



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

Annual Report 2024-25

Health, Environment and Innovation Committee



Report No. 18

58th Parliament, November 2025

Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

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Deputy Chair	Mr Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes
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All references and webpages are current at the time of publishing.

Acknowledgements

The committee acknowledges the assistance provided by the Committee Secretariat, the Queensland Parliamentary Service, departmental officers and other organisations and individuals who have contributed to the work of the committee.

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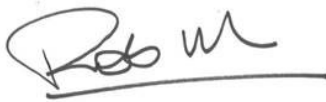
Chair's Foreword

This report details the activities of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee from 28 November 2024 to 30 June 2025.

In accordance with section 108 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, this report includes a summary of issues considered by the committee, a brief description of Ministerial responses to committee recommendations, a statement of revenue and spending for the year, and a list of committee meetings and names of members attending or absent from each meeting.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the committee during this reporting period.

I also thank my fellow committee members for their ongoing dedication and collaborative approach and the committee's secretariat and parliamentary staff for their professional support throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob M', with a horizontal line underneath.

Robert Molhoek MP

Chair

Report in Brief

The Health, Environment and Innovation Committee (committee) was established by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2024 as a portfolio committee with responsibility for:

- Health and Ambulance Services; and
- Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.¹

This report covers the period from 28 November 2024 to 30 June 2025 in the 2024-25 financial period. In that time, the committee:



examined

3

bills



held

22

public briefings and
hearings



conducted

8

site visits

The committee's examination of referred bills included proposals to:

- implement amendments to the Health Practitioners National Law, agreed upon at the Australian Health Ministers Meeting, including to increase transparency and reporting of health practitioners with histories of serious professional misconduct and increase protections for whistleblowers²
- empower the Chief Executive of Queensland Health to enable expedited forfeiture processes for seized vaping products, and to seek compensatory costs for taking such action;³ and
- establish user-friendly electronic systems to issue authorities for low-risk activities under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.⁴

Following its consideration of these bills, the committee recommended that each bill be passed. It also made one recommendation to amend a bill and/or the explanatory notes and two recommendations designed to clarify or improve the operation of the legislation proposed in the bills. The government tabled an erratum in response to the recommendation for amendment, accepted one recommendation in principle and did not accept the other recommendation.

¹ As set out in Schedule 6 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

² Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

³ Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

⁴ Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

Two further bill inquiries were commenced during the relevant period but remain ongoing at as 30 June 2025.

In addition to scrutinising legislation, in February 2025 the committee commenced an inquiry into Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme. The committee also commenced examination into three Auditor-General reports, two of which were self-referred, and conducted a public briefing with the Health Ombudsman and representatives from Ahpra as part of its oversight of the health service complaints management system.

On 24 June 2025, the Appropriation Bill 2025 was tabled in Parliament. The committee then commenced preparation for its examination of portfolio budget estimates 2025-26.

The committee's total expenditure for the reporting period was \$338,177.

