

What's being investigated?

House of Representatives committees undertake a range of inquiries on issues of public importance. Listed here are the inquiries currently being conducted. Elsewhere in this bulletin, you will find articles about many of these inquiries. Further information can be obtained from committee home pages on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee or by telephoning the contact numbers below.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Workplace Relations

- Inquiry into employee share ownership in Australian enterprises
- Inquiry into issues specific to older workers seeking employment, or establishing a business, following unemployment

Further information: (02) 6277 4573.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

- Inquiry into catchment management

Further information: (02) 6277 4580.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs

- Inquiry into Indigenous health

Further information: (02) 6277 4566.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration

- Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia Annual Report 1998-99
- Review of the Australian National Audit Office audit report No. 37 on the management of Tax File Numbers
- Review of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
- Inquiry into international financial market effects on government policy

Further information: (02) 6277 4587.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Resources

- Inquiry into increasing value-adding to Australian raw materials

Further information: (02) 6277 4594.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

- Inquiry into copyright enforcement
- Inquiry into human cloning

Further information: (02) 6277 2358.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Regional Services

- Inquiry into the infrastructure and the development of Australia's regional areas
- Inquiry into primary producer access to gene technology

Further information: (02) 6277 4500.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts

- Inquiry into managing fatigue in transport
- Inquiry into the impact of the decision by ABC Radio to discontinue its radio racing service

Further information: (02) 6277 4601.

Public hearings & Public meetings

House of Representatives Committees conduct public hearings and public meetings on their inquiries throughout Australia. The public hearings and public meetings are an opportunity for Committee members to discuss the issues of the inquiry with people, particularly those people who have made written submissions to the Committee. The public and media are welcome to attend the hearings and meetings. Transcripts from the hearings are available from the committee secretariat, from the committee home pages on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee or from www.aph.gov.au/hansard

Reserve Bank public hearing on 29 November

The House of Representatives Economics Committee will question Reserve Bank Governor Ian Macfarlane at this public hearing in Sydney on 29 November. With the recent decision to raise interest rates, this hearing will be the first opportunity that Members of the House have had to probe the reasons for the decision and its implications for the Australian economy. The hearing will begin at 10 am and will be held in the Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney. The public and the media are welcome to attend. For more information, see the feature article on page 2 of this bulletin, or telephone (02) 6277 4587.

Public hearings begin on Tax File Numbers

On 6 December, the House of Representatives Economics Committee will begin public hearings on its new inquiry into Tax File Numbers. The inquiry follows an audit report that found glaring inefficiencies in the management of the tax file number system. The first hearing will be in Canberra on 6 December, with further hearings scheduled for 9 December. For details telephone (02) 6277 4587 or see the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa

Further hearings for employment inquiry

The House of Representatives Committee on Employment, Education and Workplace Relations continues its inquiry into issues specific to older workers seeking employment, or establishing a business, following unemployment with public hearings in Canberra on 25 November and 9 December. For details telephone (02) 6277 4573 or see www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/eewr

Series of public meetings on Indigenous health inquiry

The House of Representatives Family and Community Affairs Committee will be conducting further public meetings on its inquiry into Indigenous health (see article on page 8 of this bulletin). The public meetings will be held in Cairns on 29 November, Brisbane on 30 November, Sydney on 1 December and Canberra on 10 December. For details telephone (02) 6277 4566 or see www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fca

Canberra hearings on adding value to Australian raw materials

The House of Representatives Committee on Industry, Science and Resources will be holding public hearings on its inquiry into adding value to Australian raw materials on 25 November. For details telephone (02) 6277 4594 or see www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/isr