



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 12 March 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Inquiry into IT Pricing

*Chair: Mr Nick Champion MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Paul Neville MP*

DEPARTMENT OF BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY TO FRONT PRICING INQUIRY

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) will appear before the House Infrastructure and Communications Committee's inquiry into IT pricing at a public hearing in Canberra tomorrow.

The Committee is investigating claims that Australians pay more for IT products than consumers in comparable jurisdictions.

Committee chair Nick Champion MP said 'The digital economy is increasingly important to Australia's economic prosperity. As the department responsible for overseeing Australia's digital economy, DBCDE's views are of great interest to the committee.'

Mr Champion noted that the committee has heard from many Australian consumers and organisations frustrated at the high price of IT products in Australia – in particular, digitally downloaded software, computer games, music, movies, and e-books.

'We've received evidence that big IT companies and copyright holders charge Australians, on average, an extra 50% just because we live here, a practice referred to by consumers as the "Australia Tax,"' Mr Champion said. 'The committee looks forward to hearing the Department's views on how Australian consumers and businesses can get the best deal.'

A program has been posted to the Committee website at www.aph.gov.au/itpricing.

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

Date/Time: Wednesday 13 March 2013 at 4.10 pm.

Venue: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra.

For inquiry information: including the terms of reference and submissions, go to:
www.aph.gov.au/itpricing, or contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 2352.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Nick Champion, on
(02) 6277 4451 (Parliament House office)