



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Standing Committee on Education & Training**

***Inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools***

**MEDIA ALERT**

*Issued: 18 March 2003*

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

**Public hearing - Thursday 20 March 2003 - Canberra**

**TAFE Directors talk about  
vocational education and training in schools**

**TAFE Directors Australia (TDA)** will appear this Thursday at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Education Committee's inquiry into the rapidly growing area of vocational education and training in schools (VET).

The TAFE Directors Association will discuss school-based programs and the role the TAFE sector can play. Particular areas of concern to TAFE include the adequacy of funding, quality assurance, and the need for more emphasis on work based learning.

TDA considers quality of provision and the most effective use of resources as key issues. While the provision of VET courses for school students is strongly supported, TDA considers that such courses are not necessarily best provided by the schools themselves. "The most appropriate approach is 'VET for schools' rather than 'VET in schools'," TDA says in its submission.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WHO:** TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) appears at House Education Committee's inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools  
**WHERE:** Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra  
**WHEN:** Thursday 20 March, 9.15am – 10am

**BACKGROUND:** The inquiry is examining the range, structure, resourcing and delivery of vocational education and training programs in schools, including teacher training, and the impact of vocational education on other programs.

It is also examining the differences between school-based and other vocational education programs, the acceptance within industry of resulting qualifications, vocational education in new industries and the accessibility and effectiveness of vocational education for indigenous students.

"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.

"VET in schools is becoming very important because it opens up options for young people, can make school more relevant, and often provides a pathway from school to work."

**For media comment:** Kerry Bartlett, MP, Chair - House Education Committee, tel: (02) 6277 4637

**For more information:** Committee Secretariat, tel: (02) 6277 2121,  
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)