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Outstation gives hope to petrol sniffing inquiry

The chairwoman of the Senate inquiry examining petrol sniffing says the committee's trip to Mount Theo outstation in central Australia showed them how effective community rehabilitation programs can be.

The committee travelled to Yuendumu and the Mount Theo outstation yesterday after holding public meetings in Alice Springs, Darwin and Perth.

Senator Claire Moore says visiting Mount Theo gave the committee hope that communities may be able fight back against petrol sniffing.

"We know that this is a very special place and they wanted to tell us about the story that they had, the success that they've had, so we hope that we can learn from their success story so that we can push that back into recommendations into government," she said.

"We are very much aware that every community has not reached this level.

Senator Moore says it was a great opportunity to see a community-run petrol sniffing rehabilitation program that works.

"This is what I see as putting a face onto all the issues we've learnt in terms of hearing about the issue of petrol sniffing," she said.

"Sure we've had the academic evidence, we've listened to people talk about their experiences, but you come to a community and you meet the people working in the field - this makes the issue more real."

<http://abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200602/s1577782.htm>