



# Bronwyn Bishop MP

*Chairman*

House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Family & Human Services

## MEDIA RELEASE

19 June 2007

## How can families be strengthened against the impact of illicit drug use?

The House of Representatives Families Committee will take evidence tomorrow (20 June) from the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs as part of its inquiry into the impact of illicit drugs on families.

The department is responsible for funding the government's *Strengthening Families* program, which aims to provide support for families, including parents, grandparents, kinship carers and children of drug-using parents. The program, which provides funding of \$8.6 million to 20 organisations over three years to June 2008, pays for a range of services including education, counselling support services, advice and referral services.

'Families have told the committee how important it is to get access to the right services at the right time to help loved family members get drug free,' Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said. 'There is often a limited window of opportunity to provide help'.

The committee has heard evidence from families that they find it difficult to find help, and that when they do, there are often delays in accessing treatment.

'Prevention efforts need to be our first priority in strengthening families,' Bronwyn Bishop said.

'The committee is keen to find out how services provided by government and non-government agencies come together to help families deal with illicit drug use and the help families get to find their way to appropriate services.'

The hearing is open to all members of the public.

### **PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE**

Date: Wednesday 20 June 2007

Time: 10:15 am – 11:30 am

Venue: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

Live audio broadcast will be available at <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

**For media interview:** Please contact Damien Jones on **0409 147 247** at the electorate office of the Committee Chairman the Hon Mrs Bronwyn Bishop MP.

**For further information on making a submission:** contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4566 or email [fhs.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:fhs.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/illicitdrugs/index.htm>