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The Grannies Group has called for the establishment of an Indigenous Detoxification Centre fully staffed by Indigenous people. They also have proposed a significantly expanded outreach program on alcohol abuse to include country areas such as the Riverland, Port Augusta, Whyalla and the Murray Mallee.

“Committed and willing people can make a difference.”

Maintenance of Aboriginal culture is seen by the Group as crucial in helping to deal with problems and to foster cohesiveness and a sense of belonging within the community.

“Actions that will help our people include promotion of pride in aboriginality among our young and re-association with our culture and land.”

The Grannies Group is keen for people who are responsible for delivering services to the community to spend more time in the community. “I think in every government job a person should have a day out of their job when they revisit and find out what is going on on the ground, because they just lose touch and lose the reality of what is happening in the community,” one Group member told the Committee.

After meeting the Grannies Group, Committee Chair, Lou Lieberman said that he has been heartened by the constructive

approach that people are taking to the inquiry and to the problems of their local communities.

“The Grannies Group is an inspiration to all Australians,” Mr Lieberman said. “They clearly show that committed and willing people in the local community can make a difference. They also are an example of the strength of the Aboriginal community in urban areas.”

For a copy of the Grannies Group submission and the transcript of their hearing with the Committee:

Visit: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/atsia

Call: (02) 6277 4559

Email: atsia.reps@aph.gov.au

Strengthening ties with **East Timor**



José Ramos Horta (right) meets the Deputy Chair of Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Colin Hollis (left) and the Deputy Chair of the Defence Sub-Committee, Roger Price (centre). Photo: AUSPIC

East Timor's Foreign Affairs spokesman, José Ramos Horta, held discussions with Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee during his recent visit to Australia. Among the matters discussed were East Timor's progress towards independence, the upcoming elections in August, the development of infrastructure in the fledgling nation and the plight of refugees. Through regular meetings with representatives of other countries, Members and Senators on the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee keep up-to-date with regional and world affairs.