



Public hearing in Canberra 30 March 2006

Employment in automotive component manufacturing

Skill shortages, the quality of imported vehicles and the supply of bus fleets will be among the issues raised at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Employment Committee in Canberra this week.

The public hearing on Thursday 30 March will be the first in Canberra for the Committee's inquiry into employment in the automotive component manufacturing industry. The Committee will be hearing from the Bus Industry Confederation.

Recent announcements of retrenchments in the automotive manufacturing industry are accompanied elsewhere by evidence of skill shortages in manufacturing. There is a growing need to ensure the viability of automotive component manufacturing, as well as effectively redeploying skilled workers to job vacancies.

The Committee is inquiring into employment opportunities and challenges in the Australian automotive component manufacturing sector with particular focus on:

- Current and future employment trends in the industry;
- Emerging skill shortages and appropriate recruitment and training strategies;
- Labour adjustment measures required to assist redeployed and affected workers; and
- Measures to support skills development, innovation and investment in the industry.

The Committee Chair Phillip Barresi said the automotive components manufacturing industry forms an important part of the Australian economy.

"The industry is being challenged by international competition and the rapid advances in technology," Mr Barresi said.

"It is vital that the industry is able to meet these challenges to ensure its own sustainability.

"The Committee will be working to assess and make recommendations on ways to support automotive component manufacturing companies as they seek to face the challenges of an ever competitive industry."

Time: 11.00am
Venue: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra
Witness: Bus Industry Confederation

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and submissions are available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewrwp/> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Phil Barresi, at his electorate office (03) 9873 8351 or Parliament House, Canberra (02) 6277 4350.

For background information, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162