



National youth violence survey seeks answers

More than 600 young Australians have already responded to a recently launched national survey on youth violence.

Targeted at 12 to 24 year olds, the survey seeks young people's views on and experiences with youth violence to help find solutions to the problem.

Being conducted by the House of Representatives Family and Youth Committee, the online survey makes it easier for young people to have their say on the committee's public inquiry into youth violence. It is a new way for federal parliament to tap into the views of young Australians.

"Rather than expecting young people to put in a formal submission about a personal and distressing issue, we thought it would be better to develop a survey which will allow more young people to be involved, and in an anonymous way," said committee spokesperson, federal MP Judi Moylan.

With more than 7,000 young people hospitalised because of violence each year, survey participants have been expressing concerns about their own personal safety and the impact that violence is having on their friends, families and their communities.

The survey is also bringing forward ideas on what can be done to deal with the issues.

"There's no hiding the fact that we're the generation that's creating the problem out there on the streets, getting in fights, so we're the ones who really need to fix it," said Josh van Cuylenburg, media director of a youth run anti-violence organisation *Step Back Think*, which has made a submission to the inquiry.

"The problem is very complicated and no single solution can be successful," said Jono Chase, president of *Step Back Think*. "A strategic plan and framework for tackling the problem need to be developed and I feel the parliamentary inquiry and its online survey will be very helpful in doing that."

Step Back Think was formed after the brutal bashing of a 20-year old man in Melbourne that left him incapacitated with a severe brain injury.

To help promote the national youth violence survey, a number of young people have spoken out on a specially produced video. The survey and video can be accessed from the committee's website, www.aph.gov.au/youthviolence. Further details about the inquiry into the impact of violence on young Australians can also be found on this website.

For media comment, please contact, **Judi Moylan MP**, on **(08) 9294 3222** (electorate office) or contact **Step Back Think** media director **Josh van Cuylenburg 0402 213 151** or president **Jono Chase 0417 574 353** to discuss their views on the survey and their personal experience with a close friend suffering horrific injuries from violent assault on the streets of Melbourne. *Step Back Think* website is: <http://stepbackthink.org/>

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