



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Standing Committee on Education & Training**  
***Inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools***

**MEDIA ALERT**

**Issued: 27 June 2003**

*Chair: Kerry Bartlett MP*  
*Deputy: Rod Sawford MP*

**Public hearings - Tuesday 1 July and Wednesday 2 July 2003 - NSW**

**Junee and Wagga Wagga visits for vocational education in schools inquiry**

The rapidly growing area of vocational education and training (VET) in schools is being investigated by the House of Representatives Education and Training Committee. The inquiry is examining the range, structure, resourcing and delivery of vocational education and training programs in schools, including teacher training, the impact of vocational education on other programs, vocational education in new industries, and the accessibility and effectiveness of vocational education for indigenous students.

On **Tuesday 1 July** the Education Committee will visit **Junee High School** to talk to students, teachers, and principals about vocational education programs in schools. Local employer and parents' views on the success of programs will also be sought. National research on vocational education in schools by the Faculty at Charles Sturt University will be discussed outlining the need for support for students, the benefits of the programs and resourcing demands.

On **Wednesday 2 July**, hearings will continue at **Wagga Wagga High School**, with students and staff, and regional principals. In addition, Wagga Wagga Compact and Riverina Institute will be represented to discuss their links with schools to support vocational pathways and coordination with the broader community.

**SCHOOL VISITS and PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**WHEN & WHERE:**

**Junee** Tuesday, 1 July 2003  
Junee High School,  
Lydia Street  
Junee, NSW – 11.45am to 5.30pm

**Wagga Wagga** Wednesday, 2 July 2003  
Wagga Wagga High School,  
Coleman Street  
Wagga Wagga, NSW - 9.10am to 12.15pm

***Please note: should media wish to visit schools please contact the secretariat first***

"Vocational education and training in schools is growing rapidly," says House Education Committee Chair, Mr Kerry Bartlett. "We need to be sure we are maximising its potential to support young people to choose effectively from the range of post-school pathways available to them and to successfully make the transition from school to work or further education and training."

"Vocational programs in regional areas seem to have great community support. We need to identify the strengths and determine what the challenges are in supporting young people in rural areas. How do we ensure that barriers to participation and achievement are minimal, and that students are aware of opportunities existing both in the local area and Australia-wide."

**For media comment:** Kerry Bartlett, MP, Chair, House Education Committee, tel: (02) 4751 7494  
*Please note if media wish to visit schools contact the secretariat first*

**For more information:** Committee Secretariat, tel: (02) 6277 2121 or 0421 611 173  
or visit the inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt/ves/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt/ves/index.htm)