



**Child custody inquiry: further public hearings**  
**Adelaide, Darwin, Perth – September 24, 25, 26**

The House of Representatives Family and Community Affairs Committee's inquiry into child custody arrangements will hold further public hearings next week in Adelaide (Wednesday 24 September), Darwin (Thursday 25 September) and Perth (Friday 26 September).

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.

**ADELAIDE, Wednesday 24 September: 9.30am – 5pm**  
**Venue: Sunset Ballroom, Sfera's on the Park, 191 Reservoir Road, MODBURY**

9.30am	Individual witness
10am	The Richard Hillman Foundation Inc
10.30am	National Council of Single Mothers and their Children Inc
12 noon	Individual witness
1pm	Joint Parenting Association
1.30pm	Australian Association for Infant Mental Health (SA)
2pm	TBC
2.30pm	Shared Parenting Council of Australia Inc
3.30pm	Community statements (90 mins)

**DARWIN, Thursday 25 September: 9.30am – 1pm**  
**Venue: Litchfield Room, Parliament House, DARWIN**

9.30am	Individual witness
10am	Individual witness
10.30am	Lone Fathers Association of the NT
11am	Dawn House
11.30am	Top End Women's Legal Service
12 noon	Community statements (1 hour)

**PERTH, Friday 26 September: 9am – 2pm**  
**Venue: Jacaranda Room, Joondalup Resort, JOONDALUP**

9am	Individual witness
9.30am	Individual witness
10am	Family Court of Western Australia
11am	Family Law Foundation
11.30am	Aboriginal Legal Service of WA
12 noon	Individual witness
12.30pm	Individual witness
1pm	Community statements (1 hour)

**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/](http://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  
Ms Trish Draper MP  
Mr Peter Dutton MP  
Ms Jennie George MP  
Mrs Julia Irwin MP

Mr Chris Pearce MP  
Hon Roger Price MP  
Mr Harry Quick MP  
Mr Cameron Thompson MP