



The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on  
Education and Training

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**Inquiry into VET in schools  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**Media Alert**

**5 March 2003**

## **Independent Schools talk about vocational education and training in schools**

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, and the impact of vocational education on other programs.

The Committee will speak to representatives of the National Council of Independent Schools' Associations (NCISA) about the issues concerning independent schools across the eight State and Territories. There has been significant growth (212%) in student enrolments in industry recognised VET programs and in the number of schools involved between 1997 and 2002. NCISA considers the uneven acceptance of VET in Schools programs by the higher education sector as a significant barrier to greater acceptance of VET.

**Public Event: House of Representatives Education Committee  
VET in Schools Inquiry  
National Council of Independent Schools'  
Associations**

**Where: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House**

**When: Thursday 6 March, 9.15 am – 10.00 am**

The inquiry 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. 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," Committee Chair, Mr Kerry Bartlett said.

"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."

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For media comment contact **Mr Kerry Bartlett, MP**,  
Chair of the House Education Committee, on **02 6277 4637**.

For background information contact the Committee Secretariat  
on (02) 6277 2121 or visit: [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt)