



Public hearings in Queensland for Indigenous employment inquiry

The House of Representatives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Committee will begin a three day program of public hearings and inspections this week in Queensland as part of its inquiry into Indigenous employment.

The Committee is looking at positive Indigenous employment outcomes with a view to informing future policy development.

Committee Chairman Barry Wakelin says the Committee wants to investigate how Queensland is creating new job opportunities for Indigenous people.

“We look forward to hearing about the important factors that have contributed to Indigenous employment successes in Queensland and how best to work with Indigenous communities to create more employment opportunities,” Mr Wakelin said.

Public hearings will be held in Cairns on Thursday 28 July 2005 and in Brisbane on Friday, 29 July 2005. The Committee will hear from a number of organisations, including the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park; Cairns Regional Community Development & Employment ATSI Corporation; Cairns City Council; Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships; Cairns Region Group Training; Queensland Government; Brisbane City Council; Caboolture Shire Council, Purga Elders and Descendants Aboriginal Corporation and Bluefin Seafoods.

The Committee will continue to receive submissions and interested persons and organisations are encouraged to contact the secretariat if they wish to participate in the inquiry.

Further details on the inquiry, including the complete terms of reference, background documents, and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee’s website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/atsia or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or emailing atsia.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chairman Barry Wakelin on telephone (08) 8633 1744 or mobile phone 0429 900 910

For background information, contact the Inquiry Secretariat, Cheryl Scarlett, on (02) 6277 4559 or mobile 0421 611 182