



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

**MEDIA ALERT**

*Issued: 1 September 2003*

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

**Public hearings - Tuesday and Wednesday, 2 & 3 September, 2003**

**Melbourne 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 2 September**, public hearings will be held in Melbourne with educators, community partners, independent schools and private training providers. Their submissions indicate the need for greater resourcing of the popular VET initiatives. See program over for more detail of organisations appearing.

On **Wednesday 3 September**, the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce, EPIC Industry Training Board, and Light Manufacturing Training Australia, will all caution on the need for quality VET in school programs to ensure that VET qualifications maintain their credibility. Biotechnology, an identified growth industry, will be represented by AusBiotech and the Gene Technology Access Centre, and will outline their work in improving students' awareness of potential careers. On Wednesday afternoon the Education Committee will visit **Northland Secondary College** to talk to students and staff about their work in vocational education programs in schools, particularly support for indigenous students, design programs, the development of a new manufacturing technology centre, and community and industry support.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS and SCHOOL VISIT**

**Tuesday 2 September - Hearing**

K Room, Parliament House  
Spring Street, Melbourne, VIC  
10:30am to 5:00pm

**Wednesday 3 September - Hearing**

K Room, Parliament House  
Spring Street, Melbourne, VIC  
9:00am to 12 noon

**School Visit**

Northland Secondary College  
62 Murray Road, East Preston  
2:30pm to 4:45pm

***Please note: should media wish to visit the school 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.

"Northern Melbourne has had high youth unemployment. 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 Victorian system, how to support industry initiatives, while encouraging young people to complete Year 12. Other states are trialling the Local Learning and Employment Partnership model that was developed in Victoria, so it will be worthwhile to hear about the benefits of the system."

**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)

House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Education and Training

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
**Tuesday 2 September 2003**

**K Room**

**Parliament House**

**Spring Street, Melbourne**

10:30am - 11:15am	Career Education Association of Victoria
11:15am - 12:00pm	SGR Local Learning and Employment Network including Deakin University
12:00pm - 12:45pm	Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia
12:45pm - 1:45pm	<i>break</i>
1:45pm - 2:30pm	Impact Creativity Centre
2:30pm - 3:15pm	Independent Education Union
3:30pm - 4:15pm	Australian Education Union
4:15pm - 5:00pm	Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Union

**Wednesday 3 September 2003**

**K Room**

**Parliament House**

**Spring Street, Melbourne**

9:00am - 9:40am	Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce
9:40am - 10:20am	Electrotechnology, Printing, Information Technology and Communication (EPIC) Industry Training Board
10:20am - 11:00am	Light Manufacturing Training Australia
11:15am - 12:00pm	Biotechnology - AusBiotech and Gene Technology Access Centre

**SCHOOL VISIT**

**Wednesday 3 September 2003**

**Northland Secondary College**

**62 Murray Road, East Preston VIC**

**Please contact the secretariat before visiting the school**

2:00pm - 3:45pm	Arrival, introductions and tour, Hearing with students Hearing with Principal and Staff
4:00pm - 4:45pm	Hearing with local industry/learning/employment partners Inner Northern LLEN