



# Obesity hearing in Mackay

## ***Committee to also inspect Mater Misericordiae Hospital***

The House of Representatives Health Committee will hear from some of Mackay's community health experts on obesity when it holds a public hearing in Mackay on Monday 18 August 2008 for the federal parliamentary inquiry into obesity in Australia.

The committee chaired by Steve Georganas (Member for Hindmarsh, SA), will hear about local projects and initiatives from Mackay City Council, the Tropical Population Health Network of Queensland Health, the City Fitness Gym and Dr Rachel Bidgood a local general practitioner. The Committee is particularly interested in community fitness events and projects aimed at getting the community to be active.

The Active Parks project is an exciting initiative by the Mackay Regional Council that the committee is keen to learn more about and which could be adopted in other states said Mr Georganas. Members are also interested to learn how local health centres such as the City Fitness Gym can encourage people to get regular exercise he said. The committee also wants to see how state governments can help support active communities by encouraging pedestrian friendly environments, walking and bicycling tracks, Active Parks program and the 10,000 steps program.

The committee will visit the Mater Misericordiae Hospital in Mackay before the hearing to see the facilities used to educate people about diet and diabetes management.

**PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM**  
**MONDAY 18 AUGUST 2008 - 10:25 am to 1:40 pm**  
**The Longreach Room, Windmill Motel, 5 Highway Plaza, North Mackay**

**10.30 am Tropical Population Health Network, Queensland Health**

**11.15 am Mackay Regional Council**

**11.55 am City Fitness Health Club**

**1.00 pm Dr Rachel Bidgood**

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Steve Georganas, on (08) 8376 9000 (Electorate office) or 0437 387 378 (mobile).

**For all other inquiries**, please contact the Inquiry Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/haa](http://www.aph.gov.au/haa).