



Substance Abuse: two-day round-table **Thursday 15 and Friday 16 August**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs is holding a two-day round-table as part of its inquiry into substance abuse in Australian communities.

The round-table, to be held at Parliament House in Canberra (Committee Room 2R1), will include presentations from experts in each of the subject areas being examined by the Inquiry, and involve discussions to further draw out evidence.

The House Family and Community Affairs Committee Chair, Mrs Kay Hull MP, said the round-table would be a valuable way for the Committee to work toward completion of the inquiry.

"The round-table will be a significant component of this inquiry, and will be important in helping the Committee refine its thinking on substance abuse in Australia," Mrs Hull said.

"Listening to experience, seeing the problem, and establishing vital linkages will go a long way towards delivering solutions."

For media comment, please contact:

Mrs Kay Hull, MP (Chair), Tel. 0428 211 591 or (02) 6921 4600 (electorate)

For further details, contact: House Family and Community Affairs Committee Secretariat, Tel. (02) 6277 4566, Email: fca.reps@aph.gov.au

- The round-table is open to the public, as observers.
- For access before Parliament House opens to the public at 9.00am, please arrive at the front entrance by 8.15am to be escorted into the round-table by secretariat staff
- Webcast address: <http://www.aph.gov.au/live/webcast3.asp#>
- House monitor channel 9
- Day 2 (Friday) details will be issued tomorrow (Thursday)

DAY 1 - Thursday 15 August

Session topics on Day 1 are:

- **Health Care** (including prevention and early intervention; current and new treatment options; adequacy of existing treatment services; consumer perspectives)
- **Families** (school and family drug education; support for families with drug-addicted members)
- **Workplace Safety and Productivity** (prevalence and costs; current policies and programs; improving workplace safety and productivity)

PROGRAM:

Opening (8.30am)

- Mrs Kay Hull MP, Chair, House of Representatives Family and Community Affairs Committee
- Major Brian Watters, Chair, Australian National Council on Drugs

Major Watters will present an overview of the role and work of the Australian National Council on Drugs, stressing two points; firstly that alcohol and tobacco are the country's most damaging drugs. Secondly, "whilst there are no simple answers to this problem, we have all been encouraged by the first downturn in some time in the levels of drug use in Australia, which illustrates that the comprehensive national Tough on Drugs Strategy can achieve supply, demand and harm reductions by recognising drug use as a health, legal and social problem".

For preview comment from Major Watters, tel: 0400 780 509



HOUSE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
INQUIRY INTO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

MEDIA RELEASE

Chair: Mrs Kay Hull, MP
Deputy: Mrs Julia Irwin, MP

TOPIC 1 - Health Care (8.50am - 12.50pm)

Speakers and roundtable participants are:

(a) Prevention and early intervention

- Professor David Hill, Director, Cancer Control Research Institute, The Cancer Council of Victoria; Chair, National Expert Advisory Committee on Tobacco

Professor Hill will speak on and discuss:

- Early intervention points to reduce the harm of tobacco -opportunities from pre-conception to young adulthood
- Links between adult and childhood smoking and risk of harm

For preview comment from Professor Hill, tel: (03) 9417 379 093

- Professor George Patton, Centre for Adolescent Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

(b) Current and new treatment options

- Professor John Saunders, Professor of Alcohol and Drug Studies, University of Queensland; Member, Australian National Council on Drugs
- Professor Richard Mattick, Director, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales

Professor Mattick will speak on and discuss:

- Overview of recent developments in the management of alcohol abuse and dependence;
- New pharmacotherapies for opioid dependence;
- Management of psychostimulants abuse and dependence;
- Future directions for treatment

For preview comment from Professor Mattick, tel: 0419 409 010

(c) Adequacy of existing treatment services

- Professor Ian Webster, President, Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia
- Professor Ann Roche, Director, National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, Flinders University of South Australia; Member, National Expert Advisory Committee on Illicit Drugs

Professor Webster will provide the Committee with an overview of the effectiveness of treatment for alcohol and other drug problems and outline the level of demand placed on specialist services, hospitals and general practice, by alcohol and other drug related problems

For preview comment from Professor Webster, tel: 0414 462 168

(d) Consumer perspectives

- Ms Annie Madden, Executive Officer, Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League

TOPIC 2 - Families (1.20pm - 3.50pm)

(a) Prevention: school drug education and support for families

- Geoff Munro, Director, Centre for Youth Drug Studies, Australian Drug Foundation
- Julie Hanbury, Coordinator, HELP (Helping Empower Local Parents), Local Drug Action Groups Inc. (Western Australia-based); Member, Australian National Council on Drugs; Member, Australian National Council on Drugs
- Glenn Williams, Executive Director, Focus on the Family Australia

Glenn Williams will speak on and discuss

- prevention by providing accessible education and support to parents at the local level
- the success of Focus on the Family's program, 'How to Drug Proof Your Kids'
- how to judge the success of prevention programs



HOUSE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
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For preview comment from Glenn Williams, tel: 0412 414 444

(b) Families with drug addicted members: supporting these families and involving them in treatment

- Tony Trimmingham, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Family Drug Support
- Ann Bressington, Chief Executive Officer, DrugBeat of SA; Member, Australian National Council on Drugs

Tony Trimmingham will speak about and discuss:

- family members bear the brunt of drug abuse
- if families are unsupported, they tend to become isolated, disconnect from the drug user and break down
- if supported, families can be incredibly resilient

For preview comment from Tony Trimmingham: tel, 0412 414 444

TOPIC 3 - Workplace safety and productivity (4.00pm - 5.35pm)

(a) Prevalence and costs

- Dr Steve Allsop, A/Director Practice Development, Drug and Alcohol Office, WA and A/Professor in International Health, Centre for International Health, Curtin University of Technology, WA

(b) Current policies and programs

- Dr Ian Gardner, Immediate Past President and Councillor, Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine

(c) Improving workplace safety and productivity

- Trevor Sharp, National Project Officer, The Building Trades Group of Unions Drug and Alcohol Committee; Chief Executive Officer, The Construction Industry Drug and Alcohol Foundation; Member, Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia's Workplace Reference Group

Trevor Sharp will speak on and discuss:

- the situation in the workplace
- strategies
- how industry has responded
- successes

For preview comment from Trevor Sharp: tel 0418 612 884

The inquiry started in March 2000 and issued a discussion paper in September 2001. The inquiry was readopted, with the intent of publishing a final report, with recommendations, as soon as possible.

The inquiry is examining the social and economic costs of the abuse of both legal and illicit substances. The committee will also be looking at how mental illness, in combination with substance abuse, affects the matters listed above.