



Roundtable forum on regional health issues jointly affecting Australia and the South Pacific in Canberra

The House of Representatives Health Committee will convene a panel of Pacific High Commissioners, academics, experts, NGO representatives and government officials to discuss issues surrounding regional health issues jointly affecting Australia and the South Pacific at its roundtable forum being held in **Canberra** on **Friday, 11 September 2009** in **Committee Room 1R1**.

The Committee is holding the roundtable in order to inform members on a range of regional health issues ahead of a Committee Delegation visit to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands later this year.

Committee chair Steve Georganas (Member for Hindmarsh, SA) stated that "The Committee has recently returned from holding a public hearing in Cairns, inspections and meetings in the Torres Strait (Saibai Island and Thursday Island). We heard first hand from health practitioners about some of the cross-border health communicable health concerns, including drug resistant tuberculosis, malaria, dengue fever and HIV/AIDS. At our roundtable we will examine these issues further and also discuss the rise in the region of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, the health impacts of climate change; and others. The Committee is particularly interested in learning what scope there is for additional collaboration with our Pacific neighbours on these important matters.

The roundtable forum will be open to the public and the program for the day is as follows:

- 9:00 am Session 1: Overview of regional health issues
- 10:30 am Session 2: Cooperation on regional health issues
- 11:30 am Session 3: Scope for further collaboration on regional health issues

The hearing will be webcast (audio only) <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

For media comment, please contact the Chair, Steve Georganas, on (08) 8376 9000 (Electorate office) or (02) 6277 4415 (Parliament House).

For all other information: please contact the Inquiry Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the Committee's inquiry website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/impotence/hearings.htm>