



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 5 September 2005

Chair: Alby Schultz MP

Committee investigates barriers to rural skilling in Australia

Committee Public Hearing in Parliament House, Canberra - 7 September 2005

Dr Sandra Welsman and representatives from the **Cattle Council of Australia (CCA)** and **Avcare** will appear before the House Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on Wednesday (7 September) in relation to 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.**

Dr Welsman's submission (no. 12 on the committee website) points to a City – Country divide – a 'from the land' barrier that appears to stand in the way of career-building in Agriculture. She contends that Australian agriculture risks becoming a closed culture with a shrinking pool of capable people.

Avcare's submission (no. 21 on the committee website) calls for more research into attitudinal motivators and barriers to adopting a culture of continuous improvement in managing agvet chemicals.

The committee chair, Alby Schultz (Member for Hume, NSW), said the "committee is interested in hearing from this wide range of people on the barriers to rural skilling in Australia. We are greatly interested in hearing their opinions on what the Australian Government can do to help break down some of these barriers".

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.