



Indigenous alcohol inquiry continues in Sydney

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs will be holding a public hearing in Sydney on Friday 5 September 2014, as it continues to collect evidence for the inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Committee will hear from a number of eminent witnesses about the harmful use of alcohol as a health issue. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) will be a focus of the hearing, with diagnosis, prevention, education and support being key areas of inquiry for the Committee.

The Committee Chair, Member for Murray, Dr Sharman Stone MP, said “The Committee also continues to receive evidence on the relationship between the harmful use of alcohol and the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system.”

“The lack of recognition of FASD has far-reaching consequences for those with FASD and their families. We know that people with FASD are more likely to end up in juvenile detention and prison, rather than receiving the early intervention and support they need.”

“The Committee needs to document best practice from experts in the areas of health and the law so we can better respond to these issues.”

Details of the hearing are as follows:

When Friday, 5 September 2014
Time 9.00am – 4.00pm
Where SMC Conference & Function Centre, Corinthian Room, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney

Program

9.00am Professor Elizabeth Elliot
9.45am National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples
10.15am Professor John Boulton
11.15am Aboriginal Legal Services NSW/ACT
11.45am Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council
12.15pm Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong
1.45pm Drug and Alcohol, St Vincent’s Hospital
2.15pm Aboriginal Medical Service, Redfern
2.45pm Discipline of Addiction Medicine, University of Sydney
3.15pm Ms Anne Cregan
Ms Laura Lombardo, Ashurst

The 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 Committee Chair Dr Sharman Stone MP on (03) 5821 5371. **For background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or indigenousaffairs.reps@aph.gov.au