



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

**MEDIA ALERT**

*Issued: 25 September 2003*

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

**Public hearings - Tuesday, 30 September & Wednesday, 1 October 2003**

**Tasmanian 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.

On **Tuesday 30 September**, the Committee is visiting two Secondary Colleges in North West Tasmania, **The Don College** in **Devonport** and **Hellyer College** in **Burnie**, to talk to students about work placements and careers, and to staff about benefits and limitations of the current system. The Committee will also speak to employers to identify successful initiatives in developing community and industry support.

On **Wednesday 1 October**, a public hearing will be held in Hobart commencing with the **Tasmanian Department of Education**. Greater national consistency is sought by the **Australasian Curriculum Assessment and Certification Authorities**, who also suggest in their submission that changes to various vocational education systems in schools need to be driven by industry through Training Packages. The **Association of Independent Schools of Tasmania** calls for additional funding to successfully implement new programs, successes include working with the **Hobart Education Business Training Partnership**.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS and SCHOOL VISIT**

**Tuesday 30 September - School Visits**

**The Don College**

Watkinson Street, Devonport, TAS  
9:45am – 12 noon

**Hellyer College**

Mooreville Road, Burnie, TAS  
2:30pm – 4:45pm

**Wednesday 1 October - Hearing**

Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor, 188 Collins St, Hobart, TAS  
9:00am – 12:45pm

**Site Visit**

Hydro Tasmania  
4 Elizabeth St, Hobart TAS  
2:30pm – 3:45pm

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

**BACKGROUND:** 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.

"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.

"We are interested in the effectiveness of vocational education in schools in preparing students for their future work life. We also need to identify the strengths of the Tasmanian system, how to support industry initiatives, while encouraging young people to complete Year 12. There is evidence of increased retention of year 11 and 12 students in Tasmanian schools. How this is related to vocational education, especially in regional areas, is of particular interest to the Committee."

**For media comment:** Kerry Bartlett, MP, Chair, House Education Committee, via tel: (02) 4751 7494

**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)