



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Education & Training

*Inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools*

**MEDIA ALERT**

*Issued: 25 June 2003*

*Chair: Kerry Bartlett MP*

*Deputy: Rod Sawford MP*

**Public hearing - Thursday 26 June 2003 - Canberra**

**Providing vocational pathways critical to full participation in learning and work: DEST**

The **Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training** will appear this Thursday at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Education and Training Committee's inquiry into vocational education in schools.

In its submission to the inquiry (Submission No. 75 on the inquiry website), the Department outlines how there has been considerable growth since 1996 in all forms of vocational education in schools. It says the Commonwealth has provided targeted funding supporting the recurrent funding to schools, with the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) and other bodies providing additional critical support at the national level. A key challenge will be to ensure that the States and Territories continue to give appropriate priority to vocational education in schools and manage that within the ongoing budgetary processes of schools and systems.

The Department says challenges exist, including: resourcing issues and possible cost efficiencies, the assessment of the quality of the school programs, support for new and emerging industries, and access by Indigenous students to vocational pathways.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WHO:** DEST appears at the House Education Committee's inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools: Vocational Education and Training Group, Schools Group  
**WHERE:** Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra  
**WHEN:** Thursday 26 June, 9.15am – 10.15am

**BACKGROUND:** The inquiry is examining the range, structure, resourcing and delivery of vocational education and training programs in schools, including teacher training, and the impact of vocational education on other programs.

It is also examining the differences between school-based and other vocational education programs, the acceptance within industry of resulting qualifications, vocational education in new industries and the accessibility and effectiveness of vocational education for indigenous students.

"Vocational education and training in schools is growing rapidly," says House Education Committee Chair, Mr Kerry Bartlett. "In evidence received, resourcing and funding has been a key concern. Quality programs and the need for coordination with the community and industry are essential to success.

"We need to be sure we are maximising its potential to support young people to choose effectively from the range of post-school pathways available to them and to successfully make the transition from school to work or further education and training.

"The decisions that students make in school for the future, need to be based on the knowledge of what are the employment options, what industries are growing, and what skills are needed."

**For media comment:** Kerry Bartlett, MP, Chair - House Education Committee, tel: (02) 6277 4637

**For more information:** Committee Secretariat, tel: (02) 6277 2121,  
or visit the inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt/ves/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt/ves/index.htm)