



HOUSE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
INQUIRY INTO CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 10 October 2003

Chair: Mrs Kay Hull, MP
Deputy: Mrs Julia Irwin, MP

Institute of Family Studies & academic experts at child custody inquiry: Canberra public hearing, Monday 13 October

The House of Representatives Family and Community Affairs Committee's inquiry into child custody arrangements will hold another public hearing in **Canberra** this **Monday, 13 October**.

Appearing will be representatives of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and academics from the University of Sydney.

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday 13 October: 8.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: Main Committee Room, Parliament House

Program:

8.30 am Australian Institute of Family Studies (Submission 1055)

Associate Professor Ann Sanson, Acting Director
Mr Bruce Smyth, Research Fellow

10.30am Academics from the Faculty of Law, University of Sydney (Submission 743)

Professor Patrick Parkinson
Associate Professor Judy Cashmore

The submissions are available on the inquiry website.

For media comment from the Chair, please contact:

Mrs Kay Hull, MP (Chair), via tel: (02) 6277 4723

For further details on the inquiry, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4566 or visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fca/childcustody/

CHILD CUSTODY INQUIRY TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee is to investigate and make recommendations for action on the following matters:

- (a) given that the best interests of the child are the paramount consideration:
 - (i) what other factors should be taken into account in deciding the respective time each parent should spend with their children post separation, in particular whether there should be a presumption that children will spend equal time with each parent and, if so, in what circumstances such a presumption could be rebutted; and
 - (ii) in what circumstances a court should order that children of separated parents have contact with other persons, including their grandparents.
- (b) whether the existing child support formula works fairly for both parents in relation to their care of, and contact with, their children.
- (c) with the Committee to report to the Parliament by 31 December 2003.

The Committee has been asked to have regard to the Government's recent response to the report of the Family Law Pathways Advisory Group. A link to this report is available on the inquiry website.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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