



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Standing Committee on Education & Vocational Training
Inquiry into Teacher Education**

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 26 February 2007

Chair: Luke Hartsuyker MP
Deputy: Rod Sawford MP

Top of the Class: Report on the inquiry into teacher education

A unified, national approach to improve teacher education in Australia is the predominant theme of the House of Representatives Education and Vocational Training Committee's report on the inquiry into teacher education, which is being released today.

The report, *Top of the Class*, makes a total of 12 recommendations. Committee Chair, Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP, said: "While teacher education is definitely not in crisis, better quality teacher education has the potential to improve the effectiveness of the entire school system. We have proposed a powerful reform package of practical and achievable measures that address the most pressing and long-standing issues in teacher education."

The key recommendations propose:

- A comprehensive longitudinal study of teacher education;
- An Educational Research Fund to improve the research base for teaching & teacher education;
- A national system of accreditation of university teacher education courses;
- Extra funding for programs to increase the diversity of entrants to teacher education;
- More focused allocation of places in teacher education courses to meet demand and shortages in particular areas;
- A National Teacher Education Partnership Fund to establish collaborative approaches to practicum, research, induction and professional development;
- A structured induction program, including an allocated mentor, for beginning teachers;
- A feasibility study into the establishment of a National Clearing House for Education Research;
- The linking of ongoing professional learning for teachers with levels of registration and pay; and
- A range of funding measures to put teacher education on a sounder financial footing.

The inquiry into teacher education was announced in February 2005. The Committee received 195 submissions, and 29 public hearings were conducted across Australia. There was unanimous agreement on the 12 recommendations by the Committee members.

Members of the House of Representatives Education and Vocational Training Committee will hold a media conference at 1.00pm today (26 February 2007) in Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra.

For media interview with the Chairman:

Please contact Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP through Greg Pierce on 0408 532 785.

Other members of the House of Representatives Education and Vocational Training Committee are Mr Rod Sawford (Deputy Chair), Mr Kerry Bartlett, Ms Sharon Bird, Ms Ann Corcoran, Mr David Fawcett, Mr Michael Ferguson, Mr Stuart Henry, Ms Kirsten Livermore, and Mrs Louise Markus.

For a copy of the report and further information on the inquiry:

Please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4573, on mobile phone 0421 611 173, by emailing evt.reps@aph.gov.au, or visit:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/evt/teachereduc/index.htm>.