



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 27 March 2006

*Chair: Alby Schultz MP
Deputy Chair: Dick Adams MP*

Agri-Food Industry Skills Council to appear before committee

Committee Public Hearing in Parliament House, Canberra – 29 March 2006

The **Agri-Food Industry Skills Council** (AFISC) will appear before the House of Representatives Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee on Wednesday 29 March, as part of the ongoing inquiry into rural skills training and research.

The public hearing will take place **from 5.00 pm in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra.**

AFISC was established two years ago by the Australian Government to analyse the skills shortage in rural and regional Australia, and develop strategies to reverse the trends of an aging, shrinking workforce.

In its submission to the inquiry (number 105 on the committee's website) AFSIC indicates it has a considerable body of data to share with the committee.

Along with outlining concerns about inadequate training opportunities and failure to attract young people, AFSIC will be recommending improved cooperation between governments, industry and training providers to find practical solutions to the training needs of rural and regional industries.

AFSIC also identifies modern infrastructure and services as important in attracting and retaining people and skills in regional Australia.

"AFSIC has an enormous task addressing the skilling of the agri-industries and the committee is interested in how successfully it is meeting this challenge. The committee is also interested in hearing more about the training accreditation process and how this can be improved," committee chair, Alby Schultz (Member for Hume, NSW) said.

More information including the inquiry's 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.