

**Public hearing: Canberra 4 December 2006****Final hearing into civics and electoral education**

Federal parliament's Electoral Matters Committee will be conducting the final public hearing for its inquiry into civics and electoral education in Canberra on Monday 4 December.

Committee Chairman Peter Lindsay (Herbert, Qld) said, "The Committee began this inquiry with a series of informal meetings in Central and Western Australia and has since travelled to every State and Territory conducting a series of public hearings and school visits."

"Monday's hearing will give the Committee the opportunity to test the viability of some of the suggestions and ideas that have been presented throughout the course of the inquiry with representatives from the Australian Electoral Commission and relevant government departments including the Department of Education, Science and Training and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs," Mr Lindsay said.

The Committee will also be speaking with representatives from Canada's successful Student Vote project, an initiative which aims "to provide Canadian students with an opportunity to actively participate in a non-partisan parallel election experience, during an official election period".

The Committee has received over 100 submissions from a broad range of individuals and organisations.

Public hearing in Committee Room 2S3, Parliament House, Canberra

- 9:00am Australian Electoral Commission (Subs 72, 115 and 116)
- 10:00am Department of Education, Science and Training (Subs 100 and 110)
- 10:30am Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
- 11:15am Australian Federation of Societies for Studies of Society and Environment (Sub 25)
- 11:45am Student Vote, Canada (via teleconference)
- 12:10pm The Hon. Teresa Gambaro, MP (sub 95)

Video broadcast on HMS 10 and internally on radio 91.1FM.

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Peter Lindsay MP on (02) 6277 4964 (Canberra) or (07) 4725 2066 (Townsville), or by mobile on 0419 656 234.

Further information: contact the Committee Secretary on (02) 6277 4564, email jscem@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/em/education/index.htm>