

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIA***Chair: Mr Tony Windsor MP*

INQUIRY INTO THE USE OF 'FLY-IN, FLY-OUT' WORKFORCE PRACTICES IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF 'FLY-IN, FLY-OUT' AND 'DRIVE-IN, DRIVE-OUT' WORKFORCE PRACTICES  
IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA****Mackay to host a public hearing for Regional Australia  
Committee FIFO Inquiry**

In the third hearing of an exhaustive Queensland program, the Regional Australia Committee will hear evidence from representatives of the Mackay Airport, which is a hub for FIFO services primarily heading to the Bowen Basin.

Many of the submissions from the witnesses discuss the impacts that FIFO workforce practices are having on the region, including: strained relationships between the community and FIFO/DIDO workers; increased levels of violence and alcohol and substance abuse; increased strain on infrastructure and services; housing costs; difficulty attracting and retaining non-mining staff.

The Queensland Nurses Union's submission highlights the strain that FIFO workforce practices place on medical services in regional towns due to the increased demand for services and the difficulties of attracting and retaining healthcare staff in mining regions due to high cost of suitable accommodation.

**Date: Thursday, 23 February 2012**

<b>Time:</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>Mackay Airport</b>
	<b>9.05am</b>	<b>Mackay Regional Council (Submission 85)</b>
	<b>9.35am</b>	<b>Whitsunday Industrial Workforce Development (Submission 72)</b>
	<b>10.20am</b>	<b>Regional Development Economic Corporation (Submission 82)</b>
	<b>10.50am</b>	<b>Jim Pearce (Submission 15)</b>
	<b>11.20am</b>	<b>Regional Social Development Centre (Submission 78)</b>
	<b>11.50am</b>	<b>Queensland Nurses Union (Submission 97)</b>
	<b>12.20pm</b>	<b>Whitsunday Regional Council</b>

**Venue: Mackay Entertainment Convention Centre, Alfred St, Mackay****Webcast: Live on [http://www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)  
(audio only)****For media comment:** contact the Chair's media advisor, Graham Nuttall on 0412 916 040.

**For information on the inquiry:** contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or 0407 406 337, email [ra.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ra.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/fifo>