



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade** *Chair: Senator Alan Ferguson*

## ***Australia's relations with India Public Hearing in Canberra***

Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade continues its review of Australia's relationship with India as an emerging world power at a public hearing in Canberra on Friday, 13 October.

The Committee, whose first public hearing was held in Sydney on Wednesday, 20 September, will be further examining the extent of the political, strategic and economic relationship between the two countries, while considering both current and future opportunities.

"The potential for Indian-Australian cooperation in a number of areas is vast," said Committee Chair, Senator Alan Ferguson "the Committee's September public hearing only highlighted this in greater detail. In addition to traditional areas of trade in resources and education and tourism, the Committee has noted complementarities which exist in a range of research and services sectors as well."

Said Senator Ferguson, "the Committee was pleased that a variety of representatives from the Australian business community attended the previous public hearing. I expect that the insights provided by companies such as Qantas, BHP Billiton and the National Australia Bank at this upcoming public hearing will greatly assist the Committee's investigation."

The Committee will also explore current and potential research linkages with representatives from CSIRO, the Australia India Council and the Australian Vice Chancellors Committee.

Another Canberra hearing is planned for November and will focus on the role of a variety of Australian Government agencies in the Australia India relationship.

Submissions received by the Committee and transcripts of the public hearings are available on the Committee's website.

### **Program for Public Hearing, 13 October**

Parliament House, Canberra, Room 1R1

<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>National Australia Bank</b>
<b>10:10 am</b>	<b>Australia India Council</b>
<b>11:10 am</b>	<b>CSIRO</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>BHP Billiton</b>
<b>1:45 pm</b>	<b>Qantas</b>
<b>2:30 pm</b>	<b>Australian Vice Chancellors Committee</b>

**For media inquiries**, contact the Committee Chair, Senator Alan Ferguson, on 02 6277 3115 or 08 8237 7180.

**For all other inquiries**, contact the Committee Secretary, Margot Kerley, on 02 6277 4629 or visit the committee website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm)