



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS**
Inquiry into IT Pricing

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

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to front IT Pricing Inquiry

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) will appear before the House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications to discuss the price of IT hardware and software at a public hearing in Canberra on November 28.

The committee is investigating claims that Australians pay more for IT products and digital downloads than consumers overseas.

Committee chair Nick Champion MP said that the inquiry has raised questions about barriers to international trade put in place by multinational ICT vendors.

“We have heard from many consumers who are frustrated because they cannot buy IT products at the best price simply because they are shopping from Australia,” Mr Champion said.

Australia is party to a number of international agreements that might affect how the government can respond to limits on the global market put in place by IT vendors.

DFAT is the agency responsible for negotiating Australia’s trade agreements and can outline the options that may be open to the government to address any price discrimination by global IT companies.

“The committee looks forward to having the benefit of DFAT’s expertise in this area,” Mr Champion said.

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 28 2012 at 4.15 pm

Venue: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra.

The hearing will be audio webcast on www.aph.gov.au/live

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>
