The House of Representatives [Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs) is to examine the [Social Security Commission Bill 2018](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=r6156). The bill is a private member’s bill introduced by Ms Cathy McGowan AO, MP, Independent Member for Indi.

The bill seeks to establish an independent Social Security Commission, as a statutory agency, to provide Parliament with advice on acceptable minimum levels for social security payments.

The Social Security Commission would conduct reviews of social security payments, including recommendations for increases to payments where needed. The Commission would submit its recommendations to the relevant Minister, and the government would be required to respond. The reports of the reviews would also be tabled in Parliament and available to the public.

The text of the bill, as well as its explanatory memorandum, can be accessed on [the Committee’s website](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs).

The Committee will accept written submissions until **Friday, 1 March 2019.**

Further information about the inquiry is available on the [inquiry webpage](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs/SSCBill2018). Information about how to make a submission to an inquiry can be obtained from the [Parliament of Australia webpage](https://www.aph.gov.au/makesubmission).

**Media enquiries:**
Committee Chair: MS JULIA BANKS MP (CHISHOLM, VIC)

[@juliabanksmp](https://twitter.com/juliabanksmp?lang=en), [facebook.com/JuliaBanksMP](https://www.facebook.com/JuliaBanksMP/)

Electorate Office: (03) 9808 3188.

**For background information:**House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs
(02) 6277 2358
SPLA.Reps@aph.gov.au

Interested members of the public may wish to track the committee via the [website](http://houseofrepresentatives.createsend1.com/t/d-l-hkykbk-l-j/) <https://www.aph.gov.au/SPLA>. Click on the blue ‘Track Committee’ button on the right hand side and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.

Media release issue date: 24 October 2018