



Substance Abuse inquiry - public hearing Monday 23 September, Canberra

Dr Don Weatherburn, the Director of the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, and Professor Olaf Drummer, Head of Scientific Services at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, are to appear this Monday at a public hearing of the House Family and Community Affairs Committee's inquiry into substance abuse in Australian communities.

Dr Weatherburn will be making a brief presentation on reducing illicit drug use and drug-related crime and then answering questions.

Professor Drummer will make a presentation in relation to a 10-year study of the contribution of drugs to road deaths in NSW, Victoria and WA.

The hearing will allow members to pursue with Dr Weatherburn and Professor Drummer issues related to substance abuse, road trauma, crime and law enforcement (for example drug testing for drivers, and how to coordinate drug law enforcement and health treatment for drug users).

The Committee will also explore further some of the issues raised at their recent round table on substance abuse (see Hansard transcript at the Committee website).

The substance abuse inquiry started in March 2000 and issued a discussion paper in September 2001. It is examining the social and economic costs of the abuse of both legal and illicit substances, and will report and recommend with particular regard to:

- family relationships;
- crime, violence (including domestic violence), and law enforcement;
- road trauma;
- workplace safety and productivity; and
- health care costs.

The committee is also looking at how mental illness, in combination with substance abuse, affects the matters listed above.

Public Hearing - Monday 23 September 2002 Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

- 10.30am Dr Don Weatherburn, Director of the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
- 11.15am Professor Olaf Drummer, Head of Scientific Services, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

For media comment, please contact:

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For further details, contact the House Family and Community Affairs Committee Secretariat: Tel (02) 6277 4566, Email: fca.reps@aph.gov.au, or visit the website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fca/index.htm