



Elite athletes as role models for young Australians

Former professional cricketer, now Manager of the Griffith Sports College, Mr Michael Jeh will tell a federal parliamentary inquiry looking into youth violence about the challenges facing young athletes as they prepare to enter public life as 'sporting heroes'.

While noting the potential for elite athletes to be positive role models, media focus on inappropriate behaviour and violent antics both on and off the field, show that many are not adequately prepared for this role. In his submission Mr Jeh describes the 'Skool Project', a life skills training resource for young athletes which includes behaviour management training.

Chair of the Family and Youth Committee, Annette Ellis MP said, "Given the nation's obsession with sport, it is not surprising that our elite sportsmen and women are powerful role models for many young Australians. This clearly brings with it a great responsibility to set good positive examples of appropriate behaviour".

The Committee will also hear from Mr Paul Stanley, who founded the Matthew Stanley Foundation following the death of his 15 year old son as a result of a brutal bashing outside a teenagers party in 2006. The Foundation now works collaboratively with community groups, businesses and others to promote a range of youth safety initiatives.

Professor Paul Mazerolle and Dr Kate Freiberg from Griffith University's Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance will also appear before the Committee to discuss the causes of violent behaviour among young people and the importance of prevention and early intervention strategies.

Finally, Mr Adair Donaldson will tell the Committee about an interactive educational resource developed to increase awareness among young people of the consequences of engaging in anti-social and violent behaviour. Mr Donaldson, a Toowoomba based lawyer, produced the resource after seeing for himself the consequences of poor decision making, including violent behaviour in social situations, on the lives of young people.

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

Tuesday, 30 March 2010

Undumbi Room, Parliamentary Annex Building – Cnr of George & Alice Streets, Brisbane

9:15am	Mr Michael Jeh
10:00am	Professor Paul Mazerolle
11:00am	Dr Kate Freiberg
11:45am	Matthew Stanley Foundation
2:00pm	Mr Adair Donaldson

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