



Federal inquiry into Health Funding

Public hearing in regional Queensland

Caboolture Shire Council Chambers – 17 March 2006

All members of the public are being invited to share their views on the state of the health system in the Caboolture region with the House of Representatives Health and Ageing Committee at a public hearing on Friday 17 March.

The federal parliamentary committee is in Caboolture, Queensland, as part of its wide-ranging inquiry into health funding.

The committee chaired by the Hon Alex Somlyay MP will also hear evidence from the shire councils of Caboolture and Pine Rivers, and also several health-related community groups on Friday morning from 9am.

At 12.00 noon, time has been set aside for the committee to hear community statements of between three and five minutes in length from people in the audience at the Caboolture Shire Council Chambers with experience of the region's health system. All members of the public are encouraged to attend, and all are welcome to participate in the community statement part of the hearing.

The Committee's terms of reference require that it "inquire into and report on how the Commonwealth government can take a leading role in improving the efficient and effective delivery of highest-quality health care to all Australians".

Mr Somlyay said this public hearing will give the local community a further opportunity to discuss with the Committee the key issues affecting the Caboolture and Pine Rivers regions.

"We all have a direct interest in assuring Australians have the best possible health care and that goal is better pursued through broad consultation rather than officials meeting behind closed doors," Mr Somlyay said.

Venue: Caboolture Shire Council Chambers, 2 Hasking Street, Caboolture, Qld

The program for **Friday 17 March 2006** is as follows:

- 9.00am to 12noon Invited witnesses
- 12noon to 1pm Community statement segment (3-5 minutes each)

For media interview with the Chairman:

Please contact Mr Somlyay's office on (07) 5471 6611

For a copy of the terms of reference and further information on making a submission:

Contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145 or 0421 051 837, or email

haa.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/healthfunding/index.htm>