



Alcohol warning labels – do they work?

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs has announced a series of roundtables as part of its inquiry into Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

The roundtables will look at the role of alcohol warning labels. The first will involve representatives from the alcohol industry, followed by a roundtable with organisations working to prevent the harmful use of alcohol in Australia.

The roundtable series is in response to conflicting evidence the Committee has received about the effectiveness of alcohol labelling, particularly labels warning about drinking when pregnant.

Committee Chair Graham Perrett MP said the Committee acknowledges there are differing views about labelling of alcohol and is seeking to hear more about this important issue.

“We’ve received evidence that alcohol labels need to be introduced as part of a wider health promotion strategy and also evidence that alcohol labels don’t work.”

In a response to the recent Labelling Logic report, the Australian Alcoholic Beverage Industries stated “Mandatory health warning labels are a simplistic, indirect and ineffective blanket measure when more strategic and targeted responses are needed to address genuine concerns about alcohol abuse in Australia.”

The first roundtable on 24 May will include the Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia, the Brewer’s Association of Australia and New Zealand and the Winemakers’ Federation of Australia.

Program: 8:30 am – 9:30 am, Thursday 24 May 2012
Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House Canberra

To listen to the proceedings live on your computer, please visit
http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament
A transcript of the proceedings will also be online when available.

Information about the Committee’s inquiry is available on the FASD inquiry website at
www.aph.gov.au/fasd.

For media comment , please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0408 883 312.	
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