



Education and Health Standing Committee

Annual Report 2012–2013

Report No. 1
October 2013

Legislative Assembly
Parliament of Western Australia

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Presented by

Dr G.G. Jacobs, MLA

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly on 24 October 2013

Chair's Foreword

It is indeed a privilege to chair a standing committee which has portfolios of such importance, and having by far the largest budget demands, in Education and Health.

In our beginnings following the 2013 election, we have been keen not to launch into large and cumbersome inquiries at the outset, but to continue to ensure that the processes and expenditure of these large agencies meet best practice standards and provide best value for taxpayers.

In the Health area, we have been eager to explore this, but without a full-blown inquiry into the Health Department, who are currently managing the completion and commissioning of the large Fiona Stanley Hospital project. Of interest to us also are the management of the delayed opening and the implications arising from that.

In the area of Education, the management of the Budget, with the announcement of a new funding structure for Western Australian schools, and the implications for education programmes and entitlements, has been our focus.

With the ever increasing incidence of mental illness in young people and high suicide rates in the future, the committee is keen to explore how a young person falling ill or with induced mental illness is handled by a mental health system and what changes are needed.

We look forward to targeted investigations to make changes that improve service and get good value for the tax payer's dollar.

DR G.G. JACOBS, MLA
CHAIR

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Chapter 1

Committee activities

Introduction

This report covers the work undertaken by the Education and Health Standing Committee for the financial year 2012–2013. The Committee was prorogued on 14 December 2012 with the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly was dissolved on 30 January 2013. The State general election was held on 9 March 2013. This created an interregnum until the formation by the Legislative Assembly of a new Education and Health Standing Committee on 9 May 2013.

During the 38th Parliament, the period between 1 July 2012 to 14 December 2012, the Education and Health Committee:

- conducted one inquiry;
- tabled four reports;
- held ten deliberative meetings;
- took evidence from 21 witnesses at five hearings; and
- did not undertake investigative travel or attend any conferences.

During the 39th Parliament, the period between 9 May 2013 and 30 June 2013, the Committee:

- held five deliberative meetings;
- took evidence from eight witnesses at two hearings;
- did not conduct any inquiries or table any reports; and
- did not undertake investigative travel or attend any conferences.

Table 1.1: Summary of activities for the Education and Health Standing Committee, 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

Description	Activity
38th Parliament	
Deliberative meetings	10
Formal evidence hearings	5
Witnesses appearing	21
Reports tabled	4
Report findings tabled	111
Report recommendations tabled	61
39th Parliament	
Deliberative meetings	5
Formal evidence hearings	2
Witnesses appearing	8

Chapter 1

Public hearings

Pursuant to Legislative Assembly Standing Order No. 264, the Committee has the power to send for persons, papers and records. During the period 1 July 2012 to 14 December 2012, the Committee conducted five public hearings, taking evidence from 21 witnesses to assist with its investigations. During the period 9 May 2013 to 30 June 2013, the Committee conducted two public hearings, taking evidence from eight witnesses to assist with its investigations.

Table 1.2: Public hearings of the Education and Health Standing Committee, 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

Date	Witness	Position	Organisation
38th Parliament			
9 July 2012	Raewyn Mutch	Post-Doctoral Research Fellow	Telethon Institute of Child Health Research, Department of Health
	Rikki Hendon	Branch Assistant Secretary	CPSU/CSA
	Russell Clarke	IT Officer	Belmont City College
	Joyce Bootsma	Registrar	Bungaree Primary School
	Professor Gunesh Rajan	Professor of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery; Consultant, Ear and Skull Base Surgery	Ear Nose and Throat Department, Fremantle Hospital
	Associate Professor Paul Newhouse	Director	Centre for Schooling and Learning Technologies, Edith Cowan University
	Dr Jeremy Pagram	Associate Director	Centre for Schooling and Learning Technologies, Edith Cowan University
	Mandy Nayton	Chief Executive Officer	Dyslexia-SPELD Foundation Literacy and Clinical Services
	Dr Ashley Aitken	Senior Lecturer	School of Information Systems, Curtin University
	Von Sawers	Lecturer	School of Education, Curtin University
	Associate Professor Deslea Konza	Researcher, Language and Literacy	Edith Cowan University
	Associate Professor Robert Faulkner	Course Coordinator, Masters of Teaching, Graduate School of Education	University of Western Australia
	Sue Dawkins	PhD candidate	University of Western Australia
8 August 2012	Winthrop Professor Bill Loudon	Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor	University of Western Australia
15 August 2012	Phillip Aylward	Chief Executive, Child and Adolescent Community Health	Department of Health
	Mark Morrissey	Executive Director, Child and Adolescent Community Health	Department of Health

