



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Education & Training

Inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 25 March 2003

Chair: Kerry Bartlett MP

Deputy: Rod Sawford MP

Public hearing - Thursday 27 March 2003 - Canberra

ACCI says VET in Schools should be targeted to local job opportunities, skill shortages and future demand.

The **Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI)** will appear this Thursday at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Education Committee's inquiry into the rapidly growing area of vocational education and training in schools (VET).

The ACCI submission supports the Vocational Education and Training in Schools Framework. However, many employers believe that VET in Schools is not sufficiently targeted and schools still focus largely on preparing young people for tertiary education. Employers are concerned that there are not sufficient on the job learning opportunities, nor is there adequate access to relevant up to date information available on skill shortages or future demand when making subject choices.

ACCI also states the there is a need for teachers delivering VET in Schools to have appropriate qualifications and recent industry experience. "Generally, employers do not have confidence in the qualification delivered by schools beyond Level II. Schools must meet the same quality requirements as other Registered Training Organisations if they want employers to value the qualifications they deliver to students." ACCI says in its submission.

PUBLIC HEARING

WHO: Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) appears at House Education Committee's inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools
WHERE: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra
WHEN: Thursday 27 March, 9.15am – 10am

BACKGROUND: The inquiry is examining the range, structure, resourcing and delivery of vocational education and training programs in schools, including teacher training, and the impact of vocational education on other programs.

It is also examining the differences between school-based and other vocational education programs, the acceptance within industry of resulting qualifications, vocational education in new industries and the accessibility and effectiveness of vocational education for indigenous students.

"Vocational education and training in schools is growing rapidly," says House Education Committee Chair, Mr Kerry Bartlett.

"We need to be sure we are maximising its potential to support young people to choose effectively from the range of post-school pathways available to them and to successfully make the transition from school to work or further education and training.

"VET in schools is becoming very important because it opens up options for young people, can make school more relevant, and often provides a pathway from school to work."

For media comment: Kerry Bartlett, MP, Chair - House Education Committee, tel: (02) 6277 4637

For more information: Committee Secretariat, tel: (02) 6277 2121,
or visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt/ves/index.htm