



Public hearing in Canberra 25 May 2006

Employment in automotive component manufacturing

Employment trends, the future of the automotive component industry and measures to support innovation in the industry 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 25 May will be the first in a series of four hearings to be held in Canberra over May and June for the Committee's inquiry into employment in the automotive component manufacturing industry. The Committee will be hearing from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

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. "The industry has also faced the impact of a series of retrenchments by the major vehicle manufacturers."

"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: 11.10am
Venue: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra
Witness: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

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