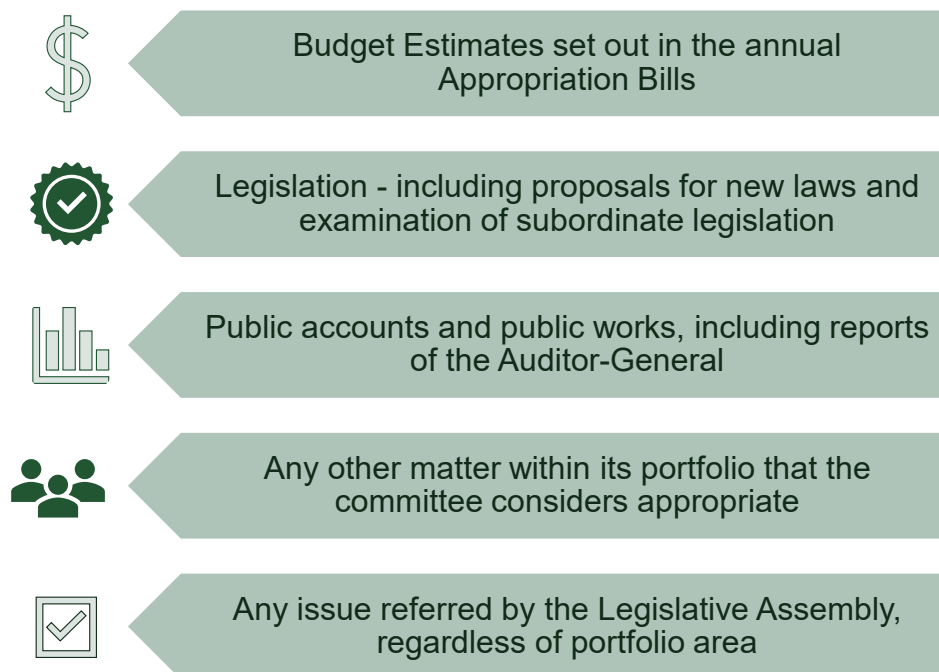
1. Functions of the Committee

The Health, Environment and Innovation Committee is a portfolio committee responsible for:

- Health and Ambulance Services
- Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation

The committee has a broad range of responsibilities within its portfolio area, as detailed in Figure 1 below. These responsibilities are set out in the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.⁵ The committee is also responsible for overseeing the performance of the Health Ombudsman as detailed in Schedule 6 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

Figure 1. Committees have oversight responsibilities for a range of matters within dedicated portfolio areas



2. Overview of Committee Activities

During the period 28 November 2024 to 30 June 2025, the committee undertook considerable engagement with stakeholders who made submissions to its inquiries.

Table 1 summarises the activities of the committee during the reporting period. The committee heard from 149 witnesses across 16 public briefings, 6 public hearings and 11 private hearings. The evidence provided by these witnesses was invaluable and helped the committee to complete its other tasks.

The committee's reports tabled during the reporting period are available on the committee's website. Members' attendance at committee meetings, hearings and briefings is set out in **Appendix A** of this report.

⁵ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* s 92-94 (PQA).

Table 1. Committee activities undertaken in the reporting period

Activity	Number
Deliberative meetings	21
Public briefings	16
Public hearings – Brisbane	5
Public hearings – Regional Queensland	1
Private hearings	11
Witnesses questioned at briefings and hearings	149
Inquiry submissions received	337
Bill inquiries	3
Pieces of subordinate legislation examined	16
Forms authorised by legislation considered	0
Public works inquiries	0
Public account inquiries	0
Annual reports of portfolio entities examined	2
Auditor-General reports examined	2
Inquiries referred by the Legislative Assembly	1
Inquiries into other matters (self-referred)	0
Reports tabled	7

3. Examination of Budget Estimates

On 24 June 2025, the Appropriation Bill 2025 was tabled in Parliament. The committee then commenced preparations for the examination of the 2025-26 budget estimates for its portfolio areas, with appropriations across both portfolios exceeding \$22.5 billion. The estimates process was still in progress at the completion of this reporting period.

4. Bill Inquiries

When it examines legislation, the committee is responsible for considering:

- the policy to which it gives effect
- whether it complies with the basic standards of law, known as fundamental legislative principles
- whether it is compatible with the human rights of people in Queensland; and
- where relevant, whether subordinate legislation is lawful.

The committee conducted 3 bill inquiries during the reporting period. As shown in Table 2, the committee made recommendations in relation to the bills it considered. Government

responses to recommendations made by the committee (where provided) are noted in the discussions of each inquiry below.⁶

Table 2. Bills examined by the committee, 28 November 2024 to 30 June 2025

Bill	Report No.	Recommendations
Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024	1	4
Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025	4	1
Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025	5	1

The committee commenced 2 further bill inquiries during the relevant period, which were not completed by 30 June 2025.⁷

4.1. Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 amended the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (National Law)*⁸ and the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*, primarily in response to a three-fold increase in complaints about sexual misconduct by health practitioners. The Bill's primary objectives were to protect public safety, increase transparency around disciplinary action where health practitioners have been found to have engaged in serious sexual misconduct, and strengthen protections for notifiers.

The Bill's amendments included:

- making it a requirement for additional information to be included on public registers about the regulatory history of practitioners who have engaged in sexual misconduct
- introduce a requirement for health practitioners seeking to be re-registered after a period of cancellation or disqualification to obtain a reinstatement order from a tribunal as a necessary step in applying for reregistration with a National Board; and
- provide greater protections for people who make notifications or assist regulators during investigations about registered health practitioners.

