



MEDIA RELEASE

'ICE' SELECT COMMITTEE

22 July 2015

Alice Springs Public Hearing, Forum and Site Visit

The 'Ice' Select Committee held hearings and a public forum in Alice Springs yesterday to hear about the impact the drug is having on the community and what actions the Government can take to address the issue. The Committee heard from Will Macgregor, Chief Executive of BushMob rehabilitation centre for young people, and representatives from the Central Australian Aboriginal Alcohol Programmes Unit. Following the hearings, members of the public were invited to share their concerns regarding the emergence of 'ice' in the community in an open discussion with the Committee.

"As we have heard elsewhere, while 'ice' use in the NT may not be at the level regional centres in Victoria and New South Wales are experiencing, it is an issue of concern to the community. Service providers in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs have told the Committee that although we might only be talking about relatively small numbers, clients presenting with 'ice' related issues are definitely on the increase." Chair of the Committee, Mr Nathan Barrett MLA, said.

"Since commencing this inquiry, the Committee has identified a number of issues that will need to be taken into consideration in its report back to Government," Mr Barrett said. "For example, ensuring we have sufficient detox beds in place; the need to up skill Alcohol and Other Drug workers in 'ice' specific treatment methods; raising the community's awareness and understanding of the potential impacts of 'ice' use and how to access services that can help; and encouraging the general public to report ice related activity to the Police which can always be done anonymously via the Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 number."

Before returning to Darwin the Committee visited the BushMob rehabilitation centre. As one of the few residential rehabilitation centres in Australia that caters to young people under the age of 18, BushMob receives referrals from across the Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and as far south as Tasmania. The Committee heard that five of the centre's 20 beds are currently taken up by young ice users; all from the Top End.

"On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the Alice Springs community for sharing their concerns and ideas with us. It has been very useful to the Committee," Mr Barrett said.

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