



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**  
**Inquiry into rural skills training and research**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Issued: 5 August 2005*

*Chair: Alby Schultz MP*

# **Government cooperation and migration proposed to tackle the rural skills shortage**

***Committee Public Hearing in Parliament House, Canberra - 10 August 2005***

Representatives from **Rural Skills Australia** and the **National Farmers' Federation (NFF)** will appear before the House Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on Wednesday (10 August) in relation to its inquiry into rural skills training and research.

The public hearing will take place **from 5.05 pm in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra.**

The Rural Skills Australia submission (no. 71 on the committee website) comments on the strengths and weaknesses of current agricultural educational and training arrangements, such as FarmBis, New Apprenticeships and the Rural Production Training Package RTE03. The organisation argues that the weaknesses mainly arise from a lack of continuity, funding and cooperation between the Australian, state and territory governments.

The National Farmers' Federation believes that an increase in the uptake of migration options by primary producers is an important component of alleviating labour shortages in the agricultural industry. The Federation is currently developing a Labour Shortages Action Plan that will, amongst other things, promote the uptake of migration options.

The committee chair, Alby Schultz (Member for Hume, NSW), said the "committee is interested in discussing how the National Farmers' Federation and Rural Skills Australia have been working towards increasing the skills base of the rural sector. The committee recognises the important role governments have in assisting this important work, and is interested in how this partnership can be improved".

Further details about the inquiry, including terms of reference and submissions, can be obtained from the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/) or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing [Aff.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:Aff.reps@aph.gov.au).

**For media comment:** please contact the committee chair, Alby Schultz MP, on 0428 693 553 or email [Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au).

**For more information:** please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500.