Committee to investigate infectious disease issues across international borders

Australia's ability to prevent the importation of infectious disease from overseas sources will be examined at a parliamentary roundtable to be held in Canberra on 24 August.

As part of its inquiry into *Health issues across international borders*, the House of Representatives Health Committee will hear evidence from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, and International Health and Medical Services. The discussion will cover infectious disease screening, surveillance and control practices being employed in immigration detention centres and to people travelling into Australia from overseas.

In the second session of the roundtable, the committee will meet with representatives of Consumers Health Forum of Australia to discuss the consumer's perspective on Australia's framework to deal with infectious disease issues.

Committee chair Steve Georganas said that with overseas travel on the increase, authorities and public health experts must closely monitor our exposure to infectious diseases.

"The committee is interested in what policies and practices are in place to protect Australians from the risk of spread of infectious disease," Mr Georganas said.

PROGRAM – 24 August 2012

9.00 am	**Session One** ▪ Department of Immigration and Citizenship ▪ International Health and Medical Services
9.45 am	**Session Two** ▪ Consumers Health Forum of Australia
10.30 am	*Close*
Venue:	**Committee Room 1R5, Parliament House, Canberra**

Observers are welcome

The hearing will be webcast live on: **http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/**

For media comment, please contact Hannah Frank from the Office of Steve Georganas on 0419 849 048.
For all other enquiries, please contact the Committee Secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the inquiry website: www.aph.gov.au/internationalhealth

Telephone: 02 6277 4145
Facsimile: 02 6277 4844
E-mail: haa.reps@aph.gov.au
Website: www.aph.gov.au/haa

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600