

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING**INQUIRY INTO COMBINING SCHOOL AND WORK:
SUPPORTING SUCCESSFUL YOUTH TRANSITIONS*Chair: Ms Sharon Bird MP
Deputy Chair: Dr Dennis Jensen MP*

More secondary school visits to discuss school/work balance***Brisbane and Port Kembla, 29-30 April 2009***

Secondary school students and teachers will have a further opportunity to speak with federal parliamentarians when the House Education Committee continues investigating the challenges of balancing school with part-time work.

On Wednesday 29 April, the Committee will visit Craigslea State High School in Brisbane and on Thursday 30 April the Committee will visit Illawarra Senior College in Port Kembla.

Committee Chair Sharon Bird (Member for Cunningham, NSW) said today 'It is clear from the evidence the committee has been receiving during its school visits that there is an inherent value in young people undertaking work during their school years. Paid employment can help students to gain confidence, self-esteem and independence and also provides a range of skills and knowledge.'

'However, the other side of the evidence is telling the committee that at some point, work starts to become a hindrance and students start to sacrifice their learning and school performance because of their work demands. This is the sort of dynamic we are trying to work through and the challenge for the committee is to determine the point at which work turns from a benefit into a negative,' said Ms Bird.

The committee has established an online survey for senior students to collect evidence for its inquiry. The survey, available online at www.aph.gov.au/studentsurvey, will be open until the end of May.

More details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, can be obtained from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/edt>.

Day 1: Wednesday, 29 April 2009, 9.30am–3.00pm, Craigslea State High School, West Chermshire, Qld.

Day 2: Thursday, 30 April 2009, 9.30am–3.00pm, Illawarra Senior College, Port Kembla, NSW.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Sharon Bird on (02) 4228 5899 (Electorate office).

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary on (02) 6277 4573, email edt.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/edt/>