



Alcohol - reducing the harm

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs will hold a second roundtable for its inquiry into Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder this week, focusing on organisations working to prevent the harmful use of alcohol in Australia.

These groups have made clear statements that it is time for mandatory labelling of alcohol products rather than industry led voluntary labels.

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia have also stated a broad education and public awareness campaign is required that addresses the full range of alcohol related harm, together with a specific campaign on the potential risks of alcohol related harm associated with pregnancy.

Additionally the organisations are calling for prevention strategies such as influencing cultural change about alcohol, more work in the areas of screening and diagnosing of FASD and supporting people with FASD and their families and carers.

The Committee Chair, Graham Perrett MP, said as one in five women continue to consume alcohol despite knowing they are pregnant, there should be information and support available.

“Whether that information is through their health professional, their partner and family or through alcohol warning labels and public health campaigns, more needs to be done to get the message out there.”

The roundtable will feature the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education, the Public Health Association of Australia and the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia.

Program: 8:30 am – 9:30 am, Thursday 31 May 2012
Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House Canberra

To listen to the proceedings live on your computer, please visit
http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

A transcript of the proceedings will also be made available online next week.

Information about the Committee’s inquiry is available on the FASD inquiry website at
www.aph.gov.au/fasd.

For media comment , please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0408 883 312.	
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