



Public Hearing Inquiry into Health Funding

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing will hold its first public hearing for the Health Funding Inquiry in Canberra on 30 May 2005.

Chairman of the Committee, Alex Somlyay, said that the public hearing would call on witnesses to provide evidence on a range of issues relevant to the complex arrangements currently in place for health funding.

"Health funding is a source of confusion and unnecessary complexity and it affects health care outcomes across all State and Territory lines", Mr Somlyay said.

"It is worth noting that Australia's health system is among the best in the world. Our life expectancy is ranked fifth in the world, but ever-increasing pressures in funding and expectations are causing the system to buckle."

Mr Somlyay said, that as policy makers, we need to understand the public perception that the health system is not providing what Australians need in spite of improvements in Commonwealth spending on health and ageing. The Committee will explore funding issues as well as ways that the Australian Government can improve the efficient and effective delivery of quality health care to all Australians.

The Committee will hear from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and the Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd representing doctors. The hearing is open to all members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Committee Room 1S6, Parliament House, Canberra

9.30am – 10.30am	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
10.45am – 11.45am	Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd
11.45pm	End of program

For media interview with the Chairman: Please contact the Committee Secretary on **02 6277 4579** or **0421 051 837**.

For further information on the public hearing: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145 or email haa.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa