



## NEW INQUIRY

# Employment in automotive component manufacturing

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation will investigate employment in automotive component manufacturing.

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, as well as redeploying skilled workers to job vacancies.

The Committee has been asked by the Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Kevin Andrews to inquire into and report on employment opportunities and challenges in the Australian automotive component manufacturing sector, with particular focus on:

- Current and future employment trends in the industry;
- Emerging skill shortages and appropriate recruitment and training strategies;
- Labour adjustment measures required to assist redeployed and affected workers; and
- Measures to support skills development, innovation and investment in the industry.

### **Background**

The Australian passenger motor vehicle industry consists of four car manufacturers and more than 200 component, tooling, design and engineering firms. The industry is largely based in Victoria and South Australia, with a small share of activity in NSW. The value of Australian automotive exports in 2004-05 was \$4.7 billion. Of this \$1.6 billion was for automotive components.

Job losses have been announced in Victoria and South Australia in late 2005. These include redundancies in both automotive component companies and car manufacturers. The need for a more competitive Australian industry and increasing overseas competition appears to be driving the job cuts.

“The House Employment Committee includes both government and opposition members from most states and territories. We will be working together cooperatively 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.” Mr Barresi said.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to make written submissions to the inquiry by **10 February 2006**, after which the committee will hold public hearings.

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, background documents, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee’s website 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](mailto:ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au)

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Phil Barresi, on (02) 6277 4350 or (03) 9873 8351  
**For background information**, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162