



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 12 February 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*

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT AND IP AUSTRALIA TO APPEAR BEFORE I.T. PRICING INQUIRY

The Attorney-General's Department and IP Australia will appear before the House Committee on Infrastructure and Communications tomorrow as part of its inquiry into IT Pricing.

Committee chair Nick Champion MP said that tomorrow's hearing will focus on issues including copyright and the problem of geoblocking – the practice of forcing customers to pay prices determined by physical location.

Mr Champion noted that the committee has heard from many Australian consumers and organisations frustrated at the high price of copyright protected content 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 exploring possible solutions to this problem with the Attorney-General's Department and IP Australia.'

A full program will be posted to the Committee website (at www.aph.gov.au/itpricing) as it becomes available.

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

Date/Time: Wednesday 13 February 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)