



**The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia**

**House of Representatives
Standing Committee on
Communications, Transport
and the Arts**

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Media Release

Public hearing

Canberra

**Driving is optional, rest is
mandatory**

Managing fatigue in transport inquiry

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts is continuing its important inquiry into managing fatigue in transport in **Canberra on Wednesday 8 December 1999**.

Mr Paul Neville MP, Chair of the committee, **said**:

"Two key aspects to this inquiry are public education and the need to provide positive incentives for companies to do the right thing and manage fatigue effectively.

Regulation is only part of the answer. To achieve a real and lasting regime people must recognise the need for change, as we have seen with other successful road safety issues such as seatbelts, speed and drink driving.

The committee believes that behavioural change is likely when public awareness of the issues is raised. The Royal Automobile Association of Victoria will appear at the hearing to discuss the ways that it promotes fatigue management amongst its 1.4 million members. This includes the range of educational and promotional campaigns developed and implemented in Victoria aimed at relieving impairment by fatigue.

The second key aspect is the need to provide companies with incentives to do the right thing and develop effective and comprehensive fatigue management plans. While penalties are still necessary, they are only part of the equation. Providing incentives is a vital ingredient in any initiatives to properly address fatigue and to induce companies to act with greater responsibility.

The insurance industry is in a good position to play a positive role in fatigue management. Many insurance companies are already involved in assisting companies manage fatigue. We will be hearing from National Transport Insurance Ltd, an industry leader in assisting companies in managing fatigue. It has developed and produced a range of fatigue management tools, including a comprehensive CD ROM training and education package. The committee will inquire into what further role insurance companies can play in fatigue management. This includes the possibility of providing incentives through mechanisms such as rebates on premiums for those companies which operate safely.

The importance of this inquiry can not be underestimated. Fatigue is an issue of the highest order in air, sea, road and rail transport. It is important we address this issue quickly, decisively and comprehensively.'

The public hearings will be held at:

1R2

Parliament House

Canberra

Wednesday 8 December from 0855 to 1020 hours.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are listed below.

All members of the public are welcome as observers to the public hearing.

The public hearing program is attached.

Terms of Reference

In relation to managing fatigue in transport, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts is to inquire into, and report on, the following.

- Causes of, and contributing factors to, fatigue.
- Consequences of fatigue in air, sea, road and rail transport.
- Initiatives in transport addressing the causes and effects of fatigue.
- Ways of achieving greater responsibility by individuals, companies, and governments to reduce the problems related to fatigue in transport.

For further information

Media comment Paul Neville MP, committee chair 02 6277 4940

Background Adam Cunningham, inquiry secretary 02 6277 4597

Web site <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cta/index.htm>