



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Standing Committee on Education & Vocational Training**  
***Inquiry into Teacher Education***

**MEDIA ALERT**

**Issued: 17 February 2005**

*Chair: Luke Hartsuyker MP*  
*Deputy: Rod Sawford MP*

# **New inquiry into teacher education**

## ***How well prepared are our teachers for the classroom?***

The Minister for Education has referred a national inquiry into the quality and adequacy of teacher training courses in Australia to the House Education Committee.

“Teachers have a major influence on the lives of our children,” said Committee Chair, Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP

“The standard of teacher training is a critical factor in determining how well they perform their role.

“This is a wide ranging inquiry and we will be seeking input from all interested organisations and individuals across the nation including parents, teachers, student teachers, universities, and schools.”

The Committee will examine the scope, suitability, organisation, resourcing and delivery of teacher training courses in Australia’s public and private universities. It will examine the preparedness of graduates to meet the current and future demands of teaching in Australia’s schools.

The expansive terms of reference identify a number of specific issues that will be examined including:

- the criteria used to select students for teacher training courses;
- the structure of courses and teaching methods used;
- how teachers are prepared to teach reading and numeracy;
- how teachers are prepared to deal with bullying and disruptive students and dysfunctional families;
- ongoing professional learning for teachers already in the workforce; and
- the adequacy of funding of teacher training courses by university administrations.

Full terms of reference are attached.

### **FOR INTERVIEW**

Please contact Committee Chair, Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP through Greg Pierce on 0408 532 785.

**For background information** including the full terms of reference, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4573 or visit inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/evt/reports.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/evt/reports.htm)