



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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

MEDIA ALERT
Issued: 24 November 2006

Chair: Sen Marise Payne
Deputy: Maria Vamvakinou MP

Australia's \$766m in aid to the Pacific

Parliament to host a roundtable on 27 November

Australia's \$766 million Pacific aid program will be on the agenda when federal parliament's Human Rights Sub-Committee hosts a roundtable with Pacific Island High Commissioners at Parliament House on Monday 27 November from 10:45 am - 12 noon.

The public hearing by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade follows on from the Committee's hearing in Brisbane last month where Australia's aid program was discussed with academics and consultants with extensive experience in the region.

At this hearing, the Committee will hear from Australia's peak body for Non-Government Organisations - the Australian Council for International Development, and from Transparency International Australia.

The Chair of the Sub-Committee, Senator Marise Payne, said:

"The current inquiry is an opportunity to continue to discuss ways to meet the challenges and opportunities for aid in our region, and the Committee is particularly looking forwards to discussions with our Pacific partners."

In September 2005, Prime Minister John Howard announced a doubling of Australia's aid budget to \$4 billion by 2010. Subsequently, AusAID published its first White Paper on aid which will guide the direction and delivery of the Australian aid program over the next 10 years.

This hearing will be webcast (audio only) at: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

A further public hearing will be held in Canberra on Friday, 9 February 2007.

The terms of reference, submissions to the inquiry, transcript from the first public hearing and hearing programs are all available on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/pacificaid/index.htm>

Public hearing on 27 November

Venue: Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra.

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

For media inquiries, contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Senator Marise Payne on 02 9893 5151 (electorate office).

For all other inquiries, contact the Inquiry Secretary, Sara Edson, on 02 6277 4547 or visit the committee website at

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