



**Public hearing: Darwin 20 November 2006**

## Reaching remote areas: how far does civics and electoral education go?

The Northern Territory's Electoral Commission will have the opportunity to explain how electoral education is conducted in the top end at a public hearing of Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee on Monday (20 November).

Committee Chairman Peter Lindsay (Herbert, Qld) said, "The Committee has been keen to gauge the views of diverse groups of people throughout this inquiry and felt it was especially important to visit Darwin. Geographical remoteness means that it can be more difficult to deliver education programs to some communities, including remote indigenous communities. The Committee is looking forward to hearing from the experts about how they reach out to these remote communities."

The Committee will also hold a roundtable discussion with a diverse range of civics and electoral educators, including parliamentary educators and teachers from independent schools.

"The Committee is curious to know how teachers inspire their students on matters of Australian democracy, especially given these students' distance from Canberra and its national icons," Mr Lindsay said.

The Committee has received over 100 submissions from a broad range of individuals and organisations.

The Committee has travelled to every state and territory to meet primary and secondary students, including Indigenous students in a remote corner of Western Australia, primary students in an Islamic school in Sydney, and students from a political interest group at Melbourne High School. School forums have also been held with senior secondary students in Adelaide and Canberra.

**Public hearing in Ormiston Room, NT Legislative Assembly, Mitchell Street**

- 9:00am Northern Territory Electoral Commission (Sub 98)
- 9:30am Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (Sub 94)
- 10:00am Roundtable discussion with civics and electoral educators

**For media comment:** Please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Peter Lindsay MP on (02) 6277 4964 (Canberra) or (07) 4725 2066 (Townsville), or by mobile on 0419 656 234.

**Further information:** contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4453, by mobile on 0411 440 490, email [jscem@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscem@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/em/education/index.htm>