



FASD – a hidden problem in the Northern Territory

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs will hear from the Northern Territory as part of its inquiry into Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

The Committee has scheduled a videoconference in response to many submitters to the inquiry who have raised concerns about the Northern Territory having what might be the highest rates of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in Australia.

The Menzies School of Health Research, Paediatricians from the Royal Darwin Hospital, Aboriginal Peak Organisations and the newly formed Association of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies NT are scheduled to appear, providing the Committee with a greater idea of some of the serious issues in the NT.

The Committee Chair Graham Perrett MP said the Committee was well aware of some of the issues around alcohol consumption in the Northern Territory and wanted to hear more detail of the impact of FASD in the community, health and education sectors.

“We have heard from Royal Darwin Hospital that there are many children in the Top End of the Northern Territory waiting unacceptably long periods of time for assessment and diagnosis of developmental, learning and or behavioural problems. The Committee is concerned that this may have wide ranging impacts.”

Program: 9:00 am – 11.00 am, Thursday 21 June 2012
Committee Room 2R1, 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 made available online next week.

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 0434058200.

For background information, please contact the **Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs**:

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