



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

30 March 2007

Parents try a Toughlove approach to kids on drugs

Chairman of the House Families Committee, Bronwyn Bishop, announced today that Toughlove NSW will give evidence in a public hearing on Tuesday as part of the Committee's inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families.

Toughlove is an international self help group of parents concerned with their adolescent's troubling behaviour. Through Toughlove, parents whose children have been experiencing problems with drugs can share information on ways to combat their problems while maintaining the family unit.

'More than one-third of parents seeking help from Toughlove say illicit drug use is associated with their children's troubling behaviour', Mrs Bishop said. 'The committee is keen to hear how Toughlove's peer support approach can help parents get their children back on the right track and make the most of their lives'.

The committee will also hear from Dr Stuart Reece, who has provided estimates to the committee that between 1997 and 2004, methadone was involved in almost 40,000 years of potential life lost — almost 10 per cent of total potential years of life lost from all causes in Australia. In a submission to the Committee, Dr Reece has called for a detailed evaluation of alternative addiction treatments and greater post-treatment support.

Also giving evidence will be representatives from the Australian Council for Children and Parenting, the Alcohol and Drug Service and Teen Challenge.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Date Tuesday 3 April 2007

Venue Conference Room, Commonwealth Offices (Charterbridge House), Level 8, 70 Philip Street, Sydney

9:45am–10:30am	Toughlove NSW
10:30am–10:45am	Morning tea
10:45am–11:45am	Dr Stuart Reece
11:45am–12:30pm	Australian Council for Children and Parenting
12:30pm–1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm–2:00pm	Community statements
2:00pm–2:45pm	Alcohol and Drug Service
2:45pm–3:30pm	Teen Challenge
3:30pm	Close

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 or visit the website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/illicitdrugs/index.htm>