



# Bronwyn Bishop MP

*Chairman*

House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Family & Human Services

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

18 June 2007

## **The role of families in breaking the intergenerational cycle of illicit drug use**

The Institute of Family Studies will give evidence to the House Families Committee tomorrow as part of the inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families.

In their submission to the inquiry, the Institute highlight the key role that families play in providing a protective environment for children that reduces their risk of later illicit drug use and the role of negative early familial characteristics in increasing the risk of illicit drug use.

The Institute call for families to be part of the solution, suggesting that family members need basic information on the effects of drug use, why young people use drugs, family member's possible role in the causes of a young person's drug use and helpful ways in which they can respond to the problem.

'There is clear evidence that the family environment can have both a positive and negative effect on whether children use illicit drugs', Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said.

'Breaking the intergenerational cycle of illicit drug use needs to be a priority to prevent parents affected by drugs placing their children and any future grandchildren at risk of abuse and neglect.'

A recent report commissioned by the Australian National Council on Drugs estimated that over 40,000 children live in a household where one adult is taking cannabis daily and over 14,000 children live in a household where one adult is taking methamphetamines daily.

'The committee is keen to learn about how prevention and treatment programs affect families, and how families can meaningfully participate in these programs', Bronwyn Bishop said.

The hearing is open to all members of the public.

### **PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE**

Date: Tuesday 19 June 2007

Time: 4.30pm to 5.30pm

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

A live 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>