



Social Justice Commissioner to appear before alcohol inquiry

The House of Representatives Indigenous Affairs Committee will hear from the Australian Human Rights Commission's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mr Mick Gooda, on Thursday as part of the Committee's inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

As Commissioner, Mr Gooda advocates for the recognition of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and seeks to promote respect and understanding of these rights among the broader Australian community.

The submission to the inquiry from the Australian Human Rights Commission described harmful alcohol use as one of the most challenging issues confronting communities across Australia. While noting that these issues are not limited to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, but confront every demographic in Australian cities and towns, the Commission is particularly concerned about the impact of alcohol on women, children and young people, and older members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Acting Chair of the Committee, Mr Warren Snowdon MP said: "The harmful use of alcohol impacts across communities, however the burden falls most heavily on those who are most vulnerable."

"We have heard, for example, that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are much more likely than non-Indigenous women to be victims of domestic and family violence, and more likely to be hospitalised as a result. We know that alcohol is a significant contributing factor to these statistics," he added.

Details of the hearing are as follows:

When Thursday, 30 October 2014
Time 11.30am – 12.30pm
Where Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

The full terms of reference are available at www.aph.gov.au/indigenousaffairs

The proceedings will be audio webcast live on: www.aph.gov.au/live

For media comment, please contact the office of Mr Warren Snowdon MP on 0419626601.

For background information, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or indigenousaffairs.reps@aph.gov.au