

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS**

Inquiry into Civics and Electoral Education

*Chair: Peter Lindsay MP
Deputy Chair: Michael Danby MP***Public hearing: Brisbane 23 October 2006
School visits: Cairns and Townsville 24 October 2006**

Educators to give their view on civics

Teachers will have their say on the challenges being faced by Queensland schools delivering civics and electoral education programs when federal parliament's Electoral Matters Committee holds public hearings in Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville next week.

Committee Chairman Peter Lindsay (Member for Herbert, Qld) said, "The committee has heard evidence that the teaching of civics and electoral education can be dependent on the confidence of teachers in teaching the subject matter. Teachers have said to us that teaching a discrete unit is more difficult than teaching aspects of civics and citizenship education as part of other classes."

In Brisbane, the Committee will also hear from the Queensland Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian who submit that civic literacy tests should not be the sole measure of young people's knowledge and participation in government and electoral processes.

On Tuesday (24 October), the Committee will then continue its school visits program in Cairns and Townsville. Mr Lindsay said "the Committee has now conducted 10 school visits and forums, hearing the views of young people from all states and territories in Australia. These visits have been a very significant part of the inquiry and young people have had a great opportunity to make their views known loud and clear. It's been especially important to the Committee that it seek the views of students in regional and more remote parts of the country."

The inquiry by a Joint Committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate has received over 100 submissions from a broad range of individuals and organisations.

**Monday 23 October 2006 - Public hearing in Brisbane,
Commonwealth Offices, Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle Street**

- 9:30am Queensland Teachers' Union
- 10:00am Local Government Association of Queensland (Subs 50 and 67)
- 10:45am Queensland Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, NSW
Commission for Children and Young People and the Commissioner for Children,
Tasmania (Sub 74)
- 11:30am Mrs Melissa Rasmussen (Sub 106)
- 12:00noon Mr Stephen Paul, Principal of John Paul College

Tuesday 24 October 2006**School visit, Hambledon State School, Cairns**

- 9:00am Discussion with students
- 10:00am Discussion with teachers

School visit, Heatley High School, Townsville

- 2:15pm Discussion with students
- 3:15pm Discussion with teachers

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Peter Lindsay MP on (02) 6277 4964 (Canberra) or (07) 4725 2066 (Townsville), or by mobile on 0419 656 234.

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4453, by mobile on 0411 440 490, email jscem@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/em/>