



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

22 October 2003

### **Child Custody Inquiry Hearing in Gunnedah on 27 October**

The Independent Federal Member for New England, Tony Windsor, has encouraged residents in the region with an interest in the issue of child custody arrangements to consider attending a Public Hearing in Gunnedah being conducted on Monday, 27 October, 2003 between 2.00 pm and 5.30 pm at the Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club Auditorium located at 313 Conadilly Street.

Mr Windsor said the hearing is part of a series of Public Hearings being conducted across Australia by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs as part of its inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation.

He said the hearings provide an opportunity for people and organisations to put their views on the matters outlined in the Inquiry's terms of reference. These include an examination of the concept of a 'rebuttable presumption' of equal time to be spent by children with each parent in the event of family separation, the child support formula and contact rights by grandparents and others.

A number of people who have made written submissions to the Inquiry have been invited to speak at the hearing and it is proposed there will be the opportunity during the final hour to allow others in attendance to make brief statements.

"I would encourage anyone with concerns relating to the issue of child custody and the matters covered by the Inquiry's terms of reference to consider attending the hearing which provides an avenue for people to have a direct say on this important issue," Mr Windsor said.

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***For further information contact Tony Windsor, MP, Ph (02) 6761 3080***