



NT Police Association to appear before Indigenous alcohol inquiry

The Northern Territory Police Association (NTPA) will contribute evidence to the House Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs on Thursday as part of the Committee's inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Committee Chair, Member for Murray, Dr Sharman Stone MP, said that "the NTPA offers a unique perspective on this issue as its members are often at the front line dealing with the consequences of alcohol misuse and alcohol-related harm in Northern Australia."

In its submission, the NTPA highlighted the significant resource drain on the police force caused by excess alcohol consumption. The NTPA is concerned that while substantial effort is directed by the taxpayer towards cleaning up the effects of alcohol misuse in Indigenous communities, there has been little commensurate effort dealing with the causes of high risk alcohol use and alcohol access and its low cost.

The NTPA has called for a response to minimising the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, through a focus on reducing the supply and sale of alcohol, and introducing greater accountability for licensees and the broader alcohol industry.

The NTPA is the peak body representing Northern Territory Police Officers and actively reviews and comments on operational policies and matters considered relevant to members' duties and obligations.

Details of the hearing are as follows:

When Thursday, 5 June 2014
Time 11.30am – 12.30pm
Where Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

The terms of reference are available at www.aph.gov.au/indigenousaffairs

The proceedings will be audio webcast live on: www.aph.gov.au/live

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair Dr Sharman Stone MP on (03) 5821 5371. **For background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or indigenousaffairs.reps@aph.gov.au