



# Bronwyn Bishop MP

*Chairman*

House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Family & Human Services

## MEDIA RELEASE

12 June 2007

## Kids at risk? Protecting children from parents' drug use

The House of Representatives Families Committee will take evidence tomorrow (13 June) from Professor Sharon Dawe and Professor Ross Homel from Griffith University as part of its inquiry into the impact of illicit drugs on families.

Sharon Dawe is a Professor in Clinical Psychology at Griffith University. She has been working as a researcher and clinician in the field of substance misuse and mental health for over 20 years. Professor Dawe led the consortium that produced the report *Drug Use in the Family: Impacts and Implications for children*, which was funded by the Australian National Council on Drugs. She has a strong interest in child abuse and protection issues and has been an expert witness in both the United Kingdom and Queensland.

"There are shocking numbers of children in Australia at risk from parental substance use as the Australian National Council on Drugs' recent report highlighted", said Mrs Bishop, Chairman of the Committee.

Ross Homel is Foundation Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University and Director of the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance. His career focus is the theoretical analysis of crime and associated problems such as violence, child abuse, injury, substance abuse and corruption, and the prevention of these problems. He is co-director of large early intervention project in a disadvantaged area of Brisbane.

"We look forward to a discussion about how we can better protect children living with parents using drugs" Mrs Bishop said.

The hearing is open to all members of the public.

### **PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE**

Date: Wednesday 13 June 2007

Time: 10:15 am – 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>