



Child custody inquiry: further public hearings - Gold Coast & Brisbane on Thursday 4 September -

The House of Representatives Family and Community Affairs Committee's inquiry into child custody arrangements will hold further public hearings this **Thursday, 4 September** on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane. Details of each of these hearings appears below.

The hearings 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.

GOLD COAST, QLD

Thursday 4 September: 9.20am – 12 noon

Venue: Robina Community Centre, Robina Town Centre Drive

Program

9.20am – 10am	Two individuals
10am	Men's Rights Agency
10.20am	KinKare
10.40am	Women's Legal Service
11am – 12 noon	Community statements (1 hour)

KEPERRA, QLD (suburb of Brisbane)

Thursday 4 September: 2.30pm – 5.30pm

Venue: Arana Hills Leagues Club, Dawson Parade, Keperra

Program

2.30pm	Three individuals
3.30pm	Pine Rivers Neighbourhood Centre
3.50pm	Men's Information and Support Association
4.10 pm	Hopgood Ganim Lawyers
4.30pm – 5.30pm	Community statements (1 hour)

FUTURE HEARINGS: The committee will hold further hearings on Friday 5 September in Cairns. Further detail on that hearing will be issued closer to the event. Public hearings will be held in every State and Territory (hearings have already been held in Geelong, Melbourne, Launceston, Wollongong and western Sydney).

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, including terms of reference, background documentation and committee membership,

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	