



# Bronwyn Bishop MP

*Chairman*

House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Family & Human Services

## MEDIA RELEASE

30 March 2007

# Impact of illicit drug use on families Western Sydney roundtable

Illicit drug prevention and treatment strategies that strengthen families will be the focus of a roundtable public hearing with local drug prevention and treatment service providers in Western Sydney on Monday. The hearing, to be held at Fairfield City Council chambers, is part of the House Families Committee inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families.

Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said, 'There a number of different views about what services families need to help prevent illicit drug use by family members and how they can assist in treatment'.

Over the period 2001–2006 one local service provider, UnitingCare Burnside, assisted more than 160 drug affected or at risk people achieve stability in their lives, through abstinence or by attending long-term rehabilitation programs. Almost 75 per cent of referrals to UnitingCare Burnside's local program came from a non-English speaking background.

'Service providers in western Sydney have faced particular challenges in delivering prevention and treatment services to a culturally diverse population, Mrs Bishop said. 'It is important that the committee hears directly from service providers about their experiences in dealing with the damage caused by illicit drug use'.

The hearing is open to all members of the public. Following the roundtable public hearing, interested members of the public are invited to provide a short oral statement on an informal first name-only basis to the committee about how illicit drug use has impacted on their family.

### ROUNDTABLE PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

- Date:** Monday 2 April 2007
- Venue:** Council Chambers Room, Fairfield City Council Administration Building (Civic Wing), 86 Avoca Road, Wakeley
- 10:00am – 3:15pm** **Roundtable public hearing** — Participants include Blacktown Alcohol and other Drugs Family Services, Open Family, South West Alternative Programme, UnitingCare Burnside and We help ourselves: Methadone to Abstinence.
- 3:30pm – 4:30pm** **Community statements** — an opportunity for members of the public to provide a short oral statement to the committee.

**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](mailto:fhs.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/illicitdrugs/index.htm>