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Commonwealth of Australia

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Correspondence and inquires:
Committee Secretary
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on
Education and Training
R1 116
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Tel (02) 6277 4573
Fax (02) 6277 4427
E-mail: edt.reps@aph.gov.au

Att: National media & Education writers

NEW INQUIRY

**Inquiry into vocational education
in schools**

The burgeoning area of vocational education in schools is to be investigated by the House of Representatives Education and Training Committee.

The inquiry will examine the place of vocational education in schools, its growth and development, and its effectiveness in preparing students for post-school options.

House Education Committee Chair Kerry Bartlett says the inquiry will examine the range, structure, resourcing and delivery of vocational education programs in schools, including teacher training, and the impact of vocational education on other programs.

It will also examine the differences between school-based and other vocational education programs and the acceptance within industry of resulting qualifications.

"Vocational education in schools is growing rapidly and we need to be sure we are maximising its potential to help our young people," Mr Bartlett said.

"This inquiry will be very focussed, looking at the range of programs being developed, best practice, and lessons which can be learned and shared.

"Vocational education is becoming important in that it opens up options for kids, makes school more relevant, and provides a pathway from school to work.

"We are particularly keen to look at programs which are developing links into their local communities and local employers."

The inquiry will also pay particular attention to vocational education in new and emerging industries and the accessibility and effectiveness of vocational education for indigenous students.

The committee plans to visit schools and employers in all states. It is currently seeking submissions.

For media comment contact **Mr Kerry Bartlett, MP**,
Chair of the House Education Committee, on **02 4751 7494**.

For background information contact the Committee Secretariat
on (02) 6277 2121 or visit: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt