



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

INQUIRY INTO COMBINING SCHOOLS AND WORK:
SUPPORTING SUCCESSFUL YOUTH TRANSITIONS

*Chair: Ms Sharon Bird MP
Deputy Chair: Dr Dennis Jensen MP*

New inquiry into combining school and work: supporting successful youth transitions

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Training has been asked by the Federal Minister for Education to inquire into and report on "Combining school and work: supporting successful youth transitions."

Managing the demands of study and part-time or casual employment is part of everyday life for the majority of Australian school students. The impact of potentially competing demands is not well known, and there is little provision of information or guidance to schools or employers on the effect this has on the lives of young people generally, and more specifically on their career development and prospects for successful transitions.

The committee's review of the impact of combined study and work on the success of youth transitions and Year 12 attainment will focus on:

- providing opportunities to recognise and accredit the employability and career development skills gained through students' part time or casual work;
- identifying more flexible, innovative and/or alternative approaches to attaining a senior secondary certificate which support students to combine work and study;
- support that may be required to assist young people combining work and study to stay engaged in their learning, especially where work and study intersects with income support;
- the potential impact on educational attainment (including the prospects for post-compulsory qualifications and workforce productivity); and
- the effectiveness of school-based training pathways and their impact on successful transitions, including opportunities for improvement (particularly in relation to pathways to employment for disadvantaged young people).

Announcing the inquiry, committee chair Ms Sharon Bird, MP, stated "There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that in some cases, students are spending almost as many hours undertaking paid work as they are at school."

"Through this inquiry, the committee hopes to identify and examine some possible flexible approaches to completing high school which promote a healthy balance of work and study, in order to make practicable recommendations to government."

The committee invites interested organisations and individuals to make written submissions to the inquiry, addressing the terms of reference, by 16 January 2009.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Sharon Bird on (02) 6277 4717.

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary on (02) 6277 4578, email edt.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/edt/>