

September 1999



**The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia**

**House of Representatives
Standing Committee on
Communications, Transport
and the Arts**

Chair

Mr Paul Neville MP

Deputy Chair

Mr Steve Gibbons MP

Members

Mr Gary Hardgrave MP

Mr Colin Hollis MP

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Mr Peter Lindsay MP

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Mr Frank Mossfield AM MP

Mr John Murphy MP

Mr Stuart St Clair MP

Correspondence and inquiries
Committee secretary
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on
Communications, Transport
and the Arts

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Tel 02 6277 4601

Fax 02 6277 2067

Email cta.reps@aph.gov.au

www.aph.gov.au/house

Media Release

Public hearings

Fatigue

An international dimension

Managing fatigue in transport inquiry

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts will continue its inquiry into managing fatigue in transport in **Melbourne on Friday 10 September 1999.**

Mr Paul Neville MP, Chair of the committee, **said:**

'The problem of transport fatigue is not confined to our own backyard. It is a problem in many parts of the world. This has the potential to impact on Australia. For example, a foreign pilot suffering from fatigue flying into Australia is as much of a safety risk as an Australian pilot suffering from fatigue.

There are a number of developments in fatigue management in the United States, Canada and Europe. We can learn a great deal about our own fatigue management initiatives from how other countries approach this very important and pressing issue.

We will be investigating international developments and trends in fatigue management with Professor David Dinges from the United States.

Professor Dinges is internationally recognised as an expert in fatigue management and has worked extensively with organisations such as the US Department of Defense, NASA and the US Department of Transport. His extensive experience will help us in looking at international developments in fatigue management.

International experts also keep a keen eye on developments in Australia. A number of Australian initiatives are world's best practice. It is important to share and compare ideas and experiences on an international scale if fatigue is to be tackled effectively.'

Further, **Mr Neville said**

The committee welcomes the opportunity to discuss fatigue management problems and initiatives in the regional airline industry with the Australian Federation of Air Pilots.

In addition, the committee will be taking evidence from Finemore Holdings Limited, a major road transport company involved in an important trial of a new fatigue management program.

Coles Myer Ltd also will be appearing. The concept of 'chain of responsibility' involves everyone in the transport chain—consignors, transport companies, managers and drivers. We are interested in investigating the contribution that companies such as Coles Myer can make to combating fatigue in the transport industry.

It is clear from the evidence gathered by the committee to date that fatigue needs to be tackled on a number of fronts and with various strategies. There are no simple solutions. Ultimately the whole community, including individuals, companies and government, is responsible for fatigue in transport and in the general workplace. A major shift in attitude, similar to that which now exists with speed and drink driving, is needed to successfully combat the problem of managing fatigue in transport.'

The public hearing will be held at:

Otway Suite 2

Level 2

Melbourne Convention Centre

Corner of Spencer and Flinders Street

From 0930 to 1500 hours

The terms of reference for the inquiry are listed below.

All members of the public are welcome as observers to the public hearing.

The public hearing program is attached.

Terms of Reference

In relation to managing fatigue in transport, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts is to inquire into, and report on, the following.

- Causes of, and contributing factors to, fatigue.
- Consequences of fatigue in air, sea, road and rail transport.
- Initiatives in transport addressing the causes and effects of fatigue.
- Ways of achieving greater responsibility by individuals, companies, and governments to reduce the problems related to fatigue in transport.

For further information

Media comment	Paul Neville MP, committee chair	07 4152 0744 02 6277 4940
Background	Adam Cunningham, inquiry secretary	02 6277 4597 on the day 0413 085 765
Web site	http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cta/index.htm	