The committee received written briefings from Queensland Health and held a public hearing on 28 January 2025.

The committee made 4 recommendations.

Recommendation 1 was that the Bill be passed.

⁶ The Government has 3 months to response to recommendations made by the committee (PQA s 107(4)).

⁷ Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025 referred in February 2025, and Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025 referred in May 2025.

⁸ Queensland is the host jurisdiction for the National Law, which binds each participating Australian jurisdiction, with variations to suit each locality.

Recommendation 2 of the report was that the explanatory notes and/or clause 21 of the Bill be amended to clarify requisite legislative thresholds for sexual misconduct. This recommendation was accepted, and the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services tabled an erratum to the explanatory notes during the debate on 2 April 2025.

Recommendation 3 was that clause 21 of the Bill be amended to introduce appellate, merits-based review on decisions which deem that professional misconduct was on the basis of sexual misconduct, where that conclusion was based on an inference. The government did not accept this recommendation, and in the debate on the bill, the Minister explained that it is the intention of the amendments to grant a degree of latitude in response to such findings, meaning that where a finding does not explicitly refer to sexual misconduct, the Board must be able to assess that decision and make inferences.⁹

Recommendation 4 was that further stakeholder consultation with respect of the thresholds of 'sexual misconduct' should be undertaken throughout the implementation of the Bill. This recommendation was accepted in principle, and the Minister advised in his response during the debate on the Bill that he raised the matter with other Australian Health Ministers and engaged with Ahpra on the same, who advised that further consultation will be undertaken.¹⁰

The committee's report was tabled on 7 February 2025. The Bill was passed without amendment on 3 April 2025.

4.2. Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

The Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 made amendments to the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* to require at least one member of each Hospital and Health Board to be a clinician who is currently employed or engaged by the relevant Hospital and Health Service.

The Bill also made amendments to the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998* to allow the chief executive of Queensland Health to promptly forfeit vaping goods upon seizure and empower the Courts to order persons convicted of an offence under the Act to pay the state reasonable costs incurred as a result of the offence.

The committee held a public briefing with the Department of Health on 31 March 2025. The committee received 12 submissions and held a public hearing on 23 April 2025.

The committee made one recommendation, that the Bill be passed. The Bill passed with amendment on 12 June 2025.

4.3. Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 made amendments the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to permit

⁹ Hansard, *Record of Proceedings – Legislative Assembly, 2 April 2025* (Hon. Tim Nicholls MP, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) 768-769.

¹⁰ Hansard, *Record of Proceedings – Legislative Assembly, 2 April 2025* (Hon. Tim Nicholls MP, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) 769-770.

the use of electronic systems to automatically issue authorities for low-risk activities. The Bill also contained amendments to provide certainty that the authorities issued under the Acts are valid, including those issued under previous electronic systems. The Bill contained amendments to ensure that all persons have the same rights and interests to challenge decisions made under the Acts, and to ensure compliance and enforcement for authorities issued prior to amendments made in 2024.

The committee held a public briefing with the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation on 2 April 2025. It received 3 submissions. The committee did not hold a public hearing into the Bill.

The committee tabled its report on 2 May 2025. The Bill was passed without amendment by the Parliament on 28 August 2025.

5. Other activities

The committee undertook activities during the reporting period in relation to its public accounts, public works and other responsibilities function.

5.1. Public Accounts Inquiries

The committee is responsible for assessing the public accounts of entities within its portfolio areas with regard to the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of financial management.

This responsibility includes examination of government financial documents including annual reports, and reports of the Auditor-General relevant to the committee's portfolio.¹¹

5.1.1. Examination of Portfolio Entity Annual Reports

During the period covered by this report, the committee held 2 public briefings into the 2023-24 Annual Reports of portfolio entities.

- On 19 February 2025, the committee held a public briefing into the Annual Report, and general portfolio area briefing, of the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation; and
- On 31 March 2025, the committee held a public briefing into the Annual Report, and general portfolio area briefing, of the Department of Health.

The transcripts of these hearings are available on the committee's webpage.

5.1.2. Auditor General Reports

The committee's role includes consideration of reports of the Auditor-General that fall within its portfolio.

