



Community Development and Justice Standing Committee

Annual Report 2016—17

Report No. 1
September 2017

Legislative Assembly
Parliament of Western Australia

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Deputy Chair Dr A.D. Buti, MLA
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Report No. 1

Presented by

Mr P.A. Katsambanis, MLA

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly on 7 September 2017

Chairman's foreword

I am pleased to table the first annual report for the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee in the 40th Parliament.

This is a slightly different annual report in that it covers two parliamentary sessions. The 2017 State General Election took place during the 2016–17 financial year; therefore, the activities of both the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee of the 39th Parliament and the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee of the 40th Parliament are contained in this report.

I would like to acknowledge the admirable work of the Committee of the previous parliament. It not only tabled a major report, *Cultivating promise—Building Resilience and Engagement for At-Risk Youth through Sport and Culture*, but conducted a number of agency review hearings during the reporting period.

To some extent, the current Committee has expanded upon the work of the Committee of the 39th Parliament. In September 2016, that Committee held a hearing with the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) to ascertain its preparedness for the 2017 election. The Committee of the 40th Parliament followed-up with the WAEC to ascertain how the election went and whether there were any areas for improvement.

As a result of these investigations, the Committee decided to initiate an inquiry into the administration and management of the 2017 election. The Committee will assess the adequacy of WAEC procedures in relation to ballot security; the participation of communities with traditionally low levels of enrolment or turnout; the levels of informality; remote polling; the operation of polling places; and the general responsiveness of the *Electoral Act 1907*. Ultimately, the Committee wants to ensure that the electoral system is as robust as possible—that eligible voters are given adequate opportunity to cast their vote and all political parties and candidates able to have their policies and voices heard.

I look forward to working with my Committee colleagues in this parliament. Their contribution to our discussions and deliberations has been invaluable and I know that we have a productive year ahead of us.



MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS, MLA
CHAIRMAN

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Chapter 1

Committee activities

A report on the activities of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee for the financial year 2016–2017.

Introduction

The 2016–2017 reporting period encompasses two parliamentary sessions. The 39th Parliament was prorogued and Legislative Assembly dissolved by the Governor on Monday, 30 January 2017. This dissolution terminated the Legislative Assembly of the 39th Parliament and its committees. The Community Development and Justice Standing Committee of the 40th Parliament was established on Wednesday, 17 May 2017.

A summary of the activities of the Committee during the course of this reporting period—1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017—is in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Summary of Committee activities, 1 July 2016–30 June 2017

Activity	Number
39th Parliament	
Reports tabled	2
Deliberative meetings	7
Hearings	7
Briefings	0
Witnesses appearing	18
40th Parliament	
Reports tabled	0
Deliberative meetings	4
Hearings	1
Briefings	1
Witnesses appearing	4

Portfolios

During the 39th Parliament, the Committee had responsibility for 19 portfolio areas, as outlined below:

- Aboriginal Affairs
- Child Protection
- Attorney General
- Environment
- Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
- Community Services

- Corrective Services
- Culture and the Arts
- Disability Services
- Electoral Affairs
- Emergency Services
- Local Government
- Police
- Road Safety
- Seniors and Volunteering
- Sport and Recreation
- Veterans
- Women’s Interests
- Youth

During the final months of the 39th Parliament, the Committee conducted agency reviews related to the portfolio areas of the Attorney General, Electoral Affairs, Emergency Services and Culture and the Arts.

The Committee’s portfolio responsibilities have increased during the 40th Parliament and the Committee is now responsible for 21 portfolios:

- Aboriginal Affairs
- Child Protection
- Attorney General
- Environment
- Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
- Community Services
- Corrective Services
- Culture and the Arts
- Disability Services
- Electoral Affairs
- Emergency Services
- Local Government
- Police
- Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence
- Road Safety
- Seniors and Ageing
- Sport and Recreation
- Veterans Issues
- Volunteering
- Women’s Interests
- Youth

Public hearings

Pursuant to Standing Order 264, the Committee has the power to send for persons, papers and records. During the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, the Committee conducted eight hearings and took evidence from 21 witnesses. Hearings were primarily related to agency reviews.

