

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT GROWTH**

Australia's Future in Research and Innovation

Chair: Mr Ken O'Dowd MP

Deputy Chair: Mr Patrick Conroy MP

**—Canberra Hearing—****Australia's Future in Research and Innovation**

Parliament's Trade and Investment Growth Committee will hold its first public hearing in Canberra on Thursday, 25 February as part of its *Inquiry into Australia's Future in Research and Innovation*. The Committee will investigate how the research and innovation sector can better assist in overcoming Australia's geographic, economic, and labour challenges, with a focus on commercialisation including, how technology imports and exports could be further facilitated.

The Government has recently announced the National Innovation and Science Agenda which comprises a program of policies which aims to boost innovation and entrepreneurship in Australia.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Ken O'Dowd MP said, "The Committee will hear evidence from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science about the National Innovation and Science Agenda, how it will boost Australia's performance in research and innovation, and how the outcomes of the programs will be assessed."

The Committee will also hear evidence from the Department of Education and Training (DET); and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Austrade. The DET is responsible for national policies and programs that support all levels of education and in particular in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) disciplines.

"Improvements in STEM training and increasing the representation of women in STEM disciplines will be essential to providing a robust and sustainable workforce into the future," said Mr O'Dowd.

The DFAT and Austrade are responsible for promoting Australian businesses to international investors.

"Encouraging multi-national corporations to base R&D facilities in Australia and invest in Australia's innovation sector will also be important in developing Australia's potential new businesses," Mr O'Dowd said.

Date: Thursday 25 February 2016, 9.00 am – 10.30 am.

Location: Committee Room 1R6, Parliament House, Canberra.

The Committee will hold additional hearings in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne in March.

More information is available at: [www.aph.gov.au/ResearchandInnovation](http://www.aph.gov.au/ResearchandInnovation)

**For media comment:** Please contact the Office of the Committee Chair, Mr Ken O'Dowd MP on (02) 6277 4380

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