



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

Child custody inquiry: Cairns public hearing, Friday

The House of Representatives Family and Community Affairs Committee's inquiry into child custody arrangements will hold further public hearings this **Friday, 5 September** in **Cairns**.

The hearing will each be followed by about an hour for community statements, each of about three minutes duration. All those who would like to speak are invited to attend. Participants will be chosen on the day. The three minute time limit should be adhered to so the committee can hear from as many people as possible within the hour.

Please note that due to the nature of the inquiry the committee may need to move into an in camera (confidential) hearing for some witnesses and the program could be subject to change.

CAIRNS, QLD
Friday 5 September: 9am – 1.00pm
Venue: Cairns International Hotel, 17 Abbott Street, Cairns

Program

9am – 10.20am	Four individuals
10.20am	Men Again Inc
10.40am	Fathering After Separation Group
11am	Family Court of Australia, Indigenous Family Consultant Program
11.30am – 1.00pm	Community statements (1.5 hours)

FUTURE HEARINGS: Public hearings will be held in every State and Territory (hearings have already been held in Geelong, Melbourne, Launceston, Wollongong, western Sydney, the Gold Coast and Brisbane). More than 1500 submissions have been received by the inquiry so far. This is a record for an inquiry by this committee, and amongst the highest ever for a House of Representatives Committee.

For media comment from the Chair, please contact:
Mrs Kay Hull, MP (Chair), via tel: (02) 6921 4600 or 0428 211 591

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

Chairman	Mrs Kay Hull MP	
Members	Hon Alan Cadman MP	Mr Chris Pearce MP
	Ms Trish Draper MP	Hon Roger Price MP
	Mr Peter Dutton MP	Mr Harry Quick MP
	Ms Jennie George MP	Mr Cameron Thompson MP
	Mrs Julia Irwin MP	