



# Bronwyn Bishop MP

*Chairman*

House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Family & Human Services

## MEDIA RELEASE

27 March 2007

# Families must be a part of efforts to combat illicit drugs

Families Australia, the national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting the needs and interests of families, will give evidence tomorrow to the current parliamentary inquiry into the impact of illicit drugs on families.

Families Australia calls for whole-of-community approaches which build family resilience and recognise families as a vital resource in dealing with illicit drug use in our society.

Earlier this month, it convened two focus groups and an expert forum to gather evidence which will be presented to the committee tomorrow.

CEO Brian Babington said, "We will be calling for drug treatment services that are supported to include families, especially children and parents, in the delivery of integrated services".

"We think that more research and evaluation is needed of family-based approaches in the area of drugs," Mr Babington said.

The organisation is also expected to give evidence on its recent research into grandparenting, which found that grandparents and other relative carers are increasingly being called upon to take care of children with substance-using parents.

Chairman Bronwyn Bishop welcomed the public hearing and acknowledged the work that Families Australia has invested in preparing their submission.

"Families all over the country have been telling us about the social and emotional distress caused by illicit drug use," she said. "There is also the issue of what it is costing them to keep that person clothed, fed, housed and with access to health and treatment services."

### **PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE**

**Date:** Wednesday 28 March 2007

**Time:** 10.15am – 11.30 am

**Venue:** Committee Room 1R3, 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>