



***EDUCATION AND HEALTH
STANDING COMMITTEE***

ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

Report No. 4

in the 37th Parliament

2006

Published by the Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia, Perth, August 2006.

Printed by the Government Printer, State Law Publisher, Western Australia.



Education and Health Standing Committee

Annual Report 2004-2005

ISBN: 1 920830 54 5

(Series: Western Australia. Parliament. Legislative Assembly. Committees.
Education and Health Standing Committee. Report 4)

328.365

Copies available from:

State Law Publisher
10 William Street
PERTH WA 6000

Telephone:

(08) 9321 7688

Facsimile:

(08) 9321 7536

Email:

sales@dpc.wa.gov.au

Copies available on-line:

www.parliament.wa.gov.au



***EDUCATION AND HEALTH
STANDING COMMITTEE***

ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

Report No. 4

Presented by:
Hon T.G. Stephens, MLA
Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly
on 31 August 2006

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman

Hon T.G. Stephens, MLA

Members

Dr E. Constable, MLA
Mrs D.J. Guise, MLA
Hon Dr K.D. Hames, MLA
Mr J.N. Hyde, MLA
Mr T.K. Waldron, MLA
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA

COMMITTEE STAFF

Principal Research Officer

Mr Michael Baker BA (Hons)

Research Officer

Mr Peter Frantom BA

COMMITTEE ADDRESS

Education and Health Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Tel: (08) 9222 7494
Fax: (08) 9222 7804
Email: laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au
Website: www.parliament.wa.gov.au

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS.....	i
COMMITTEE STAFF	i
COMMITTEE ADDRESS	i
COMMITTEE’S FUNCTIONS AND POWERS	v
CHAIRMAN’S FOREWORD.....	vii
CHAPTER 1 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES	1
1.1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 PUBLIC HEARINGS	1
1.3 BRIEFINGS	2
1.4 WORK IN PROGRESS	3
1.5 WORK OF THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE.....	3
CHAPTER 2 FINANCIAL STATEMENT	5

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.

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

This is the fourth report of the Education and Health Standing Committee, which was re-activated on 7 April 2005. This report provides an overview of the Committee's activities from 7 April 2005 to 30 June 2005.

Over this time, the Committee adopted two inquiries. The first of these was into '*Changes to the Post Compulsory Curriculum in Western Australia*'. The Committee called for submissions in May 2005 and commenced hearing evidence from individuals and/or organisations identified as being of importance to the inquiry in June 2005.

The Committee's second inquiry was into the '*Swimming Pool Program for Remote Communities*'. The Committee called for submissions and is about to embark on an extensive evidence-gathering program in the Kimberley and the Pilbara.

During the reporting period, the Committee also met with senior personnel representing several departments from within the Committee's various portfolio responsibilities. These meetings provided an informative and interactive forum that allowed the Committee to keep abreast of current issues and departmental policy directives.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their individual and collective contributions over this time and commend the Principal Research Officer, Michael Baker and Research Officer, Peter Frantom, for their professionalism and dedication to the work of the Committee. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Legislative Assembly Committee Office secretariat, in particular Renae Jewell, Peter D'Cress and Glen Whitting for their valued assistance.

HON T.G. STEPHENS, MLA
CHAIRMAN

CHAPTER 1 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

1.1 Introduction

The reporting period 2004/2005 encompasses two parliamentary sessions. The 36th Parliament and its Committees were dissolved in January 2005 preceding a State election on 26 February 2005 (refer section 1.5). Table 1.1 represents the activities of the Education and Health Standing Committee in the 37th Parliament, in which the Committee:

- commenced two inquiries;
- held nine deliberative meetings; and
- has taken evidence from/or was briefed by 13 persons.

Table 1.1

Summary of activities of the Education and Health Standing Committee, 7 April 2005 - 30 June 2005

Description	Activity
Briefings	4
Deliberative meetings	9
Formal evidence hearings	3
Witnesses appearing	5

1.2 Public Hearings

Pursuant to Legislative Assembly Standing Order 264, the Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records. During the period 7 April 2005 - 30 June 2005, the Committee conducted three public hearings, taking evidence from five witnesses to assist with its investigations (Table 1.2).

Table 1.2

Public Hearings of the Education and Health Standing Committee, 7 April 2005 - 30 June 2005

Date	Witness	Position	Organisation
15 June 2005	Ms Norma Jeffery	Chief Executive Officer	Curriculum Council
	Ms Therese Temby	Chair	
	Mr Reece Barrett	Director, Accreditation and Moderation	

Date	Witness	Position	Organisation
22 June 2005	Mr Gregory Tate	Manager, Community Relations	Royal Life Saving Society
22 June 2005	Mrs Mary Tennant	Research Assistant	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

1.3 Briefings

In addition to gathering evidence during the formal hearings, the Committee received a number of informal briefings. The briefings were used to gain information in relation to the Committee's inquiries as well as other matters (Table 1.3).

Table 1.3

Briefings provided to the Education and Health Standing Committee, 7 April 2005 - 30 June 2005

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
18 May 2005	Mr Paul Albert Ms Margaret Banks Mr Kevin O'Keefe	Director General Deputy Director General - School Executive Director, Teaching and Learning, Aboriginal Education, Training and Services	Department of Education and Training
25 May 2005	Mr Peter Smith	Senior Project Officer, Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Unit	Department of Housing and Works
1 June 2005	Ms Norma Jeffery Ms Therese Temby Mr Reece Barrett	Chief Executive Officer Chair Director, Accreditation and Moderation	Curriculum Council
29 June 2005	Dr Neale Fong	Director General	Department of Health

1.4 Work in Progress

The Education and Health Standing Committee was re-activated on 7 April 2005, at the commencement of the 37th Parliament. On 4 May 2005 the Committee resolved to undertake an inquiry into *Changes to the Post Compulsory Curriculum in Western Australia*. At the same meeting, the Committee also resolved to conduct an inquiry into the *Swimming Pool Program in Remote Communities*.

The Committee advertised in 'The West Australian', 'The Australian' and various local and community newspapers in May calling for submissions to both inquiries. The Committee continued to receive submissions up to and, in some cases after, the closing dates of Friday, 1 July 2005 for the inquiry into *Changes to the Post Compulsory Curriculum in Western Australia* and Friday, 8 July 2005 for the inquiry into the *Swimming Pool Program in Remote Communities*. The Committee continued to receive briefings and conduct hearings into these matters during 2005/2006.

1.5 Work of the Previous Committee

The former Education and Health Standing Committee was dissolved in January 2005 when the 36th Parliament was prorogued. That Committee completed an inquiry into *Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Western Australia* in the latter half of 2004. The final report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 29 October 2004.

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 expenditures is required on a case-by-case basis and is entirely at the discretion of the Speaker.

The Committee's expenditure for the financial year 7 April 2005 - 30 June 2005 (in accordance with Standing Order 276) is detailed below:

Table 2.1

Expenditure Items of the Education and Health Standing Committee, 7 April 2005 - 30 June 2005

Expenditure Item	\$
Advertising	\$6, 400.00
Protocol	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$6, 500.00

Notes:

- Figures rounded off to nearest \$100.
- Salaries of committee staff are not included.
- Costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for committee accommodation, not included.