



Substance Abuse inquiry to report this Monday

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs will this Monday, 8 September, table the report of its inquiry into substance abuse in Australian communities.

The inquiry, which examined the social and economic costs of the abuse of both legal and illicit substances, started in March 2000 and issued a discussion paper in September 2001.

The inquiry was readopted, at the request on the Minister for Health, Senator Patterson, in mid-2002, with the intent of publishing a final report, with recommendations. The Committee held a number of additional public and private hearings, and a two-day roundtable with key groups, before finalising its report.

REPORT TABLING & MEDIA CONFERENCE

The report will be tabled in the House of Representatives at (time) on Monday 8 September. A media conference will be held in Committee Room 2R1 at Parliament House from 1.15pm.

Copies of the report will be available from the Committee Secretariat following the tabling, or online at the Committee website: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fca/

INQUIRY TERMS OF REFERENCE

At the request of the Minister for Health and Ageing, the committee is to report and recommend on the social and economic costs of substance abuse, with particular regard to:

- family relationships;
- crime, violence (including domestic violence), and law enforcement;
- road trauma;
- workplace safety and productivity; and
- health care costs.

The committee also looked at how mental illness, in combination with substance abuse, affects the matters listed above.

The discussion paper, *Where to next?*, is available at the committee's website as are copies of the 288 submissions received by the inquiry.

For media comment from the Chair, please contact:

Mrs Kay Hull, MP (Chair), via tel: (02) 6921 4600 (electorate) or (02) 6277 4723 (P House)

For further details on the inquiry, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4566 or visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fca/

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR THIS INQUIRY

Chairman Mrs Kay Hull MP

Members Hon Alan Cadman MP
Ms Trish Draper MP
Mr Peter Dutton MP
Hon Graham Edwards MP
Ms Jennie George MP

Mrs Julia Irwin MP
Mr Chris Pearce MP
Mr Harry Quick MP
Mr Cameron Thompson MP
Mr Barry Wakelin MP