



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Education & Vocational Training
Inquiry into Teacher Education

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 17 August 2005

Chair: Luke Hartsuyker MP
Deputy: Rod Sawford MP

Public hearing to focus on the education of mathematics teachers

Representatives from the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) will appear before the House Education Committee in Canberra tomorrow to provide evidence for the Committee's major inquiry into teacher education.

The Committee is examining the scope, suitability, organisation, resourcing and delivery of teacher training courses in Australia's public and private universities.

AMSI, an organisation funded by the Victorian Government, aims to improve the teaching of mathematics at both primary and secondary levels by addressing issues such as teacher shortfalls and under-qualified teachers.

In their submission, AMSI documents a number of serious concerns about primary teacher education courses.

"A critical issue which we would like to discuss with AMSI is the widespread concern about the capacity of primary teachers in Australia to teach mathematics and numeracy well," said Committee Chair, Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP.

Recommendations made by AMSI to remedy this include:

- a minimum amount of mathematical content in all primary teacher education courses and
- a national exit test which would require students to demonstrate competency in core areas of mathematics necessary for teaching primary school students.

The hearing will begin at 9.30am in Committee Room 1R3 at Parliament House on Thursday 18 August 2005 and will be broadcast (audio only) internally on the House Monitoring System on radio frequency 96.7.

The Committee has already received well over 150 submissions from across Australia and will travel to all states and territories over the next few months to hold public hearings.

FOR INTERVIEW

Please contact Committee Chair, Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP through Greg Pierce on 0408 532 785.

For background information including the full terms of reference, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4573 or visit inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/evt/teachereduc/.

AMSI's submission is on the inquiry website (Submission Number 58).