



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 23 October 2006

Chair: Sen Marise Payne
Deputy: Maria Vamvakinou MP

Australia's aid program in the Pacific

Public hearing in Brisbane on 26 October

Australia's \$766 million aid program in the Pacific will be the subject of a public hearing conducted by federal parliament's Human Rights Sub-Committee in Brisbane, Queensland, on 26 October 2006.

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will hear from academics from the University of Queensland, Griffith University and the Queensland University of Technology. Consultants with extensive experience in the region, the Foundation for Development Cooperation, the PNG Consul-General and the Australia-Pacific Business Council will also discuss the aid program with the Sub-Committee.

In September 2005, the Prime Minister Hon John Howard, MP, announced a doubling of Australia's aid budget to \$4 billion by 2010. Subsequently, AusAID published its first White Paper on aid which will guide the direction and delivery of the Australian aid program in the next 10 years.

The Sub-Committee Chair, Senator Marise Payne said, "the current inquiry is an opportunity to review our ongoing commitment to development in the region and the impact Australia's aid program has on promoting and enhancing human rights and security in the region, not just in the context of the new White Paper, but also in the context of the recent Pacific 2020 report which highlights the challenges facing the region over the next 15 years."

The inquiry's terms of reference, submissions to the inquiry and a program are available from the Committee website.

Public hearing on 26 October

Venue: Windsor Room, Brisbane City Hall, King George Square, between Adelaide and Ann Streets, Brisbane City.

Time: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

For media inquiries, contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Senator Marise Payne on 02 9893 5151 (electorate office).

For all other inquiries, contact the Inquiry Secretary, Sara Edson, on 02 6277 4547 or 0413 085 958 or visit the committee website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/pacificaid/index.htm>