



New Inquiry

Inquiry into Rural Skills Training and Research

The House of Representatives Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee will conduct an inquiry into rural skills training, research and extension.

The inquiry has been referred to the committee by the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Warren Truss MP. Adequate vocational training, education and research in the agricultural sector are fundamental in ensuring economic sustainability for regional Australia.

The inquiry will examine:

- The availability and adequacy of education and research services in the agriculture sector, including access to vocational training and pathways from vocational education and training to tertiary education and work;
- The skills needs of agricultural industries in Australia, including the expertise and capacity of industries to specify the skills-sets required for training, and the extent to which vocational training meets the needs of rural industries;
- The provision of extension and advisory services to agricultural industries, including links and coordination between education, research and extension; and
- The role of the Australian government in supporting education, research and advisory programs to support the viability and sustainability of Australian agriculture.

Committee Chair, Mr Alby Schultz, said: "It is crucial that sufficient skills and training opportunities exist in the rural sector".

"As part of its inquiry, the committee will be investigating the number and range of agricultural educational campuses across Australia and whether what is being taught matches the needs of industry," Mr Schultz said.

"Governments must ensure that the demand for knowledge and skills in the agricultural sector is being met by educational opportunities and research programs. This is vital to ensure the sustainability of Australia's rural sector."

Further details about the inquiry, including terms of reference and submissions, can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/ or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing aff.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment:

please contact the office of committee chair, Alby Schultz, on (02) 6277 4386 or email Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au.

For background information:

please contact the committee secretary, Ian Dundas, on (02) 6277 4194