

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING****INQUIRY INTO COMBINING SCHOOL AND WORK:
SUPPORTING SUCCESSFUL YOUTH TRANSITIONS***Chair: Ms Sharon Bird MP
Deputy Chair: Dr Dennis Jensen MP*

**Committee to visit secondary schools to discuss
school/work balance*****School visits, Adelaide & Perth, 7-8 April 2009***

The House of Representatives Education and Training Committee is taking its inquiry into combining school and work into secondary schools to take first hand evidence from students, teachers, careers advisers and parents & friends representatives on how students are coping with balancing school with part-time work.

On Tuesday 7 April, the Committee will visit Para Hills High School in Adelaide and on Wednesday 8 April the Committee will visit Leeming Senior High School in Perth. Further school visits are planned for Burnie, Melbourne, Brisbane and Port Kembla.

Committee Chair Sharon Bird (Member for Cunningham, NSW) said today 'The committee recognises the importance of engaging with students and taking their views into account when considering any measures the inquiry might recommend. We are grateful to those schools who have agreed to facilitate a visit of the committee.'

'The committee has established an online survey to collect evidence for its inquiry. Feedback received to date has indicated that attempting to balance part-time work and study can be a significant struggle for some students, who are also striving to maintain an active social life and participate in sporting and recreational activities,' she said.

'The inquiry has also heard that some students feel too intimidated to approach their employer about the late hours they are asked to work during the school week. Some students have called for greater interaction between schools, parents and employers of students.'

The survey, available online at www.aph.gov.au/studentsurvey, will be open until the end of May. Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, can be obtained from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/edt>.

Day 1: Tuesday, 7 April 2009, 9.30am – 3.00pm, Para Hills High School, Adelaide, SA.

Day 2: Wednesday, 8 April 2009, 9.15am – 3.00pm, Leeming Senior High School, Perth, WA.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Sharon Bird on (02) 4228 5899 (Electorate office).

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary on (02) 6277 4573, email edt.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/edt/>