



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 24 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*

Austrade to appear at inquiry into economic growth and poverty reduction

Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Aid sub-committee will hold a public hearing with Austrade's Executive Director of International Operations as part of its inquiry into the role of the private sector in economic growth and poverty reduction in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) is the Australian Government's agency charged with export promotion, investment attraction, promotion of international education, and strengthening Australia's tourism industry. Austrade works with the private sector in Australia and globally to promote stronger trade, investment and education links in international markets.

Sub-committee Chair Dr Sharman Stone said the inquiry is particularly interested in the way government agencies can and do support private sector development projects in the region. "We need to identify best practice, where businesses with a commercial focus may also contribute to the reduction in poverty and a better life for women and girls," she said.

"Austrade's experience in public-private partnerships in particular should provide useful insights for the inquiry."

The hearing will be held on **Wednesday 25 June 2014, from 4:00pm** in Committee Room 1R1, Parliament House, Canberra.

Live audio broadcast will be available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>

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)