



The future of employment in the automotive components industry

The future of employment in the automotive components industry, future skills needs and training initiatives and labour adjustment measures are three of the big workforce issues tackled in a new report released today by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation.

The report, *Shifting gears: employment in the automotive component manufacturing industry*, makes a total of 18 recommendations. It focuses on employment and training in the industry, as well as skills needs and labour adjustment measures and how to best support the future of the industry.

Automotive component manufacturers are facing intense pressures from a wide range of sources including the contraction in the number of motor vehicle manufacturers, the increase in imported parts and offshore component manufacturing.

The chair of the Committee, Mr Phil Barresi MP commented that “The inquiry found that while the industry is facing significant challenges, it is innovative, dynamic and capable of meeting change and therefore securing its own future.”

“Through the strategies identified”, he added, “We can support the industry to meet these challenges and establish a competitive position in the global marketplace, ensuring ongoing employment for Australians.”

The report recommends:

- reviewing the status of Automotive Training Australia as the representative of the industry’s skills needs;
- a co-ordinated and high-level whole-of-government approach to automotive skills training;
- consolidating training resources to establish a centralised teaching foundry to service the casting industries;
- an automotive component manufacturers leaders forum to improve recruitment and the image of the industry;
- a national study on the post-redundancy outcomes for displaced workers within the industry;
- a general labour adjustment program to support the automotive component industry;
- review of R&D assistance to assess whether Australia is internationally competitive;
- extension of R&D assistance to Australian based subsidiaries of multinational companies where the R&D takes place in Australian to the benefit Australian products;
- a vision for the automotive component industry that establishes Australia as a niche market for innovation and investment;
- reporting on the level of local components in locally manufactured vehicles.

Copies of the report can be obtained by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or on the Committee’s website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewrwp or emailing ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au

The Chair and Deputy Chair are available to speak to the media.

For media comment please contact the Committee Chair Mr Phil Barresi on (02) 6277 4350 or Deputy Chair Mr Brendan O’Connor on 0407 810 087.

For information contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4157.