

SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO PETROL SNIFFING IN REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

On 5 October 2005 the Senate agreed to the following motion:

- (1) That the Senate:
 - (a) notes that despite the efforts of communities and governments, the problem of petrol sniffing remains widespread and endemic in remote Aboriginal communities;
 - (b) recognises the efforts of local communities and work underway between the Federal, Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australian Governments to work in collaboration to implement a comprehensive strategy to tackle petrol sniffing;
 - (c) notes that an additional \$6 million over 2 years has recently been announced by the Government to expand the roll out of Opal petrol in the central desert region and that total expenditure for Opal subsidies is \$19.6 million over 4 years;
 - (d) notes that the Government is considering a limited supply of Opal petrol in Alice Springs for residents of affected Indigenous communities and for people visiting those communities;
 - (e) calls on the Government, should it proceed with the limited supply of Opal petrol in Alice Springs, to work with petrol retailers and communities to develop a code of practice and an education strategy in relation to responsible trading; and
 - (f) notes that supply of non-sniffable Opal petrol can only be one part of the solution to petrol sniffing.
- (2) **That the following matters be referred to the Community Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by 9 November 2005:**
 - (a) **the effectiveness of existing laws and policing with respect to petrol sniffing in affected Indigenous communities;**
 - (b) **the effectiveness of diversionary initiatives and community level activities; and**
 - (c) **lessons that can be learned from the success some communities have had in reducing petrol sniffing including the impact of non-sniffable Opal petrol.**

Written submissions are invited and should be addressed to:

**The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs References Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

Closing date for the receipt of submissions is 4 November 2005. (Please note that the reporting date will be extended)

The Committee prefers to receive submissions electronically as an attached document - email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Submissions become Committee documents and are made public only after a decision by the Committee. Publication of submissions includes loading them onto the internet and their being available to other interested parties including the media. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not protected.

Following consideration of submissions, the Committee will hold public hearings. The Committee will consider all submissions and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at the public hearings.

Information relating to Senate Committee inquiries, including notes to assist in the preparation of submissions for a Committee, can be located on the internet at http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm

For further details contact the Committee Secretary, Phone: (02) 6277 3515, Fax: (02) 6277 5829. E-mail: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au