Table 1.2: Witnesses who provided evidence at hearings of the Committee, 1 July 2016–30 June 2017

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
39th Parliament			
14 September 2016	Mr David Kerslake	Electoral Commissioner	Western Australian Electoral Commission
	Mr Chris Avent	Deputy Electoral Commissioner	
12 October 2016	Ms Rosalinda Fogliani	State Coroner	Office of the State Coroner
19 October 2016	Mr Ian Booth	Chief Executive	ScreenWest
	Mrs Janelle Marr	Chair of the Board	
9 November 2016	Mr Wayne Gregson	Commissioner	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
	Mr Lloyd Bailey	Deputy Commissioner, Operations Command	
	Mr Stephen Fewster	Deputy Commissioner, Capability Command	
	Mr Murray Carter	Director, Office of Bushfire Risk Management	
	Mr James Sharp	Director General	Department of Parks and Wildlife
	Mr Peter Dans	Director, Regional and Fire Management Services	
	Mr Paul Brennan	Manager, Fire Management Services	

16 November 2016	Mr Gary Dreiberger	Deputy Commissioner, Specialist Services	Western Australia Police
	Mr Craig Donaldson	Commander, Counter Terrorism and Emergency Response	
	Mr Robert Horridge	Senior Advisor, Emergency Preparedness, Counter Terrorism and Emergency Response	
	Ms Kylie Whiteley	Acting Assistant Commissioner, State Crime Portfolio	
	Mr Warwick Carter	Executive Manager, Planning and Community Development	Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA)
	Mr John Lane	Emergency Management Coordinator	
40th Parliament			
21 June 2017	Mr David Kerslake	Electoral Commissioner	Western Australian Electoral Commission
	Mr Chris Avent	Deputy Electoral Commissioner	
	Mr Louis Gargan	Senior Policy Officer	

Briefings

No briefings were held during the reporting period in the 39th Parliament. One briefing was held during the 40th Parliament and the details of this briefing are contained in Table 1.3.

Table 1.3: Witnesses who briefed the Committee, 1 July 2016–30 June 2017

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
40th Parliament			
14 June 2017	Dr Harry Phillips	Parliamentary Fellow (Education)	Parliament of Western Australia

Reports tabled

The Committee of the 39th Parliament tabled two reports during the 2016–17 financial year.

Report 13: On 15 August 2016, the Committee tabled its final major report, *Cultivating promise – Building Resilience and Engagement for At-Risk Youth through Sport and Culture*.

Report 14: The Committee's annual report for 2015–16 was tabled on 15 September 2016.

Work in progress

During the 40th Parliament, the Committee has commenced its *Inquiry into the Administration and Management of the 2017 State General Election*. The Committee intends to report the outcome of this inquiry to the Legislative Assembly by 30 November 2017.

Chapter 2

Financial statement

Expenditure of the Committee during the financial year.

The 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 subject to the approval of the Speaker.

The Committee is required in accordance with Standing Order 276 to detail expenditure for the financial year 1 July 2016–30 June 2017. The Legislative Assembly dissolved on Monday, 30 January 2017 prior to the state election; therefore two Committees operated during the 2016–2017 financial year. The figures tendered below cover the full reporting period and include expenditure by the Committee of the 39th Parliament.

Table 2.1: Expenditure items of the Committee, 1 July 2016 –30 June 2017

Expenditure Item	Total (\$)
Printing	1,200
Amenities	776
TOTAL	1,976

Notes:

- Figures rounded to nearest dollar.
- Excluded:
 - Salaries of Committee staff;
 - Costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for Committee accommodation.



MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS, MLA
CHAIRMAN

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.