



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**INQUIRY INTO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**WEDNESDAY 7 AUGUST 2002**

The Legislative Council's Select Committee on Mental Health will be conducting a Public Forum on Wednesday 7 August 2002, Jubilee Room, Parliament House from 9:30am to 4:30pm.

To date, 69 people have appeared before the Committee from a range of fields and expertise. A further 11 witnesses are scheduled to appear in August.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC said today that evidence received during these hearings highlighted a number of issues, including: forensic, drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness and housing, disability and suicide issues. This evidence is in addition to the 285 submissions the Committee has received .

As an adjunct to the Committee's formal evidence gathering, the Committee resolved to conduct a public forum inviting those who had made a submission to the Inquiry in a personal capacity.

While the Committee has received evidence from mental health professionals and advocacy groups, the Committee wishes to hear evidence from consumers who have been affected by mental health issues such as patients, carers and parents the Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC said today.

Speakers were selected through a random ballot process until all places were filled. Mental health is an issue that affects the lives of many in NSW and the Forum is an important part of the Committee's inquiry into mental health services in NSW .

**The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti RFD MLC**  
Chair

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you are intending to film proceedings for broadcast purposes, you are required to notify the Secretariat on 9230 2641 by 5:00pm Tuesday 6 August 2002.

*For further information and comment please ring the Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC,  
Chairman of the Committee, on 02 9230 2322*