



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Human Rights Sub-Committee**

MEDIA RELEASE
Issued: 23 June 2014

*Chair: Mr Luke Simpkins MP
Deputy: Senator Anne McEwen*

Human Rights for Women and Girls **PUBLIC HEARING WITH UN WOMEN AUSTRALIA**

Ms Julie McKay, Executive Director of the Australian branch of UN Women, will be appearing at a public hearing of the Human Rights Sub-Committee to be held tomorrow.

The Sub-Committee is currently inquiring into human rights issues confronting women and girls in the Indian Ocean – Asia-Pacific region.

Sub-Committee Chair Luke Simpkins MP said: “The hearing will be timely, as the Pacific region is a major recipient of Australian aid and the Foreign Minister’s recent announcement on development policy identified women’s empowerment as a focus area.”

Issues to be considered at the hearing include:

- Violence against women and girls
- Women’s leadership
- Economic opportunities for women
- Access to justice

The public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, 24 June 2014, from 12.45pm** in Committee Room **1R4**, Parliament House, Canberra.

The proceedings will be audio webcast live on:
http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

For a program and more details, visit the Committee’s website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>

The Sub-Committee welcomes submissions on this inquiry. The Sub-Committee encourages the lodgement of electronic submissions from anyone with an interest in the issues raised by these terms of reference. Further information on the inquiry, including how to lodge a submission, is available on the Committee’s website.

For media comment: contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Mr Luke Simpkins MP, on (02) 6277 4009 or via Mr Bill Coghlan on the same number. For all other inquiries, contact the Inquiry Secretary, on 02 6277 4318 or visit the committee website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt