



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Education & Training

*Inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools*

**MEDIA ALERT**

*Issued: 20 August 2003*

*Chair: Kerry Bartlett MP*

*Deputy: Rod Sawford MP*

**Public hearing - Thursday 21 August 2003 - Canberra**

**Rural Skills Australia and the NFF want more training support for employers and students in rural areas**

Rural Skills Australia will appear this Thursday at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Education Committee's inquiry into the rapidly growing area of vocational education and training in schools.

Rural Skills Australia has developed a CD Rom (*Ontrack: Real skills - Rural Future*) that highlights the options and benefits of careers in rural industries.

Rural Skills Australia is also appearing on behalf of the **National Farmers Federation (NFF)**. The NFF submission (No. 91 on the inquiry website) suggests that a major issue for vocational education in schools is the lack of interaction by schools with the farm sector. The farming sector supports the VET in Schools concept and activities but believes their industry has had limited uptake of students due to:

- the outdated image that is perpetuated in schools,
- the remoteness of work sites, and
- the need for a more coordinated approach to organising work placements.

This indicates that there is a need for better support for schools in rural locations to provide VET in Schools on farms.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WHO:** Rural Skills Australia appears at House Education Committee's inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools  
**WHERE:** Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra  
**WHEN:** Thursday 21 August 2003, 9.15am – 10.30am

**BACKGROUND:** 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.

It 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," 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."

"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."

**For media comment:** Kerry Bartlett, MP, Chair - House Education Committee, tel: (02) 6277 4637

**For more information:** Committee Secretariat, tel: (02) 6277 2121,  
or visit the inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt/vet/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt/vet/index.htm)