



Indigenous alcohol inquiry heads to Melbourne

The House Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs will be holding a public hearing in Melbourne on Friday, 30 May 2014, as it continues to gather evidence for the inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Committee will receive evidence from groups and individuals including the Australian Drug Federation, Professor Marcia Langton, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association and FASD specialists.

The Committee Chair, Member for Murray, Dr Sharman Stone MP, anticipates that this evidence will provide a valuable perspective, as almost half of Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations live in metropolitan areas.

“The Committee has been reminded by those giving evidence to the inquiry that recommendations must acknowledge the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, both in and between communities and between individuals.” Dr Stone said.

“The Committee expects the evidence in Melbourne will help to identify amongst other things the many social and other determinants of harmful drinking, the different strategies to minimise harm and the role of pricing and access to alcohol which influences consumption.”

Details of the hearing are as follows:

When Friday, 30 May 2014
Time 9.00am – 2.45pm
Where Victorian Parliament Committee rooms,
55 St Andrews Place, East Melbourne

Program

9.00am Australian Drug Foundation
9.30am Ngwala Willumbong Cooperative Ltd
11.00am Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
11.45am Professor Marcia Langton, Ms Kristen Smith and Mr Peter Russ
1.15pm Ms Prue Walker
2.00pm Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association

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

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 indigenouaffairs.reps@aph.gov.au