



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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2006

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade *Chair: Senator Alan Ferguson*

Australia's relations with India Public Hearings Begin

Australia's relationship with India as an emerging world power is to be the focus of a new inquiry conducted by the Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade.

The Committee, whose first public hearing will be held in Sydney on Wednesday, 20 September, will be reviewing the extent of the political, strategic and economic relationship between the two countries, while considering both current and future opportunities.

"There is no question that India is a rising global power," said Committee Chair, Senator Alan Ferguson in announcing the public hearings, "and there has been much discussion in submissions to the Committee about the potential a strengthened India-Australia relationship represents for both countries. Further exploration of this potential and what steps can be taken to realise it will be the focus of the Committee's inquiry."

Said Senator Ferguson, "The Committee is pleased that a variety of representatives from the Australian business community will be attending the hearing, and is keen to hear their insights on ways to promote better business relations between our two countries."

The Committee will also take evidence from leading Australian academics with particular knowledge of India.

Later hearings will be held in Canberra and will continue to focus Australia-India business links as well as the work of Commonwealth departments and organisations in promoting Australia's relations with India.

Submissions received by the Committee and transcripts of the public hearings will be available on the Committee's website.

Program for Public Hearing, 20 September.

Commonwealth Parliament Offices, Level 11, 56-70 Phillip Street.

9:30 am	ANU
10:10 am	Monash University
11:00 am	Hunt and Hunt Lawyers
11:40 am	Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
1:30 pm	Pentaq Technology Pty. Ltd.
2:15 pm	Australian Services Roundtable / Telstra
3:00 pm	Woolworths

For media inquiries, contact the Committee Chair, Senator Alan Ferguson, on 02 6277 3115 or 08 8237 7180.

For all other inquiries, contact the Committee Secretary, Margot Kerley, on 02 6277 4629 or visit the committee website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm