



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Education & Vocational Training
Inquiry into Teacher Education

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 25 May 2005

Chair: Luke Hartsuyker MP
Deputy: Rod Sawford MP

Public hearings start for major inquiry into teacher education

How well prepared are our teachers for the classroom?

Representatives from the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training will appear before the House Education Committee at the first public hearing for its major inquiry into teacher education in Canberra tomorrow.

The hearing starts at 9.30am in committee room 1R3 at Parliament House on Thursday May 26 and will be broadcast (audio only) internally on the House Monitoring System on radio frequency 96.7.

The Committee is examining the scope, suitability, organisation, resourcing and delivery of teacher training courses in Australia's public and private universities.

Committee Chair, Luke Hartsuyker, said teacher education should be seen as a continuum.

"We are looking at initial teacher education and ongoing professional learning," Mr Hartsuyker said.

"This is a broad ranging inquiry. What is the quality of our teacher education and how do we assess it? What is the attrition rate of teachers in the first five years of teaching and what does it tell us about their preparation and induction?"

"What impact will the developments in teaching standards have on teacher education? Are the resources going into teacher education being put to the most effective use? How strong are the partnerships between schools and teacher education faculties and employing authorities? These are just a few of the many significant issues we will be exploring in this major inquiry."

The Committee has already received well over 150 submissions from across Australia and will travel to all states and territories over the next few months to hold public hearings.

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/teachereduc/