The Auditor-General leads the Queensland Audit Office (QAO), which is the independent auditor of the public sector. It reports to parliament on the results of its audit work, providing insights and advice, and recommendations for improvement.

¹¹ PQA s 94(1).

In the reporting period, the committee considered 3 reports from the Auditor-General, detailed in Table 3 below. During its consideration of these reports, it held a public briefing with officials from the QAO,¹² conducted public briefings with relevant government departments and conducted multiple site visits related to specific reports (noted below). The transcripts of these briefings are available from the committee's webpage. Consideration of Report 2 and Report 8 is finalised in this report. Consideration of Report 12 is ongoing.

Table 3. Auditor-General's Reports examined

Auditor-General Report	Consideration completed/ongoing	Committee report no.	Committee recommendations
Report 2: 2024-25 – <i>Delivering forensic medical examination (follow-up audit)</i>	completed	this report	0
Report 8: 2024-25 – <i>Health 2024</i>	completed	this report	0
Report 12: 2022-23 – <i>Growing Ecotourism in Queensland</i>	ongoing	-	-

i. Report 2: 2024-25 – Delivering forensic medical examinations (follow-up audit)

On 12 December 2024, the Legislative Assembly referred *Report 2: 2024-25 – Delivering forensic medical examinations (follow-up audit)* (Report 2) to the committee for consideration.

Report 2 reflects the findings and recommendations of the QAO's follow-up performance audit which examined whether Queensland Health had effectively planned and progressed implementing recommendations and directions to improve the delivery of forensic medical examinations, including:

- recommendation 4 from *Report 21: 2018-19 – Delivering forensic services* (Report 21) for Queensland Health to continue to develop and deliver reforms to forensic medical examinations to improve services to victims
- recommendations 32 to 37 from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, *Hear Her Voice – Report two*, relating to the availability and delivery of forensic services to victims and data collection and reporting; and
- Ministerial Direction – *Crisis Care Process* issued on 17 November 2023.

In Report 2, the QAO observed that Queensland Health has continued to improve the services that it delivers to victims of sexual assault since Report 21 was delivered in 2018-19. Service delivery agreements with each HHS are in place, and new forensic medical kits and new reporting pathways for victims have been rolled out. More than 400 doctors and nurses have been trained to provide forensic services. Queensland Health is recruiting additional forensic medical examiners. Queensland Health committed to

¹² Public Briefing with the Queensland Auditor General (28 January 2025).

delivering additional training in rural, regional and remote areas to continue to grow its forensic examiner workforce.

It was noted in Report 2 that Queensland Health acknowledges there are still gaps in how it provides clinical care and forensic medical examinations to victims but is implementing a new framework for sexual assault care and performance reporting. This is due to commence by December 2025.

While Queensland Health has implemented most components of recommendation 4 from Report 21, in Report 2 the QAO noted a need for expanded availability of paediatric services for child victims. Additional funding was provided in the 2024-25 state budget to enhance paediatric services. Recommendation 4 is now reported as fully implemented.¹³

Report 2 also noted Queensland Health is implementing a new reporting framework to improve consistency in information HHSs capture and monitor compliance with the *Crisis Care Process* direction. QAO noted there is anecdotal evidence that the directive has improved the initial care received by victims.

The QAO reported that Queensland Health has fully delivered 4 of the 6 Taskforce recommendations and is continuing to implement the remaining 2 recommendations.

Report 2 made 3 recommendations, detailed in the table below.

No	Report 2: 2024-25 Recommendations
1	We recommend Queensland Health implements its performance reporting framework to ensure victims of sexual assault are provided with timely and professional clinical care (Chapter 2) in accordance with the Ministerial Direction – Crisis Care Process. This should include: • developing and implementing reporting tools that allow each HHS to consistently record the time a victim commences a clinical care pathway, and any reasons for delay; and • regularly assessing whether HHSs are complying with the direction and delivering timely clinical care.
2	We recommend Queensland Health ensures suitably trained forensic medical examiners are available across the state to provide timely forensic medical examinations to victims of sexual assault (Chapter 3). This should include: • monitoring the overall demand for forensic medical examinations across the state and implementing effective strategies to address any gaps in service • ensuring there is appropriate numbers and distribution of qualified forensic medical examiners to meet local needs, including those who specialise in delivering paediatric services to child victims of sexual assault; and • continuing to deliver training to doctors and nurses – including in regional, rural, and remote areas – in how to deliver forensic medical examinations, prepare court reports, and present evidence in court

¹³ QAO Dashboard.

