

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT***Inquiry into mental health and workforce participation**Chair: Ms Amanda Rishworth MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Rowan Ramsey MP***INQUIRY INTO MENTAL HEALTH AND WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION****EXPERTS TO APPEAR AT GOLD COAST PUBLIC HEARING**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment will hear from a range of Queensland experts about ways to better support people with a mental illness engage in education, training and employment opportunities.

The Committee will take evidence from the Gold Coast Employment Support Service, FSG Australia, and a panel comprising representatives from the Gold Coast Mental Health and Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service, the Gold Coast Drug Council and Ozcare Gold Coast.

The Committee's Chair, Ms Amanda Rishworth said, "the Committee is looking forward to hearing from a number of individuals and organisations working on the ground with people managing mental ill-health. We know that this is a complex issue but one that affects so many of us at some stage in our lives through direct experience or knowing someone else affected. We are learning that the solutions or modifications required to facilitate greater workforce participation by those who have experienced or are experiencing a mental illness are sometimes less difficult than we might first imagine."

This is the sixth public hearing for the inquiry into mental health and workforce participation. Details of the public hearing are as follows:

Date: Monday 8 August 2011

Time:	11:35	Bio-Balance Health
	12:05	Dr Vicki Bitsika
	12:35	Gold Coast Employment Support Service (GCESS)
	13:05	Break
	13:45	FSG Australia
	14:15	'Complex Needs Panel' representatives

Venue: Princeton Room 2, Bond University, Varsity Lakes

Webcast: Live on <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/> (audio only)

For media comment: contact the Committee Chair, Ms Amanda Rishworth MP on 0416 086 019.

For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4573 email ee.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ee>