



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Standing Committee on Education & Training**  
***Inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools***

**MEDIA ALERT**

*Issued: 13 August 2003*

*Chair: Kerry Bartlett MP*  
*Deputy: Rod Sawford MP*

**Public hearing - Thursday 14 August 2003 - Canberra**

**Australian College of Educators recommends ways of improving teaching standards for vocational education in schools**

The **Australian College of Educators (ACE)** will appear this Thursday at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Education Committee's inquiry into the rapidly growing area of vocational education in schools, often described as Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Schools.

The Australian College of Educators is a national peak body whose purpose is to advance the education profession nationally. To improve the provision of vocational education ACE recommends:

- developing professional teaching standards for educators involved with VET in Schools, including access to industry experience;
- expanding standards-based national award schemes to recognise teachers' efforts in vocational learning;
- providing additional support to teacher educators, and encouraging workers with broader industry experience into teaching and using their expertise in initial teacher education programs;
- strengthening community/industry and school partnerships and best practice; and
- simplifying governance and quality control measures of VET in Schools practice.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WHO:** Australian College of Educators (ACE) appears at House Education Committee's inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools  
**WHERE:** Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra  
**WHEN:** Thursday 14 August 2003, 9.15am – 10.30am

**BACKGROUND:** The inquiry is examining the range, structure, resourcing and delivery of vocational education and training programs in schools, including teacher training, and the impact of vocational education on other programs.

It is also examining the differences between school-based and other vocational education programs, the acceptance within industry of resulting qualifications, vocational education in new industries and the accessibility and effectiveness of vocational education for indigenous students.

"Vocational education and training in schools is growing rapidly," says House Education Committee Chair, Mr Kerry Bartlett. "A crucial component is the ability of teachers to respond to that growth."

"We need to be sure we are maximising its potential to support young people to choose effectively from the range of pathways available to them and to successfully make the transition from school to work or further education and training.

"VET in schools is becoming very important because it opens up options for young people, can make school more relevant, and often provides a pathway from school to work."

**For media comment:** Kerry Bartlett, MP, Chair - House Education Committee, tel: (02) 6277 4637

**For more information:** Committee Secretariat, tel: (02) 6277 2121,  
or visit the inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt/ves/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt/ves/index.htm)