3	We recommend Queensland Health improves its monitoring and reporting of the performance of HHSs in delivering forensic medical examinations to victims of sexual assault (Chapter 3). This should include: • developing and implementing reporting tools that allow each HHS to consistently record the time a hospital performs a forensic medical examination (as distinct from commencing a clinical care pathway), and the reasons for any delays • regularly assessing whether HHSs deliver timely and effective forensic medical examinations; and • ensuring forensic medical examiners are given feedback about the quality of the samples they take during an examination.
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At the public briefing with Queensland Health on 31 March 2025, the Director-General advised that a cross-departmental steering committee was examining the collection of information relating to forensic services across the state, given that Forensic Science Queensland is now within the portfolio of the Department of Justice.¹⁴

The committee is satisfied with the progress being made by Queensland Health to implement the Auditor-General's recommendations. This concludes the committee's consideration of the report.

ii. Report 8: 2024-25 – Health 2024

On 22 January 2025, the committee self-referred *Report 8: 2024-25 – Health 2024* (Health 24) for consideration. Health 24 summarises the outcome of financial audits across all Queensland Health entities, including:

- the Department of Health
- 16 Hospital and Health Services
- 13 Hospital Foundations; and
- 4 Statutory Bodies, including the Office of the Health Ombudsman.

The QAO issued unmodified audit opinions for all health sector entities in Queensland, which means their financial statements can be relied upon.¹⁵ All entities reported their results within legislative deadlines.¹⁶

Health 24 noted that Queensland Health accounts for approximately 30 percent of the State's departmental expenditure, which has a direct impact on the State's financial position.¹⁷ The financial audit found that entities are facing challenges in managing the cost of services, and that HHS expenditure was 9.8 per cent higher than budgeted.¹⁸

Health 24 also noted the demand on Queensland Health to deliver services across the State, and that HHS performance indicators have indicated a decline in service delivery for emergency departments and ambulance services. The audit compared Queensland's

¹⁴ *Public Briefing with Queensland Health* (31 March 2025) p 7.

¹⁵ Health 24, p 5.

¹⁶ Health 24, p 6.

¹⁷ Health 24, p 1.

¹⁸ Health 24, p 1.

performance at a national level and found that Queensland ranks 7th out of 8 states and territories for preventable hospitalisations.¹⁹

In Health 24, the QAO noted:

Health entities need to effectively manage their assets so they can deliver high quality and efficient health care services. They need to plan for future requirements (by considering factors such as service demand, ageing population, and population growth); manage existing assets; and invest in new assets.

To achieve outcomes that balance value for money with optimal health results, health entities and the Health Infrastructure Queensland (a division of the Department of Health), need to closely integrate how they manage and maintain their existing assets and construct new ones.²⁰

The QAO noted concerns about inconsistent approaches to determining maintenance needs of Queensland Health assets and the use of inconsistent terminology about deferred maintenance.²¹ Health 24 made 2 recommendations in response to these concerns, outlined in the table below, which relate to improving asset management. The QAO also recommended health entities continue to work on addressing previous recommendations relating to asset maintenance needs.²²

No	Report 8: 2024-25 Recommendations
1	The Department of Health should update its 'Asset Management Key Terms Paper' to clearly define key asset maintenance terms.
2	The Department of Health and HHSs report the values against each of these terms in their annual reports: • deferred maintenance • postponed capital maintenance; and • forecast life cycle replacement, renewals, and refurbishments (if applicable).

In Health 24, the QAO identified 13 control deficiencies in relation to information systems, an increase from 7 deficiencies the previous year. These deficiencies related to information security, asset management, rostering and overtime, and procurement.²³ These deficiencies were identified by QAO in previous years and were subject to recommendations in prior reports. The QAO recommended that health entities act on these previous recommendations.²⁴ The committee will continue to monitor progress on implementing these outstanding recommendations.

On 31 March 2025, the committee held a public briefing with Queensland Health. At the hearing, the Director-General answered questions with respect to funding and service

¹⁹ Health 24, p 1-2.

