



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Chair: The Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP

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

Interstate hearings to discuss private sector and international development

A number of individuals and organisations with specialist expertise are to provide evidence at public hearings as part of a Federal parliamentary inquiry considering the private sector's role in promoting economic development in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade is conducting the inquiry and will hold public hearings in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney in August.

The sub-committee will hear from witnesses across the academic, private and NGO sectors about opportunities for policy engagement, leveraging capabilities, investment, public-private partnerships, and related risks. Also to be discussed are current constraints and financing models, across sectors such as agriculture, health, education and infrastructure.

Sub-committee Chair Dr Sharman Stone said there are many experienced and innovative individuals and organisations in Australia who have much to offer in projects and services that stimulate economic development which reduces poverty in our neighbouring Indo-Pacific region.

"A particularly important aspect of the sub-committee's inquiry is to hear from those who already have proven projects, or projects underway. In the face of deeply entrenched poverty, we need to be looking for innovative ways to improve the prospects for businesses and individuals."

"We have long depended on non-government, not-for-profit agencies to partner with government in delivering aid. Now we need to consider how and what the for-profit commercial sector has been achieving in alleviating poverty," Sharman Stone said.

The public hearing dates are as follows:

- Brisbane Monday 11 August
- Melbourne Friday 15 August
- Sydney Wednesday 20 August

Full details of the programs for each public hearing will be available on the committee's website prior to the hearings. Live audio broadcast will be available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>

Further details about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, 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)