



A Perth focus on Hepatitis C high risk groups

Transmission of hepatitis C in high risk groups will be the focus of a public hearing by the House of Representatives Health Committee on Tuesday 10 March in Perth.

As part of its inquiry into hepatitis C in Australia, the committee will again hear evidence from a wide range of organisations and individuals including Hepatitis WA, the WA Government, the Liver Foundation of WA, and a health care professional.

Committee Chair Steve Irons MP said, "This hearing will provide the committee with further insight into the challenges faced by people living with and affected by hepatitis C, and the treatment options available."

In its submission to the inquiry, the WA Government identified the promotion of testing, the provision of information during testing, and the establishment of care pathways through health care services as ways to improve diagnosis and treatment.

"The Perth hearing will allow the committee to focus on the transmission of hepatitis C in prison populations and other high risk groups, and will provide us with more information on options for identifying infections and increasing uptake in treatment," Mr Irons said.

Hearing details:

Tuesday, 10 March 2015 – 9.00am to 12.30pm
WA Legislative Assembly Committee Office (Level 1, Meeting Room 2)
11 Harvest Terrace, Perth, Western Australia

Program:

9:00 – 9:40am	Hepatitis WA
9:40 – 10:20am	WA Government
10:20 – 11:00am	National Drug Research Institute
11:10 – 11:50am	Liver Foundation of Western Australia
11:50 – 12:30pm	Hepatology nurse

Audio of the hearing will be broadcast live at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>

A detailed program and further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, are available at: www.aph.gov.au/hepatitisc

For media comment please contact the office of the Mr Steve Irons MP, Chair on 0422 103 772. **For all other enquiries**, please contact the committee secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/health.