOP/PPS, clinicians with an interest in the diagnosis and treatment of LEOP/PPS and representation from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

PROGRAM

10.00am	<i>Welcome and introduction</i>
10.15am	Presentation: Ms Gillian Thomas, President, Polio Australia
10.45am	<u>Topic 1</u> : definition, prevalence and diagnosis of LEOP/PSS
12.00pm	<i>Break</i>
1.00pm	<u>Topic 2</u> : Management of LEOP/PPS
2.15pm	<i>Break</i>
2.30pm	<u>Topic 3</u> : Support and services for LEOP/PPS
3.45pm	Concluding remarks
4.00pm	<i>Close</i>

VENUE: Committee Room G.9, Parliament of Victoria
55 St Andrews Place, East Melbourne, Victoria

Observers welcome

The roundtable will be webcast live on:
http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

For media comment: Contact Ms Hannah Frank from the Office of Steve Georganas MP on 0419 849 048.

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/haa.