



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee

Chair: Senator Alan Ferguson  
Sub Comm. Chair: Hon. David Jull MP

**MEDIA ALERT**  
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## ***Tourism and IT focus for hearing on relations with Malaysia***

Opportunities to further develop relations between Malaysia and Australia will be discussed at a public hearing to be held in Canberra on Monday, 16 October.

The Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee will question key Commonwealth agencies on two areas of potential growth: tourism and information technology.

In 2005, over \$1.5 billion worth of computers, telecommunications equipment and integrated circuits were imported from Malaysia, contributing to a trading imbalance in favour of Malaysia.

The public hearing is part of a comprehensive review of Australia-Malaysia relations, with the Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee examining the political, strategic, economic, social and cultural relationship.

“Tourism and IT are two areas where there is potential for growth in our relations with Malaysia,” said Sub-Committee Chair David Jull. “We want to hear from the Commonwealth agencies with responsibilities in these areas what strategies are in place to ensure that this potential is being fully met.

“Tourism can help build cultural understanding, but needs to be promoted in ways that are appropriate to target audiences. We are interested in finding out in more detail how Malaysian tourists are being attracted to Australia.”

The public hearing will be in Committee Room 1R3, and the program is:

- 9.30 am** Department of Communications, IT and the Arts
- 10.10 am** Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
- 11.00 am** Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association

A public hearing will also be held in Canberra on Monday, 4 December.

Submissions to the inquiry and transcripts of the public hearings are available on the Committee's website.

**For media inquiries**, contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Hon. David Jull MP, on 02 6277 2182 or 07 5580 0355.

**For all other inquiries**, contact the Sub-Committee Secretary, John Carter, on 02 6277 4306 or visit the committee website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/malaysia/index.htm>