



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

29 May 2007

Families tell their personal stories about how illicit drugs affected their family

A moving personal story of how illicit drug use by an individual permanently affected the rest of their family will be heard by the House Families Committee at a public hearing in Canberra tomorrow. The hearing is part of the committee's inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families.

'Illicit drug use by a family member can be destructive for other members of the family — mothers, fathers, siblings, children and grandparents', committee chairman Bronwyn Bishop said.

The committee has received more than 65 personal stories from families from all parts of Australia as part of submissions to the inquiry. The submission detail how families have struggled with the effects of another member's illicit drug use, including the financial, social and personal impacts.

'The committee thanks these families for sharing their personal stories to highlight the difficulties faced by family members in preventing illicit drug use and finding the right treatment when they need it', Mrs Bishop said.

'The depth of despair that families experience and the challenges they face in providing long-term support to their loved ones highlights that families need more help in preventing their kids using illicit drugs.'

The hearing is open to all members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Date: Wednesday 30 May 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 or visit the website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/illicitdrugs/index.htm>