



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

7 August 2007

30,000 calls for help: families seek support for drug use

The House Families Committee will take evidence tomorrow (8 August) from Family Drug Support as part of its inquiry into the impact of illicit drugs on families.

Family Drug Support is a non-government organisation that is primarily made up of volunteers who have experienced first hand the trauma and chaos of having family members with drug dependency. The organisation was formed in 1997 after its founder Tony Trimmingham lost his son to a heroin overdose.

'Families have told the committee that it is sometimes difficult to get access to the right information and treatment services at the right time to help loved family members get the help they need,' Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said.

In a submission to the committee, Family Drug Support noted that its national telephone information and support service received almost 30,000 calls from families in 2006, with support calls having an average duration of 33 minutes. Mothers of drug users represented more than 40 per cent of callers.

'Families are key players in addressing drug use issues and problems', Bronwyn Bishop said. 'By building resilience and self-confidence, the family can be a person's strongest defence against drugs and their most steadfast support in rehabilitation and treatment.'

The hearing is open to all members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Date: Wednesday 8 August 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 or visit the website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/illegaldrugs/index.htm>