



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Human Rights Sub Committee**

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
Issued: 2 March 2012

*Chair: Hon Laurie Ferguson MP  
Deputy: Hon Philip Ruddock MP*

## Final hearing for human rights talks inquiry

The federal parliament's Human Rights Sub-Committee will hold its final public hearing on Australia's human rights dialogues with Vietnam and China in Brisbane on Monday 5 March.

The Human Rights Sub-Committee's chair Mr Laurie Ferguson said one of the pleasing aspects of the inquiry has been the interest displayed by concerned ethnic communities.

"At public hearings to date, the Sub-Committee has heard from NGOs, Chinese human rights organisations, and representatives of the Vietnamese, Tibetan, Uyghur, and East Turkestan communities," Mr Ferguson said.

Appearing at the hearing are representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane and Australian Lawyers for Human Rights.

"It will be important for the Sub-Committee to hear from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the numerous concerns raised by these advocacy groups about the dialogues," Mr Ferguson said.

The Human Rights Sub-Committee will also discuss the involvement of non-government organisations, the roles of participating agencies, parliamentary participation, alternative human rights mechanisms and reporting requirements.

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

**Monday 5 February 2012**  
**9.45 am – 12.15 pm**  
**Lady Thiess Room, Customs House**  
**399 Queen St, Brisbane**

Members of the public are welcome to attend. For a program and more details, visit the Committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>

The hearing will also be audio webcast live at:  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

**For media comment:** please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Laurie Ferguson MP on (02) 9829 7477 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4920 (Parliament House)

**For further information:** please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313, via email at [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au) or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>