



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Inquiry into rural skills training and research

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 13 February 2006

Chair: Alby Schultz MP
Deputy Chair: Dick Adams MP

Animal disease training maintains Australia's competitive advantage

Committee Public Hearing in Parliament House, Canberra – 15 February 2006

Animal Health Australia (AHA) will appear before the House of Representatives Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee on Wednesday (15 February) for its inquiry into rural skills training and research.

The public hearing will take place **from 5.00 pm in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra.**

AHA, established by government and livestock industries, aims to ensure that Australia's animal health system delivers a competitive advantage for Australia's livestock industries.

AHA's submission (no. 57 on the committee's website) highlights the importance of emergency animal disease training to the success of Australia's livestock industries in international markets.

Amongst other responsibilities, AHA seeks to ensure:

- that there are adequate numbers of competent trained personnel to respond to an emergency animal disease incursion
- there is consistency in nationally recognised and endorsed competency standards
- a national team of trained personnel are competent to perform their duties in any jurisdiction.

The committee chair, Alby Schultz (Member for Hume, NSW), said "the committee recognises that the work of Animal Health Australia benefits the wider community. Amongst other things, we are interested in hearing how the company is meeting its commitment to maintain Australia's international market competitiveness through training activities".

Further details about the inquiry, including terms of reference and submissions, can be obtained from the committee's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/ruralskills/> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing Aff.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment: please contact the committee chair, Alby Schultz MP, on (02) 6277 4386 or email Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au.

For more information: please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500.