



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & THE ARTS

Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

MEDIA RELEASE

15 April 2003

Inquiry into Australia's film and electronic games industries launched

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts has begun an inquiry into Australia's film, animation, special effects and electronic games industries.

The inquiry is being conducted at the request of the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator the Hon Richard Alston.

Committee Chair, Mr Christopher Pyne MP (Sturt, SA), said the inquiry had broad terms of reference and provided an opportunity for the industry and the community to contribute to the debate on the best future for Australia's film, animation, special effects and electronic games industries.

Mr Pyne said Australians are proud of their film, animation, special effects and electronic games industries. "In world terms we punch way above our weight," Mr Pyne said. "Some of the best work in the world is produced in this country and producers come here for the locations, the facilities, and the acting and technical talent.

"This is an intensely competitive international market and we must build on our success. This inquiry is asking what needs to be done to preserve and extend our position and distinctive voice in global film and electronic games production."

Mr Pyne said that the focus of the inquiry would be on creative and technological issues and that the Committee is not seeking submissions that raise issues relating to the Commonwealth's taxation treatment, or funding, of the film industry.

The closing date for submissions is 30 May 2003.

For additional comment regarding the inquiry, please contact the Committee Chair Mr Christopher Pyne, MP, on tel: 08 8363 0666.

Information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's web site - www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cita/index.htm - or from the secretariat:

Telephone: 02 6277 4601

E-mail: cita.Reps@aph.gov.au



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Terms of Reference

Inquiry into the future opportunities for Australia's film, animation, special effects and electronic games industries

The Committee should inquire into and report on:

- (a) the current size and scale of Australia's film, animation, special effects and electronic games industries;
- (b) the economic, social and cultural benefits of these industries;
- (c) future opportunities for further growth of these industries, including through the application of advanced digital technologies, online interactivity and broadband;
- (d) the current and likely future infrastructure needs of these industries, including access to bandwidth;
- (e) the skills required to facilitate future growth in these industries and the capacity of the education and training system to meet these demands;
- (f) the effectiveness of the existing linkages between these industries and the wider cultural and information technology sectors;
- (g) how Australia's capabilities in these industries, including in education and training, can be best leveraged to maximise export and investment opportunities; and
- (h) whether any changes should be made to existing government support programs to ensure they are aligned with the future opportunities and trends in these industries.

Submissions should be received by the Committee secretariat by 30 May, 2003; however, submissions may be accepted after that date. Potential contributors unable to meet this deadline should contact the secretariat.

Submissions, or questions concerning the inquiry, should be addressed to:

The Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Information
Technology and the Arts
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 4601

Facsimile: 02 6277 4827

E-mail: cita.Reps@aph.gov.au

Website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cita/index.htm>