



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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

MEDIA RELEASE
Issued: 16 June 2014

*Chair: Mr Luke Simpkins MP
Deputy: Senator Anne McEwen*

THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Gender experts from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will give evidence to the inquiry into the human rights issues confronting women and girls in the Indian Ocean and Asia Pacific region.

The Human Rights Sub-Committee will hear from DFAT representatives at a public hearing on **17 June** on the ways in which Australia's foreign aid program advances the human rights and empowerment of women and girls across the region.

The Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio budget statements for 2014-15 states that gender equality and women's empowerment will be a key priority across the aid program and Australia will continue to take a lead role on gender equality and women's empowerment in the aid program and advocacy.

Human Rights Sub-Committee Chair Luke Simpkins said, "Noting that Australia's foreign aid budget will deliver an estimated \$5 billion this year, and each year into the future, an important part of the inquiry is to examine how much of this will go to support the human rights of women and girls in the region."

The public hearing will be held on **17 June 2014, in Parliament House Committee Room 1R4** commencing at **12:45 pm**.

The proceedings will be audio webcast live on: 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 comment: contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Mr Luke Simpkins MP, on (02) 6277 4009 or via Mr Bill Coghlan on the same number. For all other inquiries, contact the Inquiry Secretary, on 02 6277 4318 or visit the committee website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt.