

## Public hearings & Public meetings

House of Representatives Committees and Joint Committees conduct public hearings and public meetings on their inquiries throughout Australia. The public hearings and public meetings are an opportunity for committee members to discuss the issues of the inquiry with people, particularly those people who have made written submissions to the committee. The public and media are welcome to attend the hearings and meetings. Transcripts from the hearings are available from the committee secretariat, from the committee home pages on the Internet at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee) or from [www.aph.gov.au/hansard](http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard)

### Public encouraged to attend forum on human cloning

The House Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee will hold a second public forum as part of its inquiry into human cloning. The forum will be held in the Main Committee Room, Parliament House, Canberra on 29 March. The first forum was held in Melbourne on 1 March.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend and will be able to take part in the forum by putting questions to witnesses through the Chair during two specifically designated segments. Students of political science and the study of parliament will find the forums of particular interest, as they will be able to observe at first hand the proceedings of a House committee.

Further information and copies of the program can be obtained from the Committee's web site at: [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca) or by telephoning (02) 6277 2358.

### Public hearings continue on tax file numbers

The House of Representatives Economics Committee continues its inquiry into Tax File Numbers, with public hearings scheduled for Canberra on 6, 9 and 16 March and 3 and 6 April. The Committee has already taken evidence from the Australian Taxation Office, the Australian Institute of Criminology and the Privacy Commissioner. For details telephone (02) 6277 4587 or visit [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa)

### More hearings on international financial markets inquiry

On 9 February the House Economics Committee heard from the Reserve Bank Governor, Ian Macfarlane about international financial market effects on government policy. Public hearings on this inquiry continue in Canberra on 13 March and Sydney on 22 March. For details telephone (02) 6277 4587 or visit [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa)

### Roundtable for employment inquiry

A roundtable discussion is being held on 21 March for the inquiry into issues specific to older workers seeking employment or establishing a business following unemployment. The roundtable, involving major organisations, will focus on a code of conduct concerning retrenchment. It will be held from 1.30pm to 4pm on 21 March in Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra. Members of the public are welcome to hear the discussion. For more information, call the secretariat of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Workplace Relations on telephone (02) 6277 4573.

### Contract management under scrutiny

There will be four public hearings in March on the issue of contract management in the Australian Public Service. The hearings, to be held in Melbourne on 10 March and Canberra on 29, 30 and 31 March, are part of an investigation by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit. For further information visit [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa) or telephone (02) 6277 2336.

### Foreign Affairs Committee holds hearings on two inquiries

Public hearings will be held in March on two of the inquiries currently being conducted by the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. There will be a 6 March public hearing in Canberra on the inquiry into Australia's efforts to promote and protect freedom of religion and belief. This will be followed by a 17 March public hearing in Brisbane on the suitability of the Australian Army for peacetime, peacekeeping and war. For further information, telephone (02) 6277 2313 or visit [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfad](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfad)

### Hearing on public works project

On 28 March, Melbourne will be the venue for a public hearing on the Defence Science and Technology Organisation Rationalisation Project. This public works project is being considered by the Joint Committee on Public Works. For further information, call the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4636 or visit [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pwc)