

Anatomy of a Senate inquiry

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee
Ending the postcode lottery: Addressing barriers to sexual,
maternity and reproductive healthcare in Australia

Advocacy 101

By: Paddy Moore

Date: 20 June 2023



the women's
the royal women's hospital

Background:

2022

- Response to events in USA; reversal of Roe v Wade
 - Community dialogue
 - Multiple questions to parliament
 - Media interest
- Inquiry initiated by Australian Greens
- To look into the provision of the National Women's Health Strategy 2020-2030
 - Submissions by December 2022
 - Report by March ...extended x2 to May 2023

Terms of reference

- Barriers to achieving priorities under the National Women's Health Strategy for 'universal access to sexual and reproductive health information, treatment and services that offer options to women to empower choice and control in decision-making about their bodies', with particular reference to:
- cost and accessibility of contraceptives, including:
 - PBS coverage and TGA approval processes for contraceptives,
 - awareness and availability of long-acting reversible contraceptive and male contraceptive options, and
 - options to improve access to contraceptives, including over the counter access, longer prescriptions, and pharmacist interventions;
- cost and accessibility of reproductive healthcare, including pregnancy care and termination services across Australia, particularly in regional and remote areas;
- workforce development options for increasing access to reproductive healthcare services, including GP training, credentialing and models of care led by nurses and allied health professionals;
- best practice approaches to sexual and reproductive healthcare, including trauma-informed and culturally appropriate service delivery;
- sexual and reproductive health literacy;
- experiences of people with a disability accessing sexual and reproductive healthcare;
- experiences of transgender people, non-binary people, and people with variations of sex characteristics accessing sexual and reproductive healthcare;
- availability of reproductive health leave for employees; and
- any other related matter.

Submissions

- 352 separate submissions individuals & organisations
- Note made of 4 separate “campaigns” with form letters
 - Sample of each provided .
- Majority addressed sexual health /provision of abortion and contraception
- Minority addressed equity of access to fertility and maternity services
- Very small minority addressed all of the terms of reference

Submissions received by the Committee

Submissions may be re-ordered by clicking on a column header. They may also be grouped by Organisation/Individual, State/Territory.

Submission Number Organisation/Individual State/Territory

352 Items in 18 pages

No.	Submitter	
1	Healthy Male Ltd (PDF 701 KB) Attachment 1 (PDF 1657 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	National Foundation for Australian Women (PDF 156 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Organon ANZ (PDF 2462 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Australasian Sonographers Association (PDF 362 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Coalition (PDF 582 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Family Planning Welfare Association NT (PDF 541 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Women's Health Tasmania (PDF 543 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Public Advocate (Queensland) (PDF 634 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Monash University (PDF 2112 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	IVF Medical Directors Group (PDF 2112 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Birthingline Pregnancy Support Inc (PDF 1191 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Finance Sector Union of Australia (PDF 296 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (PDF 281 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Hudson Institute of Medical Research (PDF 167 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	MJD Foundation (PDF 202 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	The Australian College of Nursing (PDF 321 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Fay Gale Centre for Research on Gender at the University of Adelaide (PDF 170 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Pregnancy Help Sydney Inc (PDF 1321 KB)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Past Public Hearings

- 28 Apr 2023: Melbourne
- 04 Apr 2023: Perth
- 28 Feb 2023: Canberra

more...

