



# Bronwyn Bishop MP

*Chairman*

House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Family & Human Services

## MEDIA RELEASE

27 February 2007

## Is the National Drug Strategy helping families?

The Chairman of the House Families Committee, Bronwyn Bishop, today announced that representatives from the Government's coordinating drug policy agency, the Department of Health and Ageing, will brief the committee on the implementation of the Australian Government's National Drug Strategy. The public hearing, to be held at Parliament House tomorrow, is part of the committee's inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families.

'The National Drug Strategy is a high-level national policy framework that guides drug policy at all levels of government', Mrs Bishop said. 'It is important the strategy is implemented in a way that prevents the uptake of illicit drug use to reduce the devastating effects illicit drug use has on families'.

Illicit drug use contributes to significant illness and disease, injury, violence, crime and breakdowns in families and relationships. The economic and social cost of illicit drug use is estimated to be more than \$6 billion.

'The Australian Government has spent more than \$1 billion over the last ten years on its National Illicit Drugs Strategy', Mrs Bishop said. 'Although there are signs that young people are more aware of the dangers in using illicit drugs such as cannabis, more needs to be done to prevent illicit drug use in our community'.

The committee's inquiry will be looking at the financial, social and personal cost to families who have a member using illicit drugs, including the impact of drug induced psychoses or other mental disorders. The impact of harm minimisation programs on families will also be examined.

### **PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE**

**Date:** Wednesday 28 February 2007  
**Venue:** Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra  
**Time:** 10.15 am – 11.30 am

**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](mailto:fhs.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/illicitdrugs/index.htm>