



HOUSE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED ON WORKPLACE BULLYING

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment has today released its report, "**Workplace Bullying: "We just want it to stop"**".

According to the Productivity Commission workplace bullying costs the Australian economy between \$6 billion and \$36 billion annually.

The Committee received over 300 written submissions – mostly from individuals who have experienced bullying first-hand - but also from organisations, about the enormous human toll that workplace bullying takes.

The report contains 23 recommendations that focus on:

- defining what bullying is and is not;
- promoting and strengthening existing legislative and regulatory frameworks;
- ensuring that the requirements of the draft *Code of Practice: Managing the Risk of Workplace Bullying* are met, with guidance and support provided to employers;
- improving workplace cultures;
- and enhancing tools for the prevention and early resolution of workplace bullying incidences.

The Committee Chair, Ms Amanda Rishworth MP, said "Workplace bullying is happening far too frequently in Australian workplaces, and occurs in all sectors and industries. We started this inquiry with a focus on examining whether we should introduce a national equivalent of Brodie's Law. We discovered throughout the inquiry that prevention and early intervention is critical. A chief concern of witnesses was the lack of clarity about what to do and where to go for help. That is why we recommend, in consultation with stakeholders, that the Commonwealth Government establish a new national advisory service to provide advice, assistance and resolution services to employers and workers alike. We hope that this report forms part of the national conversation we need to have on this topic and offers ways for moving forward. We all have a responsibility to stop bullying behaviour in its tracks."

The report is available on the Committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/ee>

For media comment: contact the Committee Chair, Ms Amanda Rishworth MP on 0416 086 019 or (02) 6277 2293.

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