



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 3 June 2014

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee**

*Chair: The Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP
Deputy Chair: Senator the Hon Ursula
Stephens*

Private sector and economic development inquiry: public hearing

The Foreign Affairs and Aid sub-committee of Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will hold a public hearing with the Rt Hon Stephen O'Brien MP, a UK Member of Parliament and global advocate of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership.

With at least half the world's population at risk, and over 200 million people infected, malaria poses significant human and economic consequences. Roll Back Malaria report that in Africa alone the annual economic burden is more than \$12 billion in direct losses, plus many times more in lost economic growth.

Malaria does not respect borders. There are 97 countries with on-going malaria transmission. In the most affected countries, productive capacity is compromised both now and into the future, with children under five accounting for 77 per cent of cases.

The sub-committee has received a range of submissions to the inquiry that highlight the impact of malaria in the region, how the private sector is already working to improve the health of workers and communities in which they work, and the potential benefits of product development partnerships.

Time: 4:30pm
When: Tuesday 3 June 2014
Where: Parliament House, Canberra, Committee Room 1R1

The inquiry's terms of reference include examining:

- *The current role of the private sector in accelerating the pace of economic growth and in reducing poverty in poor countries in the Indo-Pacific region.*
- *Current Australian Government support for private sector development through bilateral and multilateral investments.*
- *Legislative, institutional, social and policy constraints that may reduce the ability of private sector agencies to engage in development.*
- *Additional partnerships, activities or financial instruments the Australian government could use to enhance the role of the private sector in development in the Indo-Pacific region.*
- *The role of public-private partnerships in leveraging private sector investment in developing countries.*
- *Risks related to current and possible future approaches to enhancing the role of the private sector in development, and their management.*
- *The role Australian and international businesses could play to support development and inclusive growth in partner countries.*

Live audio broadcast will be available at http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

Further details about the inquiry, including copies of submissions and how to contribute, can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jfadt or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or emailing jscfadt@aph.gov.au.

For media inquiries contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP on (03) 5821 5371 (Electorate Office) or 02 6277 4477 (Parliament House)