²⁰ Health 24, p 21.

²¹ Health 24, pp 25-28.

²² Health 24, p 30.

²³ Health 24, p 2.

²⁴ Health 24, p 8.

delivery, asset maintenance and capital infrastructure programs, and cyber security, all of which formed outstanding recommendations noted in Health 24.²⁵

Throughout the relevant period, the committee undertook various site visits:

- On 17 February 2025, the committee visited the Kedron Emergency Services Complex to review the services available and speak to staff
- On 9 May 2025, the committee visited the Royal Flying Doctors Service base in Cairns; and
- On 19 May 2025, the committee visited the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (Berghofer) and the Herston Biofabrication Institute.

The committee is satisfied with the progress being made by Queensland Health to implement the Auditor-General's recommendations in Health 24 and will monitor ongoing progress when it considers Health 25. This concludes the committee's consideration of the report.

iii. Report 12: 2022-23 – Growing ecotourism in Queensland

On 22 January 2025, the committee self-referred *Report 12: 2022-23 – Growing ecotourism in Queensland* (Report 12) for consideration. Report 12 was originally tabled in the 57th Parliament but was not reported on by previous portfolio committees. Consideration of this report is ongoing as at 30 June 2025.

5.2. Inquiry into Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme

A committee is to deal with an issue referred to it by the Assembly, whether or not the issue is within its portfolio area.²⁶

On 20 February 2025, the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation introduced the terms of reference inquiring into the effectiveness of Queensland's container refund scheme. During the reporting period, the committee held 2 public briefings, 1 public hearing and multiple private hearings, and received 119 submissions. The inquiry was ongoing as at 30 June 2025.

6. Scrutiny of Subordinate Legislation

Subordinate legislation is legislation made by a department or other entity under powers given to them by an act of parliament. All subordinate legislation must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, which can disallow it by resolution.²⁷ To help it decide whether or not to do so, the Legislative Assembly refers each item of subordinate legislation to the relevant portfolio committee for consideration.

When examining subordinate legislation, each committee considers a range of matters, including:

²⁵ *Public Briefing with Queensland Health* (31 March 2025). Cf *Report 8: 2024-25*, p 2-3.

²⁶ PQA s 92(2).

²⁷ *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, s 49, 50.

- whether it has sufficient regard for basic standards for legislation, known as ‘fundamental legislative principles’
- whether it is consistent with the human rights of people in Queensland; and
- whether the explanatory notes provide an adequate explanation of why the subordinate legislation is needed and what it does.

During the reporting period, the committee examined 16 pieces of subordinate legislation. As shown in Table 4, in the majority of cases, the committee did not identify any matters of concern regarding fundamental legislative principles or human rights.

Where it did, in each case the committee was satisfied that the subordinate legislation had sufficient regard for fundamental legislative principles, and any limitations of human rights were reasonable and justified in the circumstances.

Table 4. Portfolio Subordinate Legislation examined

Report No.	Subordinate legislation		Matters identified		Explanatory notes adequate
			Fundamental legislative principles	Human rights	
2	186	Environmental Protection (Air) Amendment Policy 2024	-	-	✓
	193	Proclamation – <i>Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024</i>	-	-	✓
	194	Pharmacy Business Ownership (Postponement) Regulation 2024	-	-	✓
	196	Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024	1	6	✓
	197	Forestry Regulation 2024	1	-	✓
	198	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024	1	2	✓
	199	Recreation Areas Management Regulation 2024	1	1	✓
3	221	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Omission of Lawn Hill Resources Reserves) Amendment Regulation 2024	-	-	✓
	222	Forestry and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024	-	-	✓
	230	Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2024	1	-	✓
	233	Proclamation – <i>Environment Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023</i>	-	-	✓
	234	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Eastern Kuku Yalanji Area) Amendment Regulation 2024	-	-	✓
6	7	Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025	-	-	✓
	8	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025	-	2	✓
	13	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation 2025	-	2	✓
7	16	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2025	-	-	✓

7. Consideration of Authorised Forms

The committee's responsibilities include monitoring the operation of section 48 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954* in relation to legislation within its portfolio area. That section sets out a number of requirements for forms, including how forms must be notified and made available to the public.²⁸

During the reporting period, there were no forms falling within the committee's portfolio areas of responsibility and notified in the *Queensland Government Gazette*.

