



Public Hearing in Canberra

Commercialising our innovations – how can we do it better?

The role of the Office of the Chief Scientist and mechanisms to foster demonstration studies for technological innovations will be among the topics discussed at a public hearing in Canberra on Monday 30th May. Dr Robin Batterham, Chief Scientist for the Australian Government, will appear before the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Science and Innovation, as part of its inquiry into pathways to technological innovation.

Technological innovation is critical to global competitiveness and for Australia in capturing a share of international markets and increasing national productivity. The OECD has estimated that innovation accounts for 50 per cent of long term economic growth in advanced industrial countries such as Australia.

The inquiry, referred by the Minister for Science, Dr Brendan Nelson, is to examine Australian technological innovations and the processes of commercialisation. The committee is compiling a series of case studies and conducting hearings around Australia. Committee Chair, Mr Petro Georgiou MP, said: “The future success of Australia is dependant on our capacity for technological innovation, from developing knowledge, to applying this knowledge commercially.” The Committee will examine strategies to overcome potential barriers and factors which determine innovation success, with particular reference to:

- pathways to commercialisation;
- intellectual property and patents;
- skills and business knowledge;
- capital and risk investment;
- business and scientific regulatory issues;
- research and market linkages;
- factors determining success; and
- strategies in other countries that may be of instruction to Australia.

The role of the Chief Scientist is to provide the Australian Government with broad-ranging advice on science and innovation, and in particular the importance of developing an innovative economy by promoting linkages between science, industry and government. Dr Batterham was appointed to the position of Chief Scientist in 1999, and has been engaged in a number of government initiatives to develop innovation in Australia. The public hearing on Monday is the third for the inquiry.

Venue: Monday 30th May
Committee Room 1S4
Parliament House, Canberra
4:35 pm Dr Robin Batterham, Chief Scientist

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee’s website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/index.htm or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4150 or emailing scin.reps@aph.gov.au

For information: Contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4150