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Conduct of the inquiry

Advertising the inquiry

The inquiry was advertised in *The Australian* and in regional newspapers between 7 August and 30 August 2002. The Committee wrote to the relevant Commonwealth Ministers and to State and Territory Governments. In addition, the Committee wrote to over 200 educational organisations, education research bodies and relevant industry associations inviting them to make a submission.

Evidence to the inquiry

The Committee received 116 submissions from 109 parties. These submissions are listed in Appendix B.

The Committee received 129 exhibits to the inquiry, which were provided as attachments to written submissions, offered during public hearings or sent to the Committee by other parties. These are listed in Appendix C.

Public hearings

The Committee held public hearings across Australia in Canberra, ACT; Mandurah, Henderson and Perth, WA; Willunga, Hindmarsh and Adelaide, SA; East Preston and Melbourne, Vic; Crows Nest, Junee, Wagga Wagga and Sydney, NSW; Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Gladstone, Qld; and Devonport, Burnie and Hobart, Tas.

The Committee called 455 witnesses. Details of the hearings and witnesses who appeared are in Appendix D.

School and site visits

School forums and/or inspections were held at:

- Bradfield College, NSW
- Centralian College, NT
- Hellyer College, Tas
- Junee High School, NSW
- Mandurah Senior College, WA
- Marymount College, Qld
- Northland Secondary College, Vic
- Nyangatjatjara College, NT
- Robina State High School, Qld
- Taminmin High School, NT
- Tannum Sands State High School
- The Don College, Tas
- Toolooa State High School, Qld
- Wagga Wagga High School, NSW
- Willunga High School, SA
- Yirara College, NT

In total 113 students participated in the school forums. Details of the forums and participating students and teachers are in Appendix D. The Committee also visited Erindale College, ACT; Shop 94, Mandurah Shopping Centre, WA; and Hydro Tasmania, Hobart, TAS.

Transcript of hearings

At the public hearings and school forums combined, 1432 pages of evidence were recorded by *Hansard*. The transcript of evidence taken at public hearings and school forums, and copies of all written submissions, are available for inspection from the Committee Office of the House of Representatives, the National Library of Australia or on the inquiry website at:

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