



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Inquiry into rural skills training and research

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 27 February 2006

Chair: Alby Schultz MP
Deputy Chair: Dick Adams MP

Parents' Association suggests new-look agriculture college in NSW

Committee Public Hearing in Parliament House, Canberra – 1 March 2006

The **Isolated Children's Parents' Association of NSW** (ICPA NSW) will appear before the House of Representatives Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee on Wednesday (1 March) for its inquiry into rural skills training and research.

The public hearing will take place **from 5.00 pm in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra.**

ICPA NSW is a voluntary parent body that lobbies for access to equal educational opportunities for geographically isolated students.

The ICPA submission (no. 18 on the committee's website) proposes that a senior residential college be established with the support of the Commonwealth and NSW Governments, and industry.

The Association suggests the new college use the existing infrastructure at the Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture. The new college would provide services for students in years 11 and 12 who wish to pursue a career in agriculture without the restrictions of traditional school teachings.

The committee chair, Alby Schultz (Member for Hume, NSW), said "the committee is interested in hearing more about the proposal, as well as ideas the Association has for attracting students to study agriculture".

Further details about the inquiry, including terms of reference and submissions, can be obtained from the committee's website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/ruralskills/> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing Aff.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment: please contact the committee chair, Alby Schultz MP, on (02) 6277 4386 or email Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au.

For more information: please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500.