



## Public Hearing in Canberra

### ***Commercialising our innovations – how can we do it better?***

Access to so-called third stream funding to support university commercialisation activities and the emergence of electronic technology as a significant element of the innovation process will be among the topics raised at a public hearing on **Monday 5 December 2005**.

This is expected to be the final hearing for the **House of Representatives Standing Committee on Science and Innovation's** inquiry into pathways for technological innovation to commercialisation.

Appearing together before the Committee are representatives from the **Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST)**, and the **Australian Research Council (ARC)**. Both submissions from DEST and ARC provide information on their innovation support programs, including the CRC Program and the ARC Linkages Project Scheme.

Discussions with DEST and ARC are expected to address issues regarding third stream funding for Australian universities and business and entrepreneur skill development for primary, secondary and tertiary students.

Also appearing are representatives from the **Australian Government Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA)**. DCITA's submission for the inquiry highlights the importance of information and communication technology (ICT) as a source of innovation and productivity growth and the contribution of ICT to the innovation process. It also outlines government support for the ICT industry, including programs such as ICT Incubators Program and the ICT Centre of Excellence – National ICT Australia Ltd (NICTA).

These discussions will help the Committee identify some of the challenges encountered by universities, publicly funded research agencies and ICT businesses attempting to support the commercialisation of innovative technologies.

This inquiry was referred by the Minister for Science, Dr Brendan Nelson. From submissions received for this inquiry, the Committee has examined strategies to overcome potential barriers and factors which determine innovation success.

Committee Chair, Petro Georgiou, said: "Australia's ability to compete successfully in ever more sophisticated global markets is dependent on our capacity to develop and harness the opportunities arising from technological innovation."

**Venue:** Monday 5 December 2005

- 4:30 pm** Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra  
Australian Government Department of Education, Science & Training (DEST)  
(Submission No. 20)  
Australian Research Council (ARC) (Submission No. 19)
- 5:15 pm** Australian Government Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) (Submission No. 87)
- 6:00 pm** Hearings close

The public hearing will be broadcast internally (audio only) on HMS radio frequency 98.7.

Further details, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/pathways/> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4150 or emailing [scin.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:scin.reps@aph.gov.au)

**For further information:** Contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4150