



Health Committee to investigate infectious disease issues in tropical north

Australia's ability to prevent the importation and spread of infectious disease will be the focus of a parliamentary roundtable to be held in Cairns on 2 August.

As part of its inquiry into *Health issues across international borders*, the House of Representatives Health Committee will hear from a range of public health experts regarding the risk of cross-border transmission of infectious disease into Australia, among other important issues.

Committee chair Steve Georganas said cross-border health issues are of particular concern in the far north of the country.

"The risk of spread of infectious disease is closely monitored in northern Australia due to the tropical climate and proximity to neighbouring countries," Mr Georganas said.

"The committee will hold a public roundtable in Cairns to gain important insight from some of our experts on how best to protect our national population health in an increasingly globalised world."

Participants attending the roundtable will include representatives from Queensland Health, the Northern Territory Department of Health, non-government agencies and research institutions in Queensland.

PROGRAM

9.00 am	Session one
10.30 am	<i>Break</i>
11.00 am	Session two
1.00 pm	<i>Close</i>

VENUE: Joseph Banks Ballroom
Rydges Esplanade Resort
Cnr The Esplanade & Kerwin Street, Cairns QLD

Observers are welcome

The hearing will be webcast live on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

For media comment, please contact Luisa Halacas from the Office of Steve Georganas on (08) 8376 9000.

For all other enquiries, please contact the Committee Secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the inquiry website: www.aph.gov.au/internationalhealth