



# **NBN Committee told of looming ICT skills shortage**

At a hearing in Melbourne as part of its Six Monthly Review of the Rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN), the Joint Standing Committee on the NBN was presented with evidence of a looming skills shortage in the information technology industry in Australia. Capgemini Australia Pty Ltd yesterday expressed public concern that without the Government promoting skills locally, the only option for business is to source from offshore.

“The message was loud and clear that we as a nation have an opportunity for skills training and growth, and that without some greater thinking and work, it will quickly become a lost opportunity for Australia,” Committee Chair Rob Oakeshott said today.

“The committee is looking at workforce issues in relation to the NBN, and the broader question of skills and training is an important part of this.

“The NBN rollout should not just be a consumer stimulus package on information and communications technology. Arguably, and more importantly, it needs to be an industry IT stimulus package.

“Making sure industry can maximise this opportunity would be, and should be, a smart contribution to productivity for Australia. The Committee will be exploring this evidence further,” Mr Oakeshott said.

**For media comment:** please contact the Chair’s Office on 0429 787 320.

**Further information about the committee’s Six Monthly Review of the Rollout of the National Broadband Network is available:** by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2322 via email [jcnbn@aph.gov.au](mailto:jcnbn@aph.gov.au) or by visiting the committee’s website at: [www.aph.gov.au/jcnbn](http://www.aph.gov.au/jcnbn)