



Annual Report 2014 – 15

Report No. 7, 55th Parliament

Health and Ambulance Services Committee

October 2015

Health and Ambulance Services Committee

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1 Health and Ambulance Services Committee

The Health and Ambulance Services Committee (the Committee) was established on 27 March 2015 as a portfolio committee of the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

Section 92 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* outlines the main responsibilities of a portfolio committee. In relation to its portfolio area, a committee may:

- consider Appropriation Bills
- consider other legislation and proposed legislation
- perform its role in relation to public accounts and public works.

Schedule 6 of the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly* sets out the committee's portfolio responsibilities as health and ambulance services.

2 Annual report

In accordance with section 108 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, the Committee is required to table an annual report within 4 months and 14 days after the end of each financial year. The report must include:

- a list of meetings of the Committee and the names of members attending or absent from each meeting
- a summary of issues considered by the Committee, including a description of the more significant issues arising from the considerations
- a statement of the Committee's revenue and spending for the year
- a brief description of responses by Ministers to recommendations of the Committee.

This report provides a summary of the activities of the Committee from 27 March to 30 June 2015 (the relevant period).

3 Inquiries and reports

The Committee considered a number of issues and tabled two reports during the 2014 – 2015 financial year. The Committee's reports and inquiries are discussed below.

Copies of the Committee's publications are available from the Committee's webpage: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/hasc.

3.1 Inquiry into personal health promotion interventions using telephone and web-based technologies

On 27 March 2015, the Legislative Assembly referred an inquiry to the Committee into personal health promotion interventions (PHPIs) using telephone and web-based technologies.

The Committee held a public briefing with the Department of Health, a public hearing with invited stakeholders and sought written submissions. A total of 23 submissions were received.

The Committee tabled its report on 12 June 2015 and made seven recommendations.

The Committee's recommendations included:

- a recommendation that the Minister for Health develop a strategy for the use of PHPIs using telephone and web-based technologies;
- a recommendation that the Government consider funding independent research into areas where the evidence base for PHPIs was poor, including examining the long term cost effectiveness and the effectiveness of PHPIs in Indigenous populations; and

- a recommendation that the Minister for Health investigate options to encourage partnerships for the development and delivery of PHPIs between the Qld Government and the private sector, universities and primary health care networks and general practitioners.

Five of the recommendations were directed to the Minister for Health and two were directed at the Queensland Government. All recommendations were accepted, with two recommendations accepted subject to further investigation.

The full report and the Government response can be accessed on the Committee web-site.

3.2 Bills and subordinate legislation

Bills

During the 2014-15 financial year, the Committee commenced examination of two Bills however did not report on either of the Bills during the relevant period.

3.2.1 Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill 2015

On 5 May 2015, the Member for Caloundra, Mr Mark McArdle MP introduced the Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly as a Private Members Bill.

The Bill was referred to the Committee for detailed consideration on the same day with a reporting date of 5 November 2015.

As the Government had foreshadowed it would also be introducing a Government Bill on mental health reform, the Committee resolved to defer consideration of the Private Members Bill until the Government Bill had been introduced. As a consequence, no work was carried out by the Committee in relation to this Bill during the relevant period.

3.2.2 Health Legislation (Waiting List Integrity) Amendment Bill 2015

On 19 May 2015, the Member for Caloundra introduced the Health Legislation (Waiting List Integrity) Amendment Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly as a Private Members Bill.

The Bill was referred to the Committee for detailed consideration on the same day. On 2 June 2015, the Legislative Assembly resolved for the Committee to report on the Bill by 14 September 2015.

During the relevant period, the Committee sought written submissions.

Further stages of the Committee's examination of this Bill occurred in the next financial year.

Subordinate Legislation

The Committee considered two pieces of subordinate legislation in accordance with its responsibility under section 93(1) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* - the Health Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No.1) 2014 and the Health Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2014.

The Committee Tabled its Report No. 1, Subordinate Legislation tabled between 10 September 2014 and 25 March 2015 on 6 May 2015 in which the committee considered:

- the policy to be given effect by the legislation;
- the application of fundamental legislative principles to the legislation, and
- the lawfulness of the legislation.

The Committee did not identify any significant issues with either piece of legislation.

4 Oversight responsibilities

The Committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the operation of the health service complaints management system, which includes:

- the Health Ombudsman; and
- the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA, the National Agency) and fourteen health practitioner registration boards (National Boards) - regarding the conduct, performance and health of registered health practitioners who provide health services in Queensland.

The Health Ombudsman commenced operations on 1 July 2014, and replaced the former Health Quality and Complaints Commission.

The Committee's functions do not include re-investigating complaints or reconsidering a decision or finding of the Health Ombudsman, AHPRA or the national boards.

During the relevant period, the Committee held a public hearing with the Health Ombudsman. The matters discussed at the public hearing may be used by the Committee in a report to the Legislative Assembly in the future.

5 Committee expenditure

The Committee had no revenue during 2014-15. The Committee is funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly. The expenditure of the Committee from 27 March to 30 June 2015 is shown in the table below.

Item	\$
Staff salaries and related expenses ¹	77,969
Printing and production	345
Telecommunication costs	602
Meeting expenses, stationery, consumables and miscellaneous expenses	255
Expenditure Total	79,171

¹ Figures for staffing expenditure shown above reflect a three person secretariat supporting the committee. The committee's staffing might have been supplemented with additional resources from general Committee Office staff throughout the year.

6 Meeting attendance record

The table below shows the attendance of Committee members at Committee meetings and other activities during the reporting period.

Meeting Date	Ms Leanne Linard MP	Ms Ros Bates MP	Mr Steve Dickson MP	Mr Aaron Harper MP	Mr Joe Kelly MP	Dr Christian Rowan MP
01/04/2015	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
06/05/2015	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20/05/2015	✓	✓	x ²	✓	✓	✓
03/06/2015	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
03/06/2015	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10/06/2015	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Leanne Linard MP

Chair

² Mr Dickson was an apology for the meeting on 20 May 2015 as he was required to attend a meeting of the Agriculture and Environment Committee as a substitute member.