



MEDIA RELEASE

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 August 2017

New Law-Making System

Call for Submissions – Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Bill

“The Legislative Assembly has transformed the way laws are made in the Northern Territory by including public consultation for all but urgent Bills,” Ms Ah Kit MLA, Chair of the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee said. “Everyone now has the opportunity to have their say on proposed laws and inform the Assembly’s consideration of the Bill.”

The Assembly will now refer Bills to either the Social Policy or the Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee. These committees will seek public comment on the Bills, and when needed hold public hearings.

The first Bill the Assembly has referred to a committee for public consultation is the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC) Bill.

The Social Policy Scrutiny Committee is calling for submissions on the ICAC Bill.

“This review of Bills by committees will significantly improve the Territory’s law-making process by giving everyone a chance to have their say and providing more rigorous scrutiny of Bills. This is particularly important for a Parliament like ours, which does not have a second House of review,” Ms Ah Kit said. “Having a committee inquire into each Bill before it is debated in the Assembly will better inform the Assembly’s consideration and provide the opportunity to amend Bills in response to concerns raised by the public.”

Information on how to get involved is on the Legislative Assembly’s website at <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/committees>. People can also follow the Assembly on Twitter at [@LegAssemblyNT](https://twitter.com/LegAssemblyNT) or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LegislativeassemblyNT/> and sign up for email alerts <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/committees/subscribe>.

“The Social Policy Scrutiny Committee’s inquiry into the ICAC Bill gives everyone the opportunity to put on the public record whether they think the Bill should be passed, changed, or defeated. Submissions will be made public unless they contain confidential matters, and will inform the Committee’s report and the Assembly’s debate. I encourage all with an interest in the Bill to make their views known,” Ms Ah Kit said.

Submissions on the ICAC Bill are due by **Friday, 29 September** with public hearings to be held on **Monday, 9 October**.”

The Committee’s Terms of Reference, the draft Bill, associated Explanatory Statement and other reference material is available at <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/committees/spsc/ICAC> or by contacting the Committee office via email SPSC@nt.gov.au or telephone 8946 1485.

END

For Comment Contact : Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA on 8999 6659