



Obesity hearings in the Gold Coast and Broken Hill

The House of Representatives Health Committee will hear from leading community health experts at a **Gold Coast** public hearing on **Monday 8 December 2008**, as part of the federal parliamentary inquiry into obesity in Australia.

The Committee, chaired by Steve Georganas (Member for Hindmarsh, SA), will hear from David Gillespie, the author of "Sweet Poison: Why sugar makes us fat". Health Group Strategies will brief the committee on various policy options for addressing overweight and obesity within the Australian population. The Committee will hear evidence from Professor Greg Gass about his research into treating Type 2 diabetes in older women. The Gold Coast City Council will inform the Committee about their activities to encourage residents of the Gold Coast to be physically active. Delfin Lend Lease will also brief the Committee about the sport and recreation activities in Varsity Lakes.

The Committee will visit an Active and Health Gold Coast Tai Chi class, and Varsity Lakes to see how urban built environments can be designed to better promote physical activity.

On **Tuesday 9 December 2008** the Committee will travel to **Broken Hill** and **Wilcannia** for a public hearing and inspection. At the public hearing, the Committee will hear from the Centre for Remote Health Research about their evaluation and lessons learned from the WellingTONNE community challenge initiative. Representatives from Maari Ma Aboriginal Health Corporation will also appear to brief the committee on the work in the region to combat overweight and obesity.

While in Broken Hill, the Committee will visit the Royal Flying Doctor Service base at Broken Hill airport to learn more about the important services the Flying Doctors provide to the Australian community.

The Committee will travel to Wilcannia to meet with local elders and community representatives. While there the committee will visit a local supermarket to see first hand the prices and availability of fruit and vegetables.

Further information about the hearings can be found on the Health and Ageing Committee website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/obesity/hearings.htm>

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Steve Georganas, on (08) 8376 9000 (Electorate office).

For all other information: please contact the Inquiry Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the Committee's inquiry website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/obesity/index.htm>