



## ***Violence, alcohol and Australia's drinking culture***

The Police Federation of Australia will tell a federal parliamentary inquiry into youth violence tomorrow why it wants a community crime prevention program similar to one already operating in the United States of America to help police reduce violence.

In its submission to the inquiry, the Police Federation presents its proposal for a federally funded crime prevention grants program to support an innovative approach to reducing youth violence by bringing together communities, families, schools, police and the criminal justice system. The US Community Oriented Policing Services Program or COPS is cited as an example of an operational model which could be adapted for implementation in Australia.

The Police Federation with membership of over 52,000 police, calls for increased efforts in community policing and crime prevention to address the problem of youth violence.

The House of Representatives Family and Youth Committee will also hear from the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) on Wednesday, 10 March in Canberra for its inquiry into the impact of violence on young Australians.

ADCA is the peak, national, non-government organisation which works to reduce the health, economic and social harm caused by alcohol and other drugs.

ADCA believes a combination of law reform, improved enforcement of service of alcohol laws, policing, awareness and education is required in order to reduce the occurrence of violence among young Australians in or around licensed premises.

The Committee Chair, Annette Ellis said "We know that young people are more likely to be involved in violence, either as perpetrators or as victims, when they are under the influence of alcohol or other drugs".

"Community-wide changes in attitudes towards alcohol and drinking are needed. While this will undoubtedly take time, changes in attitudes towards smoking, drink-driving and wearing of seatbelts are clear examples of what can be achieved in the longer term," Ms Ellis said.

### **PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM**

Wednesday, 10 March 2010

Committee Room 2R2 - Parliament House, Canberra

10:10am Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia  
10:40am Police Federation of Australia

This hearing will be webcast live on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>  
Further details are provided on the Committee website: [www.aph.gov.au/fchy](http://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](mailto:fchy.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/fchy](http://www.aph.gov.au/fchy)