



Youth forum in Melbourne on the impact of violence

A youth forum and public hearing on the impact of violence on young Australians will be held in Melbourne on Monday, 15 February.

The youth forum will allow young people to have informal group discussions with members of the House of Representatives Family and Youth Committee about their perceptions and experiences of violence and its impact on their lives.

“The Committee is keen to learn more from young people about their real experiences and to know what young people themselves believe can and should be done to reduce levels of violence and lessen its impact on them,” said Committee Chair Annette Ellis.

“I anticipate that the youth forum will give the Committee a valuable insight.”

Following the youth forum Melbourne based anti-street violence association Step Back Think will address a federal parliamentary public hearing in the afternoon.

Step Back Think was set up by a group of young people following the brutal bashing of their friend on his 20th birthday in 2006 which left him with permanent brain damage.

Order of Australia medallist Les Twentyman will also talk to MPs about youth violence and illegal knife usage. Mr Twentyman has more than 25 years of experience as a street outreach youth worker and is founder of the 20th Man Fund.

The Committee will also hear from the Foundation for Young Australians and the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Adolescent Health.

YOUTH FORUM & PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

Monday, 15 February 2010

Citigate Rooms 1 & 2 - Citigate Hotel Melbourne - 270 Flinders Street, Melbourne

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| Youth Forum | 9:30 am | Group Discussions |
| | 11:00 am | Feedback to the Committee |
| Public Hearing | 1:00 pm | Step Back Think |
| | 1:45 pm | Foundation for Young Australians |
| | 2:30 pm | 20 th Man Fund |
| | 3:15 pm | Centre for Adolescent Health, University of Melbourne |

Observers are welcome from 11:00am onwards

Further details are provided on the Committee website: www.aph.gov.au/fchy

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Annette Ellis on (02) 6293 1344 (electorate office).

For all other inquiries please contact the Inquiry Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4566 or by email fchy.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/fchy