



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

Media Release

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Committee to continue secondary school visits to discuss school-work balance

The House of Representatives Education and Training Committee will continue to take its inquiry into *combining school and work: supporting successful youth transitions* into secondary schools to take first-hand evidence from students and their teachers about how students are coping with balancing school with part-time work.

On Tuesday 21 April, the Committee will visit the Hellyer Campus of the Tasmanian Academy in Burnie and on Wednesday 22 April the Committee will visit Holmesglen Vocational College in Melbourne. Further school visits are planned for Brisbane and Port Kembla.

Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom, who is also a member of the Committee, said he was very pleased it was visiting the North-West as part of the Inquiry.

“Many of our students work part time and this has implications both in terms of school work and in the workplace. As it is a common reality it is important that employers and workplace managers, along with educators, understand some of the pressures being felt by young people as students and as workers,” Mr Sidebottom said.

“The committee will be hearing from students from along the Coast about what they think their parents, schools and employers might be able to do to help them in their efforts to balance school and work. In the morning session employers will also be sharing their observations about the issue of combining school and work.”

Committee Chair Sharon Bird (Member for Cunningham, NSW) said “The committee is hearing evidence that there are some employers who really value young workers and do the right thing by them. There are also some employers who think that they are doing the right thing, but they do not communicate with students to find out exactly how they are faring in the workplace. Then there are some employers who do not appear to take students’ study needs into consideration at all.”

The committee has established an online survey for senior students to collect evidence for its inquiry. 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, 21 April 2009, 9.30am – 3.00pm, Hellyer Campus, Tasmanian Academy, Burnie, Tas.

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