



Indigenous education inquiry to hold hearings in Canberra and Brisbane

The House Indigenous Affairs Committee will begin the new Parliamentary year with public hearings in Canberra and Brisbane.

The Committee is inquiring into educational opportunities and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in an effort to find out what works best and what we can do better in Indigenous education.

On **Thursday 4 February at 11.45am – 12.30pm** the Committee will hear from Marnie O'Brien, a PhD candidate and former teacher who has developed a series of partnership projects with Indigenous schools in Melbourne and remote Australia. The hearing will be held in **Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra**.

On **Friday 5 February at 1.00pm – 4.00pm** the Committee will hold a hearing in Brisbane which will include a roundtable discussion on Indigenous participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. The Stronger Smarter Institute and the Queensland and Northern Territory branch of the Independent Education Union will also appear. The hearing will be held at **the Murri School, 1277 Beaudesert Road, Acacia Ridge, Brisbane**.

Programs for the both hearings and further information on the inquiry, including a link to an online questionnaire for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, their families and educators, can be found on the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/educationalopportunities. The Committee will also accept submissions to the inquiry throughout February 2016.

The public hearings will be webcast live at [http://www.aph.gov.au/News and Events/Watch Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament).

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair the Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP on (03) 5821 5371 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4477 (Parliament House).

For background information, and advice on making submissions, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or indigenouaffairs.reps@aph.gov.au