8. Statutory Oversight

Standing Order 194A, read with Schedule 6 of the Standing Orders, sets out the committee's oversight functions and responsibilities in respect of the Health Ombudsman.

In addition, the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013* provides that the committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the operation of the health service complaints management system in Queensland, including performance of the Health Ombudsman, the National Agency and National Boards under the system.²⁹

8.1. Oversight of the Health Ombudsman

The health service complaints management system in Queensland includes:

- the Health Ombudsman; and
- the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra, the National Agency) and 16 health practitioner registration boards (National Boards) – regarding the conduct, performance and health of registered health practitioners who provide health services in Queensland.

In accordance with section 179 of the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*, the committee's functions are to:

- monitor and review the operation of the health service complaints management system
- identify and report on particular ways in which the health service complaints management system might be improved
- monitor and review the performance by the Health Ombudsman of the Health Ombudsman's functions
- monitor and review the National Boards' and National Agency's performance of their functions relating to the health, conduct and performance of registered health practitioners who provide health services in Queensland

²⁸ PQA, s 93(2(a)).

²⁹ *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*, s 19.

- examine reports of the Health Ombudsman, the National Agency and National Boards
- advise the Minister in relation to the appointment of the Health Ombudsman; and
- report to the Legislative Assembly on matters referred by the Legislative Assembly, and any matter the committee considers should be brought to the Assembly's attention.

The committee does not:

- have the power to re-investigate complaints or reconsider a decision of the Health Ombudsman, Ahpra or the National Boards
- act as an appeal body in respect of decisions made by the Health Ombudsman, Ahpra or the National Boards; or
- intervene in ongoing proceedings or investigations of any of the relevant bodies.

8.1.1. Activity

The committee considered the 2023-24 Annual Report of the Office of the Health Ombudsman. On 28 January 2025, a public oversight hearing was held with the Health Ombudsman, Dr Lynne Coulson Barr OAM, staff from the Office of the Health Ombudsman, and representatives from Ahpra.

Between November 2024 to June 2025, the committee received and examined:

- investigation reports and other periodic reports and correspondence from the Health Ombudsman in compliance with requirements under the Act; and
- notifications from the Health Ombudsman about investigations that had exceeded 2 years.

The committee's oversight is ongoing, with briefings scheduled at least twice per year.

9. Committee Expenditure

Committees are funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly and rarely generate revenue. After funding is allocated for the committee office as a whole, expenditure by individual committees is determined by their specific requirements and volume of work. Travel expenditure is subject to an additional approval process.

In the reporting period, the committee's total expenditure was \$338,177. The committee did not receive any revenue.

Table 6 provides a detailed breakdown of the committee's expenditure during the relevant period. As that table illustrates, employee expenses for the secretariat staff that support the committee comprised the majority (just over 91 per cent) of the committee's expenditure. The committee's secretariat is a three-person team, supplemented with additional resources from across the Committee Office as needed throughout the year.

After employee expenses, committee travel was the most notable area of expenditure for the committee. The committee travelled to Cairns for its Inquiry into the *Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025* and completed site visits throughout that week for inquiries into *Report 12: 2022-23 Growing ecotourism in Queensland* and visited the Royal Flying Doctors Service. Technology expenses, which enable the committee and secretariat to complete its work, were the third largest area of expenditure.

Item	\$
Employee expenses	\$308,346
Meeting expenses (broadcast support & catering)	\$1,192
Technology (software licences, telephones, teleconferencing & videoconferencing)	\$4,114
Printing and supplies	\$1,156
Committee travel (including business travel)	\$23,368
Total expenditure	\$338,177

Table 5. Detailed Committee Expenditure

Appendix A – Attendance record

This appendix shows the attendance of committee members at private committee meetings (PrM), public briefings (PB), private briefings (PrB) and private hearings (PrH) and public hearings (PH) during the reporting period.

Standing Order 202(1) provides that in the case of a committee members' illness or inability to attend, another member may be appointed to attend that meeting or stand in for a particular inquiry. The details of these appointments are included in the footnotes.

