



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT**
Review into bullying in the workplace

*Chair: Ms Amanda Rishworth MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Rowan Ramsey MP*

REVIEW INTO BULLYING IN THE WORKPLACE

Workplace bullying inquiry hearings in Canberra

The Education and Employment Committee will continue to take evidence in Canberra on 16 and 17 August 2012 on workplace bullying. The focus of the Canberra hearings will be on government departments and agencies as well as hearing from individuals who have experienced bullying in their workplaces.

The Committee Chair, Ms Amanda Rishworth MP, said 'The Committee continues to receive a strong response to its call for written submissions, particularly from individuals recounting their personal experiences, and is seeking to explore issues associated with workplace bullying in greater detail with government stakeholders, in particular'.

'The Minister has asked us to complement work currently under way to develop a *Code of Practice: Preventing and Responding to Workplace Bullying* and initiatives by state and territory governments,' she said.

As well as the formal public programs (which are available from the Committee's website), the Committee has set aside time at Friday's hearing to hear from individuals about their experiences of bullying in the workplace. To encourage maximum participation by individuals, who may be reluctant to be publicly identified, the media will not be permitted to report on these individual impact statements and none of the statements provided to the Committee will be published. Only those wishing to make statements or observe proceedings will be allowed to be present in the room.

Ms Rishworth said, 'Bullying has serious consequences for individuals and the wider community. Every Australian has a right to feel safe and respected at work. While it is not the role of the Committee to intervene in or consider individual cases, we welcome submissions from employers, employees and their representative organisations regarding proposals and suggestions for securing workplaces against bullying at a national level.'

For media comment: contact the Committee Chair, Ms Amanda Rishworth MP on 0416 086 019.

For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4578 email workplacebullying.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/workplacebullying>

Webcast: Live on http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament (audio only). Please note that impact statements will not be broadcast.