



# Bronwyn Bishop MP

*Chairman*

House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Family & Human Services

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

25 May 2007

## **Drug advisory bodies to give evidence to House Families Committee**

Peak drug advisory bodies Drug Free Australia and the Australian National Council on Drugs will give evidence to the House Families Committee on Monday 28 May 2007 as part of their inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families.

In their submission to the committee, Drug Free Australia has highlighted that Australia has among the highest levels of cannabis and methamphetamine use in the OECD.

Drug Free Australia is critical of the harm minimisation approach to drug treatment. To overcome this situation, Drug Free Australia advocates a restrictive drug policy with a focus on abstinence-based recovery.

The committee will also hear from the Australian National Council on Drugs — the government's peak advisory body on drug policy. A recent report commissioned by the ANCD found that over 40,000 children live in a household where one adult is taking cannabis daily and over 14,000 children live in a household where one adult is taking methamphetamines daily.

'The ANCD's research points to the significant number of childrens' lives that are potentially at risk as a result of parental illicit drug use', Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said. 'These problems need to be addressed as a matter of priority to break the intergenerational cycle of illicit drug use.'

Also appearing at the public hearing will be the Canberra Mothercraft Society. The society recently prepared a collection of stories from grandparents about parenting grandchildren as a result of the effects of alcohol and other drugs on their adult children.

The hearing is open to all members of the public.

### **PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE**

9.30 – 10.20 Drug Free Australia  
10.20 – 11.10 Canberra Mothercraft Society  
11.30 – 12.20 Australian National Council on Drugs

**Venue:** Committee Room 1R4, 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](mailto:fhs.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/illicitdrugs/index.htm>