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	Kate Gatti	Area Director, Population Health, Northern and Remote Country Health Services, Southern Country Health Service	Department of Health
	Professor Harvey Coates	Paediatric Otolaryngologist	Princess Margaret Hospital
23 August 2012	Clinical Associate Professor Deborah Lehmann	Researcher/Epidemiologist	Telethon Institute of Child Health Research, Department of Health
6 September 2012	Kim Snowball	Director General	Department of Health
	Philip Aylward	Chief Executive, Princess Margaret Hospital	Department of Health
39th Parliament			
19 June 2013	Professor Bryant Stokes	Acting Director General	Department of Health
	Dr David Russell-Weisz	Chief Executive, Fiona Stanley Hospital Commissioning	Department of Health
	Wayne Salvage	Executive Director, Resource Strategy	Department of Health
26 June 2013	Sharyn O'Neill	Director General	Department of Education
	David Axworthy	Deputy Director General, Schools	Department of Education
	John Leaf	Deputy Director General, Finance and Administration	Department of Education
	Brett Roach	Deputy Chief Finance Officer	Department of Education
	Alison Ramm	Director, School Staffing	Department of Education

Reports tabled

The Committee tabled four reports during the period 1 July 2012 to 14 December 2012. They were as follows:

- Report No. 15: *Foetal alcohol spectrum disorder: The invisible disability*
- Report No. 16: *The role of ICT in Western Australian education: Living and working in a digital world*
- Report No. 17: *Annual report 2011–2012*
- Report No. 18: *A child who is healthy, attends school, and is able to read will have better educational outcomes*

None of these reports received a government response. The Legislative Assembly was prorogued before the government was required to table responses in the House.

No reports were tabled during the period 9 May 2013 to 30 June 2013.

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Work in progress

In the 39th Parliament, the Education and Health Standing Committee has held hearings with the Department of Health and the Department of Education in order to gather information to inform possible future inquiries. The Committee has used these hearings to examine the delayed opening of the Fiona Stanley Hospital, and to acquaint itself with the budget positions of both the Department of Health and the Department of Education.

Over the coming months, the Committee may follow up with agencies regarding the status of recommendations made in the previous Committee's reports.

Chapter 2

Financial statement

The Education and Health Standing Committee does not have its own formal budget and is funded out of the budget of the Legislative Assembly. Approval for major expenditure is required on a case-by-case basis and is entirely at the discretion of the Speaker.

Committee financial statement

The Committee's expenditure for the financial year 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (in accordance with Standing Order 276) is provided below ([table 2.1](#)). Please note that the information provides an aggregate of expenditure for the Committees of both the 38th and 39th Parliaments:

Table 2.1: Expenditure items, 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

Expenditure item	\$
Advertising	N/A
Travel ¹	22,668
Protocol	346
Printing	8,540
Miscellaneous	72
Total	31,626

1 Please note that all travel was undertaken by the previous Committee.

Appendix One

Committee's functions and powers

The functions of the Committee are to review and report to the Assembly on:

- a) the outcomes and administration of the departments within the Committee's portfolio responsibilities;
- b) annual reports of government departments laid on the Table of the House;
- c) the adequacy of legislation and regulations within its jurisdiction; and
- d) any matters referred to it by the Assembly including a bill, motion, petition, vote or expenditure, other financial matter, report or paper.

At the commencement of each Parliament and as often thereafter as the Speaker considers necessary, the Speaker will determine and table a schedule showing the portfolio responsibilities for each committee. Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the Assembly will stand referred to the relevant committee for any inquiry the committee may make.

Whenever a committee receives or determines for itself fresh or amended terms of reference, the committee will forward them to each standing and select committee of the Assembly and Joint Committee of the Assembly and Council. The Speaker will announce them to the Assembly at the next opportunity and arrange for them to be placed on the notice boards of the Assembly.