

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 23 February 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth

Chair: Annette Ellis MP Deputy Chair: Hon Judi Moylan MP

Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth to discuss reducing violence in society

The Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth (ARACY) will discuss ways to reduce violence at a parliamentary inquiry into the impact of violence on young Australians in Canberra on 24 February.

ARACY is a national not for profit organisation which aims to improve the wellbeing of children and young people by advancing collaboration and evidence-based action. Its membership of more than 1000 includes researchers, policy makers and practitioners from a range of disciplines including early childhood and adolescent development, psychology, education and justice.

ARACY is currently undertaking a number of projects to enhance the wellbeing and life chances of children and young Australians which it is believed will also contribute to reducing levels of violence in Australian communities.

Chair of the House of Representatives Family and Youth Committee Annette Ellis said, "The Committee is interested to hear more from ARACY, particularly about high levels of aggression in very young children, and links with subsequent violent behaviour."

"While it is evident that no single intervention will be effective in tackling the problem, this implies that early intervention programs to prevent the development of aggressive and anti-social behaviour may also need to target pre-schoolers," Ms Ellis said.

ARACY also calls for the implementation of an integrated, whole-of-government response to the prevention of violence committed against and by young people.

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

Wednesday, 24 February 2010 Committee Room 2R2 - Parliament House, Canberra

10:25am – 11:00am Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth

Further details are provided on the Committee website: www.aph.gov.au/fchy

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Annette Ellis on (02) 6293 1344 (electorate office).

For all other inquiries please contact the Inquiry Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4566 or by email <u>fchy.reps@aph.gov.au</u> or visit the Committee's website: <u>www.aph.gov.au/fchy</u>