



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

INQUIRY INTO COMBINING SCHOOL AND WORK:
SUPPORTING SUCCESSFUL YOUTH TRANSITIONS

Chair: Ms Sharon Bird MP
Deputy Chair: Dr Dennis Jensen MP

Committee to continue secondary school visits to discuss school/work balance

School visits, Burnie & Melbourne, 21-22 April 2009

The House of Representatives Education and Training Committee will continue to take its inquiry into *combining school and work: supporting successful youth transitions* into secondary schools to take first-hand evidence from students and their teachers about how students are coping with balancing school with part-time work.

On Tuesday 21 April, the Committee will visit the Hellyer Campus of the Tasmanian Academy in Burnie and on Wednesday 22 April the Committee will visit Holmesglen Vocational College in Melbourne. Further school visits are planned for Brisbane and Port Kembla.

Committee Chair Sharon Bird (Member for Cunningham, NSW) said today 'The Committee has already undertaken visits to two secondary schools in Adelaide and Perth and it has been invaluable to hear directly from students about their experiences in combining school and work.'

'The committee is hearing evidence that there are some employers who really value young workers and do the right thing by them. There are also some employers who think that they are doing the right thing, but they do not communicate with students to find out exactly how they are faring in the workplace. Then there are some employers who do not appear to take students' study needs into consideration at all.'

'The committee is interested to hear from students about what they think their parents, schools and employers might be able to do to help them in their efforts to balance school and work.'

The committee has established an online survey for senior students to collect evidence for its inquiry. The survey, available online at www.aph.gov.au/studentsurvey, will be open until the end of May. Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, can be obtained from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/edt>.

Day 1: Tuesday, 21 April 2009, 9.30am – 3.00pm, Hellyer Campus, Tasmanian Academy, Burnie, Tas.

Day 2: Wednesday, 22 April 2009, 9.30am – 3.00pm, Holmesglen Vocational College, Moorabbin, Vic.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Sharon Bird on (02) 4228 5899 (Electorate office).

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary on (02) 6277 4573, email edt.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/edt/>