



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

6 March 2007

Impact of illicit drug use on families the focus of Gold Coast roundtable

Bronwyn Bishop, Chairman of the House Families Committee, announced today that the committee would be holding roundtable discussions with Gold Coast drug prevention and treatment service providers as part of its inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families.

'Illicit drug use can have a devastating impact on families', Mrs Bishop said. 'Depending on the family situation, illicit drug use by a family member can have a damaging effect on the lives of a user's children, siblings, mother, father or grandparents.'

A recent survey examining illicit drug use in Queensland between 2002 and 2005 found that the Gold Coast region has among the highest reported lifetime prevalence of illicit drug use in the state, with 35 per cent of participants reporting that they had used illicit drugs, compared to the state average of 31 per cent. In 2005, more than 90 per cent of Gold Coast participants felt it was 'easy' to obtain cannabis and more than 65 per cent of participants felt it was easy to obtain ecstasy.

The committee will be hearing how local drug prevention and treatment service providers can assist families prevent drug addiction and successfully treat those addicted to illicit drugs.

'Governments need to understand the difficulties faced by families where a family member is using illicit drugs', Mrs Bishop said.

ROUNDTABLE PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Date: Wednesday 7 March 2007

Venue: Main Hall, Nerang Bicentennial Community Centre, Nerang-Southport Road, Nerang

10.00am – 1.45pm Roundtable public hearing — Participants include Canefields Clubhouse, KinKare, Australian Youth Enterprise Trust, Logan House, Goldbridge, Palm Beach Currumbin Clinic, Gold Coast Drug Council (Mirikai House).

1.45pm – 2.15pm Community statements — an opportunity for members of the public to provide a short oral statement to the Committee about how illicit drug use has impacted on their family.

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>