



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

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Public Hearings Commence in Melbourne for Parliamentary Inquiry into Crime

The Chairman of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Bronwyn Bishop today announced that public hearings will commence in Melbourne for the Parliamentary Inquiry into Crime in Australia.

As part of its inquiry, the committee will be conducting public hearings at Parliament House in Melbourne on Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 September 2002. The committee will be hearing from a number of expert witnesses, organisations and groups about crime in the community.

“This inquiry will allow the committee to look at different aspects of crime within the Australian community, how people are affected by crime, support mechanisms for victims, motivation of perpetrators, demographics as well as issues such as effectiveness of sentencing and the way in which perpetrators are dealt with by the law,” Mrs Bishop said.

“There are a lot of myths out in the community about crime in Australia and we need to separate the fact from the fiction, so that we can find out what is really happening and do something about it.”

Mrs Bishop said it was also time to start looking at the increasing impact of IT fraud and e crime on the community, which is on the increase right across Australia as well as sexual assault crime where the committee will have a particular focus.

“We will be hearing from a wide range of people including Victoria Police, Older Persons Action Centre, Victorian Centres against Sexual Assault Forum, the Police Association and the National Vehicle Theft Reduction Council to name a few.

The committee has been asked to examine the extent and impact of crime in Australia, and ways in which the Commonwealth can work towards a holistic approach, which includes all levels of government.

“The Australian people are tired of inaction in particular by the states in relation to crime and safety in our communities and we must work together to find solutions to the increase in crime.

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 Gillian Gould (Committee Secretary) 02.6277 4642

Note: Attached is a program fro the two-day hearings.

Background papers are available at our website. www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/laca

*Parliamentary Inquiry into Crime
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Legal & Constitutional Affairs Hearing timetable:*

Monday 9 September 2002 K Room

10.00am Acting Commander Ashley Dickinson
Victoria Police

10.45am Crime Prevention Victoria

11.30am Professor Arie Freiberg

1.15pm Russell Smith
Australian Institute of Criminology

2.45pm Sue Healy
Older Persons Action Group

3.30pm Adrian Stephan
Logistics

Tuesday 10 September 2002 Spring Street Committee Rooms

10.00am Marg D'Arcy
Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault

10.45am Francis Grindlay
Moreland City Council

11.15am Jacinta Maloney
St Kilda Legal Centre

1.00pm Virginia Geddes & Janet Hall
Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre

1.45pm Paul Mullett
Police Association of Victoria

2.30pm Ray Carroll and Geoff Hughes
National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council

Note: Timing for witness appearances may vary.