



Public Hearing in Canberra

Commercialising our innovations – how can we do it better?

Different models for encouraging collaborative research and increasing Australia's innovation and commercialisation will be one of the topics discussed at a public hearing in Canberra on Monday 23rd May. The public hearing is the second for the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Science and Innovation, which is inquiring into pathways from technological innovation to commercialisation.

Appearing before the Committee on Monday is the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Association, a peak body representing the interests of many CRCs around Australia. CRCs are funded as part of the Australian Government's multi-million dollar Backing Australia's Ability program.

The CRC Association has highlighted the important role of CRCs in establishing collaborative research partnerships that bring researchers and end-users together at the early stages of innovation. The Association also maintains that CRCs provide a vital training for postgraduates who develop business and work expertise as a consequence of their experiences in the research/end-user collaborative environment.

Also appearing is the Rural Research and Development Corporation (RDC) which comprises 14 organisations including eight statutory corporations and six industry-owned companies. The RDC model for innovation provides an industry driven, market responsive program of R & D investment to ensure Australian rural producer access to leading technologies. The RDC have argued that there is under-investment in R & D in rural industries, due in part to the very large number of small producers who have little market power individually. The RDC provides a framework to increase access to the commercialised technologies and assist globally competitiveness for these producers.

Technological innovation is critical to global competitiveness and for Australia in capturing a share of international markets and increasing national productivity. The OECD has estimated that innovation accounts for 50 per cent of long term economic growth in advanced industrial countries such as Australia.

Committee Chair, Mr Petro Georgiou MP, said: "The future success of Australia is dependant on our capacity for technological innovation, from developing knowledge, to applying this knowledge commercially."

Venue: Monday 23rd May
Committee Room 1S4
Parliament House, Canberra

4:35 pm CRC Association
5:15 pm Rural Research Development Corporation
6:00 pm Hearings close

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/index.htm or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4150 or emailing scin.reps@aph.gov.au

For information: Contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4150