



THE SENATE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into the access card bill

"The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration today launched its inquiry into the bill establishing the government's proposed Access Card", Committee Chair, Senator Brett Mason (Liberal Party, QLD) said.

The Senate referred the Human Services (Enhanced Service Delivery) Bill 2007, which if enacted will establish the legal framework for the access card, to the Committee for inquiry and report by 15 March 2007.

"The Committee is aware of the high level of public interest in this matter", Senator Mason said. "It is calling for submissions on the bill and intends to hold hearings in Sydney on Friday 2 March, in Melbourne on Monday 5 March and in Canberra on 6 March 2007".

"The Committee expects the bill will attract a large amount of comment and it looks forward to receiving a range of views on it", Senator Mason said.

The Committee will be examining, among other things, the bill's provisions relating to the intended scope and purposes of the card; the information to be included in the card register and card's chip and on the card's surface; and a range of offences prohibiting persons from requiring an access card for identification purposes and prohibiting other improper uses of the card.

For further information call (02) 6277 3530 or visit the committee website http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa_ctte/.

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