



Public Hearing in Canberra

Commercialising our innovations – how can we do it better?

Ways in which two Australian government organisations associated with research encourage the development and adoption of Australian innovation will be the focus of a public hearing in Canberra next Monday (12 September 2005).

The public hearing is the eighth for the current inquiry by the **House of Representatives Standing Committee on Science and Innovation** into pathways for technological innovation to commercialisation.

Appearing before the Committee is Alan Pettigrew, Chief Executive Officer of the **National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)**, Australia's principal health and medical research funding body.

The NHMRC's submission provides information on its research funding programs, including those specifically intended to support innovative health and medical research with commercialisation potential.

Also appearing from the **Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)** are George Collins, Acting Chief of Research, Miriam Goodwin, Senior Adviser Science Policy and Planning, and Warren Bradey, General Manager of Access. ANSTO is Australia's national nuclear research and development organisation and the centre of Australian nuclear expertise.

ANSTO's submission emphasises the importance of establishing appropriate linkages between research producers and the end users, providing examples of successful commercial linkages which ANSTO has developed with a number of industry partners. The submission also provides information on ANSTO's research programs and commercialisation teams which have been established to improve the organisation's management of its intellectual property and promote industry awareness of ANSTO's innovations.

These discussions will help the Committee identify the factors that are critical to commercialisation success, and also identify some of the challenges encountered by research and development organisations attempting to support the commercialisation of innovative technologies.

Committee Chair, Petro Georgiou, said: "Australia's ability to compete successfully in ever more sophisticated global markets is dependent on our capacity to develop and harness the opportunities arising from technological innovation."

Venue: Monday 12 September 2005
Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra
4:30 pm National Health and Medical Research Council
5:15 pm Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
6:00 pm Hearings close

The public hearing will be broadcast internally (audio only) on HMS radio frequency 98.7. Further details, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/pathways/> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4150 or emailing scin.reps@aph.gov.au

For further information: Contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4150