



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23 November 2012

A Parliamentary Committee will scrutinise the effectiveness of current drug and alcohol policies with regard to deterrence, treatment and rehabilitation of those affected by drug and alcohol addiction.

Committee Chair, the Hon Marie Ficarra MLC said, “This Inquiry will thoroughly review the effectiveness of treatment options for drug and alcohol addiction, including mandatory treatment services and naltrexone treatment. The Committee will also consider the impact substance dependence has on the families of individuals with addictions, their carers and the community.”

The Committee will also explore the proposed reforms identified in the *Drug and Alcohol Treatment Amendment Bill 2012*, introduced to the Legislative Council by Reverend The Hon. Fred Nile.

Other issues to be examined include whether there is adequate funding of drug and alcohol treatment services, as well as the adequacy of integrated services to treat conditions which are co-morbid with addiction, such as mental health conditions and chronic pain.

The Committee will investigate strategies and models for responding to drug and alcohol addiction in other jurisdictions in Australia and overseas, for example in Sweden and the United Kingdom.

“We are keen to engage with individuals and groups affected by drug and alcohol addiction, and encourage submissions from interested parties,” Ms Ficarra said.

The Committee is currently seeking written submissions, with a closing date of 1 March 2013.

For more information, including terms of reference and guidelines for making a submission, please visit the Committee's website – www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair Hon Marie Ficarra MLC, on 9230 2423