Meeting Date	Activity	Rob Molhoek MP	Joe Kelly MP	Sandy Bolton MP	David Lee MP	Kerri-Anne Dooley MP	Barbara O'Shea MP
11 December 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16 December 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x ³⁰
13 January 2025	PrM	✓	x ³¹	✓	✓	✓	✓
22 January 2025	PrM	✓	x ³²	✓	✓	✓	✓
28 January 2025	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28 January 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28 January 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28 January 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
28 January 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
28 January 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
5 February 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19 February 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19 February 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19 February 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26 February 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

³⁰ Ms Jess Pugh MP, Member for Mount Ommaney substituted for Dr Barbra O'Shea MP, Member for South Brisbane.

³¹ Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Bancroft substituted for MR Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes.

³² Mr Shane King MP, Member for Kurwongbah substituted for Mr Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes.

Meeting Date	Activity	Rob Molhoek MP	Joe Kelly MP	Sandy Bolton MP	David Lee MP	Kerri-Anne Dooley MP	Barbara O'Shea MP
13 March 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	x ³³	✓	✓
17 March 2025	PrM	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
31 March 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31 March 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31 March 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x ³⁴
31 March 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 April 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 April 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 April 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 April 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9 April 2025	PrM	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
17 April 2025	PrM	✓	✓	x	✓	x ³⁵	✓
23 April 2025	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x
30 April 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30 April 2025	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7 May 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
8 May 2025	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
8 May 2025	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
8 May 2025	PrH	✓	✓	✓	x ³⁶	✓	x
8 May 2025	PrH	✓	✓	✓	x ³⁷	✓	x

³³ Mr Sean Dillon MP, Member for Gregory substituted for Mr David Lee MP, Member for Hervey Bay.

³⁴ Hon Mark Bailey MP, Member for Miller substituted for Dr Barbara O'Shea MP, Member for South Brisbane.

³⁵ Mr Bryson Head MP, Member for Callide substituted for Ms Kerri-Anne Dooley MP, Member for Redcliffe.

³⁶ Mr David Lee MP, Member for Hervey Bay, was absent due to a declared conflict of interest.

³⁷ Mr David Lee MP, Member for Hervey Bay, was absent due to a declared conflict of interest.

Meeting Date	Activity	Rob Molhoek MP	Joe Kelly MP	Sandy Bolton MP	David Lee MP	Kerri-Anne Dooley MP	Barbara O'Shea MP
20 May 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21 May 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21 May 2025	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21 May 2025	PrH	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
21 May 2025	PrH	✓	✗ ³⁸	✓	✓	✓	✓
21 May 2025	PrH	✓	✗ ³⁹	✓	✓	✓	✓
21 May 2025	PrH	✓	✗ ⁴⁰	✓	✓	✓	✓
26 May 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4 June 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁴¹	✓
11 June 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁴²	✓	✓
11 June 2025	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁴³	✓	✓
11 June 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁴⁴	✓	✓
13 June 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13 June 2025	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13 June 2025	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13 June 2025	PrH	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
13 June 2025	PrH	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
13 June 2025	PrH	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓

³⁸ Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Bancroft substituted for Mr Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes.

³⁹ Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Bancroft substituted for Mr Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes.

⁴⁰ Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Bancroft substituted for Mr Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes.

⁴¹ Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Scenic Rim substituted for Ms Kerri-Anne Dooley MP, Member for Redcliffe.

⁴² Mr John Barounis MP, Member for Maryborough substituted for Mr David Lee MP, Member for Hervey Bay.

⁴³ Mr John Barounis MP, Member for Maryborough substituted for Mr David Lee MP, Member for Hervey Bay.

⁴⁴ Mr John Barounis MP, Member for Maryborough substituted for Mr David Lee MP, Member for Hervey Bay.

Meeting Date	Activity	Rob Molhoek MP	Joe Kelly MP	Sandy Bolton MP	David Lee MP	Kerri-Anne Dooley MP	Barbara O'Shea MP
23 June 2025	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	x ⁴⁵	✓

Legend: PrM private meeting
PrB private briefing
PrH private hearing

PB public briefing
PH public hearing

⁴⁵ Mr John Barounis MP, Member for Maryborough substituted for Ms Kerri-Anne Dooley MP, Member for Redcliffe.