



Public hearing in Canberra 22 June 2006

Automotive industry representative to front Committee

The Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, representing the interests of the motor vehicle manufacturers, will speak to the House of Representatives Employment Committee at a public hearing in Canberra tomorrow (Thursday 22 June). It is the final hearing in Canberra for the Committee's inquiry into employment in the automotive component manufacturing industry.

Recent announcements of retrenchments in the automotive manufacturing industry are accompanied elsewhere by evidence of skill shortages in manufacturing. There is a growing need to ensure the viability of automotive component manufacturing, and to provide job opportunities for skilled workers.

The automotive component industry is heavily reliant on the major vehicle manufacturers, but also faces the same challenges in finding skilled staff. The Chamber said in its submission to the Committee that reform of the national industry training arrangements is necessary to improve training and productivity for all parts of the automotive industry.

The Committee Chair Phillip Barresi said the automotive components manufacturing industry forms an important part of the Australian economy.

"The industry is being challenged by international competition and the rapid advances in technology," Mr Barresi said.

"The industry has also faced the impact of a series of retrenchments by the major vehicle manufacturers. It is vital that the industry is able to meet these challenges to ensure its own sustainability.

"The Committee will be working to assess and make recommendations on ways to support automotive component manufacturing companies as they seek to face the challenges of an ever competitive industry."

The Committee travels to Melbourne next week to hear from witnesses such as Ford, component parts manufacturers and their representative body, the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, CSIRO and Australian Industry Group at the inquiry's final public hearing at the Monash Conference Centre, Level 7, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Time: 11.00am
Venue: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra
Witness: Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and submissions are available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewrwp/> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Phil Barresi, at his electorate office (03) 9873 8351 or Parliament House, Canberra (02) 6277 4350.
For background information, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162