

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2002-03

MR J.B. D'ORAZIO (Ballajura) [10.13 am]: I present for tabling the fourth report of the Public Accounts Committee entitled "Annual Report 2002-2003."

[See paper No 1376]

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: I would like to bring to the attention of the House some of the activities of the Public Accounts Committee during 2002-03. It has been a busy and productive year for the Public Accounts Committee. During the year we have tabled three reports in the Legislative Assembly. We have also commenced two new inquiries, and we are in the process of concluding another of our major inquiries. The Public Accounts Committee has convened 19 deliberative meetings, and held 10 public hearings with 17 witnesses. We have undertaken extensive travel to London and Norway and presented a paper at the ninth biennial Comparative International Government Accounting Research conference, which is better known as the CIGAR conference, in Norway. Our paper was well received and it was indicated that we are at the forefront of public administration and accountability in the world.

We also attended the Australian Council of Public Accounts Committees conference in Melbourne, Victoria. The Deputy Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee was very good at presenting a paper at that conference. Again, I am told that it was well received. We have hosted a number of delegates from various Public Accounts Committees, including members of the Kenyan Parliament and members of Parliament from the Pacific Islands of Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. We have also hosted delegates from the New South Wales parliamentary committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission, and we hosted the annual event of briefing four members of Parliament on the state budget. As I said, it has been a busy time and I thank the members of the committee.

During my time as a member, the Public Accounts Committee has worked extremely efficiently as a cohesive group. The committee comprises members of the three parties represented in this House, and I can honestly say that all our deliberations have been amicable and cordial. More importantly, we have all worked with the essence of trying to establish a great outcome for the Parliament and the community of Western Australia. I thank the Deputy Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, the member for Stirling, who has been a great help. I also thank the other members of the committee, the members for Murray-Wellington, Bunbury and Roleystone, who have worked extremely hard. There have been a number of meetings and a number of complicated matters have come before the committee, and they have worked diligently to ensure that we get the correct outcome. I also thank our staff members, because without great staff the Public Accounts Committee could not operate. I thank Andrea McCallum, Alf Opie and Simon Kennedy, who have done a fantastic job, sometimes under stressful conditions. They have operated fantastically well. Again, my thanks to them. Once again, I thank all the members of the committee for their support, diligent attention to detail and the output from the committee. The reports we make to this Parliament will make, and have made, a difference and will allow for greater accountability for public servants and, more importantly, the confidence of the community of Western Australia.