



Productivity Commission to start discussions at a public hearing in Canberra on productivity growth

The House Economics Committee will hold its first public hearing on Friday 23 October 2009 at Australian Parliament House, Canberra as part of a federal parliamentary inquiry into raising the rate of productivity growth in the Australian economy

Various Australian government departments and agencies, including the Productivity Commission and The Treasury, will appear before the Committee to discuss the key factors influencing Australia's productivity growth rate and the reasons for its recent trending decline.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which prepared a substantial submission, will appear to provide a perspective from business. The committee will also speak with the Australian Bureau of Statistics about how the official productivity statistics are constructed and emerging issues such as the expansion of the services sector.

The committee's inquiry will consider productivity growth trends in Australia and other OECD countries over the last 20 years; the adequacy of investment levels in physical capital and infrastructure; the level of resources devoted to human capital and research and development, and strategic reforms and measures that could be undertaken to lift Australia's productivity growth.

Committee Chair, **Craig Thomson, MP** said: "This inquiry will consider Australia's rate of productivity growth which is vital for Australia's future living standards. It is appropriate that the committee consider mechanisms to lift and sustain productivity growth into the new century, including investment in human and physical capital."

The hearing will be held in **Committee Room 1R4, Australian Parliament House, Canberra on Friday 23 October**. The program is outlined below:

9.15 am	Productivity Commission
10.30 am	Australian Bureau of Statistics
11.00 am	Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
1.15 pm	Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
2.15 pm	Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics
3.00 pm	The Treasury

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Craig Thomson MP, on (02) 4351 1223 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4460 Parliament House. **Further information:** contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4209, email economics.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/economics>