



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 1 August 2003

Chair: Kerry Bartlett MP
Deputy: Rod Sawford MP

Public hearings - Wednesday and Thursday, 6 - 7 August, 2003 - SA

Willunga and Adelaide visits for vocational education in schools inquiry: wine industry links examined

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 **Wednesday 6 August** the Education Committee will visit **Willunga High School** to talk to students and staff about their work in vocational education programs in schools. Willunga High School is a Registered Training Organisation, and through their enterprise activities the students in the school's business arm and hospitality centre produce and promote red and white wine, olive oil and locally produced food.

On **Thursday 7 August**, public hearings will continue in Adelaide with the **South Australian Government** discussing the growth of VET in Schools in SA and the Futures Connect Strategy for young people leaving school requiring improved career and transition services. Other educators and researchers will also outline their findings on vocational education in schools with representation from **Catholic Education South Australia** and the **National Centre for Vocational Education Research**. Industry's view will be sought with representation from the **Construction Industry Training Board**.

SCHOOL VISIT and PUBLIC HEARINGS

Willunga Wednesday 6 August
Willunga High School
239 Main Road, Willunga, SA
9:30am to 12:30pm

Adelaide Thursday 7 August
Prince Alfred Room, Adelaide Town Hall
128 King William Street, Adelaide, SA
9:00am to 3:10pm

Please note: should media wish to visit the school 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 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. Willunga and the Fleurieu Peninsula have had high youth unemployment. How effective is vocational education in schools in preparing students for their future work life? We also need to identify the strengths of the South Australian system, and in particular how to support industry initiatives, while encouraging young people to complete Year 12."

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Please note if media wish to visit schools contact the secretariat first

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