Inquiry Status

Submissions Closed

Accessibility

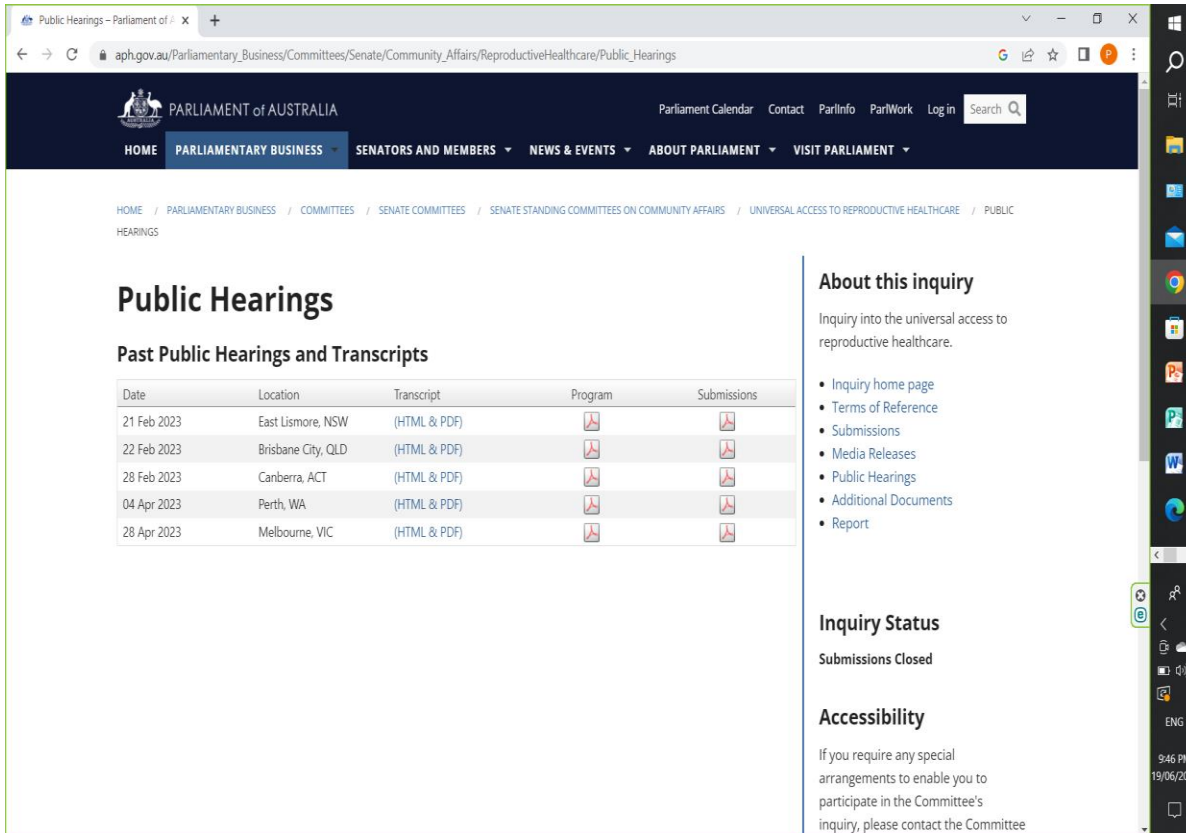
If you require any special arrangements to enable you to participate in the Committee's inquiry, please contact the Committee Secretariat.

Further information regarding accessibility can be found at www.aph.gov.au/Help/Accessibility

Themes presented : AAA

- Access, Affordability, Appropriateness of contraception and abortion care / services
- Consistency of themes
 - Free/affordable contraception info and provision
 - TGA
 - PBS
 - MEDICARE
 - As above for abortion care
 - EMA free /affordable and deregulated
 - Public Hospital provision of abortion
 - Aftercare post EMA











Public hearings



The screenshot shows the Parliament of Australia website page for public hearings. The page title is "Public Hearings" and the URL is "aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/ReproductiveHealthcare/Public_Hearings". The page features a navigation menu with "HOME", "PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS", "SENATORS AND MEMBERS", "NEWS & EVENTS", "ABOUT PARLIAMENT", and "VISIT PARLIAMENT". Below the navigation, there is a breadcrumb trail: "HOME / PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS / COMMITTEES / SENATE COMMITTEES / SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS / UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE / PUBLIC HEARINGS".

Public Hearings

Past Public Hearings and Transcripts

Date	Location	Transcript	Program	Submissions
21 Feb 2023	East Lismore, NSW	(HTML & PDF)		
22 Feb 2023	Brisbane City, QLD	(HTML & PDF)		
28 Feb 2023	Canberra, ACT	(HTML & PDF)		
04 Apr 2023	Perth, WA	(HTML & PDF)		
28 Apr 2023	Melbourne, VIC	(HTML & PDF)		

About this inquiry

Inquiry into the universal access to reproductive healthcare.

- Inquiry home page
- Terms of Reference
- Submissions
- Media Releases
- Public Hearings
- Additional Documents
- Report

Inquiry Status

Submissions Closed

Accessibility

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- Grouped into interest groups
- Invitation only
- Brief statement then questions
 - Very well informed
 - Genuinely looking for solutions
- No anti abortion representation

Report and recommendations



- 36 in total
- (5 regarding maternity, fertility services equity of access)
- General > specific
- Categories
 - Cocp provision affordable for all
 - Abortion access provision equitable and affordable
 - Improved service delivery, for vulnerable and marginalised groups
 - First nations, CALD LGBTQITP+ Disability
 - Workforce training and sustainability
- General bipartisan consensus
 - Agree should be public hospital provision BUT
 - Disagree re “free” vs “affordable” service provision (out of pocket costs)
- Good media coverage
- Supportive statements from national training and professional bodies
- BUT READ THE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS by ALP and LP !!

ADVOCACY RESPONSE

- Federal Dept. of Health keen to develop list of deliverables ASAP
- Critical timing
- RWH asked to nominate key recommendations
- TGA/PBS role to deregulate EMA and ensure best contraceptive methods available and affordable
- Adequate practitioner remuneration Medicare / Nurse lead models
- Mandate Public Hospital provision of abortion and contraceptive services

Reflections
Learnings
Next Steps

