



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 30 October 2012

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Inquiry into IT Pricing

*Chair: Mr Nick Champion MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Paul Neville MP*

TREASURY AND ACCC TO DISCUSS IT COSTS

The Treasury and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) will discuss the price of IT hardware and software at a public hearing in Canberra on October 31.

The House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications is investigating claims that Australians pay more for IT products and digital downloads than consumers overseas.

Among its terms of reference, the committee is considering what role, if any, government might play in addressing IT price disparities.

Treasury's submission to the inquiry argued that regulatory intervention in response to high IT prices could be counterproductive.

Instead, Treasury advocates; "improving local competition and increasing access to international markets [as] 'no regrets' measures that can assist in ensuring Australian consumers and business have access to goods and services at internationally competitive prices."

Committee chair Mr Nick Champion, MP, said that the inquiry has shed light on significant public concern.

"The cost of IT hardware and software is now relevant to just about every aspect of our economic and social life," he said.

'In that context, the committee looks forward to hearing more from the Treasury and the ACCC. We hope that their appearances will prove illuminating for members of the public who are concerned about this issue.'

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

Date: Wednesday, October 31 2012

Venue: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

A program has been posted to the Committee website and can be accessed via [this link](#).

For inquiry information: including the terms of reference and submissions, go to: www.aph.gov.au/itpricing, or contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 2352.

<p>For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Nick Champion, on (08) 8284 2422 (electorate office) or 0488 556 036 (mobile)</p>
