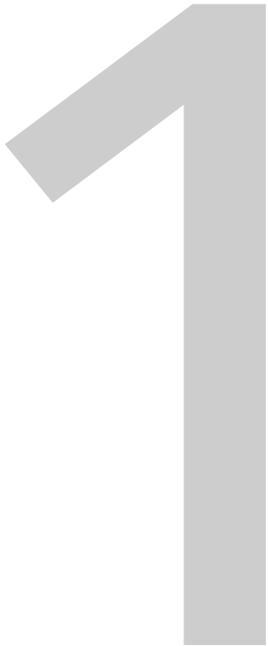


# Performance Reports



**To support the Legislative Assembly (and its committees and Members) in fulfilling its functions within the institution of Parliament to:**

- **make law (and supervise delegated law making)**
- **approve and scrutinise the State's finances**
- **scrutinise the actions of executive government (and oversight independent bodies), and**
- **provide a forum for debate and grievance.**

To achieve this objective, Parliamentary Service resources have been allocated to provide Members with a range of procedural, research, advisory and information services. These resources are primarily delivered through the:

- Office of the Speaker
- Office of the Clerk
- Office of the Deputy Clerk, and
- Assembly and Committee Services Division.

In 2019-20 the Assembly and Committee Services Division comprised the following three Service Areas:

- Chamber, Education and Communications Services
- Committee Office (including Office of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner), and
- Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service (Hansard).

The key performance indicators for Objective 1 relate to the extent to which the quantity, quality, timeliness and cost of specified services provided by each of the service areas meet the agreed standards and targets. The methods of measurement include client survey, benchmarking, internal assessment through information management systems and external assessment through audit reports.

Key performance indicators for Objective 1 are set out in the table on page 19.

## Objective 1 is supported by the following offices and Service Areas:

### Office of the Speaker

The Office of the Speaker provides executive, administrative and protocol support to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in relation to the Speaker's various roles.

### Office of the Clerk

The Office of the Clerk provides timely and accurate support to the Clerk of the Parliament to discharge his responsibilities as the Principal Officer of the Legislative Assembly, Chief Executive Officer of the Parliamentary Service, and Accountable Officer for the Parliamentary Service and the Legislative Assembly. The office also takes carriage of petitions and the Members' Register of Interests.

### Office of the Deputy Clerk

The Office of the Deputy Clerk provides timely and accurate support to the Deputy Clerk to discharge his responsibilities as head of the Assembly and Committee Services Division.

## Assembly and Committee Services Division

### Chamber, Education and Communication Services

This area comprises two offices – the Table Office and Parliamentary Education and Marketing and Communications.

#### Table Office

The Table Office provides impartial advice, parliamentary information and administrative support services to assist the effective operations of the Legislative Assembly.

The Table Office is responsible for:

- maintaining accurate information on all business before the Assembly
- processing of legislation through the Assembly (introduction, amendment and presentation for royal assent)
- monitoring bills, questions, motions and petitions to ensure compliance with the rules of the Assembly
- liaising with Members, ministerial offices and public sector entities on the tabling of documents
- providing safe custody and maintenance of and access to parliamentary records, and
- conducting research and providing advice on parliamentary procedural matters.

#### Committee Office

The Legislative Assembly establishes parliamentary committees to assist it to fulfil its functions. Committees consider legislation, inquire into specific issues, oversee specified statutory bodies, and report back to the Parliament. Committees provide a forum for investigation into matters of public importance and give Members the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of such issues. Committee inquiries enhance the democratic process by taking the work of the Parliament to the people and offering a direct, transparent way to input into its decisions.

A report on the operation of committees during 2019-20 is contained on page 17.

Staff in the Committee Office are responsible for:

- providing advice and support to each committee in the conduct of its inquiries, and fulfilment of its functions
- maintaining each committee's record system
- planning and organisation for the collection, analysis and reporting of information and evidence, and
- activities aimed at increasing the awareness of the role of the Parliament and the committee system.

## Office of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner

Under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*, the primary role of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner is to assist the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee (PCCC) in enhancing the accountability of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) by undertaking a range of important functions on behalf of, and reporting back to, the PCCC.

The functions of the Parliamentary Commissioner, as required by the PCCC, include:

- conducting audits of the records, operational files and other material held by the CCC
- investigating complaints made against the CCC (including allegations of possible unauthorised disclosure of confidential information)
- inspecting the register of confidential information kept by the CCC, and
- previewing reports by the CCC to the PCCC.

In certain circumstances, the Parliamentary Commissioner can also investigate on their own initiative complaints about the CCC or a CCC officer, and similar matters.

The Parliamentary Commissioner has further mandatory responsibilities under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* and the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* including the conduct of an annual review of intelligence data in the possession of the CCC and the Queensland Police Service and regular audits and inspections of the records of the CCC to determine the extent of compliance with legislative requirements relating to surveillance device warrants, controlled operations and assumed identities.

With the CCC declared an eligible agency under Commonwealth telecommunications legislation, the Parliamentary Commissioner is the inspection entity under the *Telecommunications Interception Act 2009*. This involves six-monthly inspections of the CCC's telecommunications interception records and provision of an annual report to the Queensland Attorney-General.

## Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service (Hansard)

The primary role of the Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service is to produce an accurate, timely and accessible record of the proceedings of the Parliament and Parliamentary Committees and the internet broadcast of proceedings of Parliament and its committees. Other services provided include:

- production of an index to the debates of the Parliament
- production of Members' speeches, and
- transcription and editorial services to other Parliamentary Service areas.

## Report on parliamentary committee activities for 2019-20

In January 2020, portfolio committees commenced a new responsibility of reporting to the Parliament on the compliance of legislation with the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

During 2019-20, portfolio committees undertook 41 formal inquiries, which comprised:

- 34 inquiries into bills that were introduced in the Parliament and then referred to committees for examination
- four inquiries on matters of community importance referred by the Parliament
- one inquiry as part of fulfilling statutory oversight, public accounts and public works responsibilities, and
- two inquiries initiated by a committee under self-referral powers.

A total of 362 portfolio committee hearings, briefings and meetings were held during the year. These comprised 143 hearings and briefings (mostly held in public) and 219 private meetings.

Committee inquiries are a key avenue for public consultation and engagement with the Parliament, and are a primary way for the Parliament to scrutinise government activity. Committees received and considered 1,142 submissions, and heard evidence from 1,306 persons. These 1,306 persons comprised 443 representatives of organisations, 300 individuals and 563 public servants.

In 2019-20, the government responded to 12 committee bill inquiry reports, all within the legislated timeframe. There were a total of 39 recommendations contained in those reports (other than the bill be passed or not passed). The public consultation as outlined above greatly contributed to the formulation of these recommendations.

One indicator of the influence of portfolio committees is the number of recommendations contained in inquiry reports that were agreed to by the government. The 39 recommendations comprised six proposing legislative amendments, and 33 other recommendations.

Of all bill inquiries for which government responses were received in 2019-20:

- of the six proposed legislative amendments, five were accepted by the government (83%), and
- of the 33 other recommendations, 32 were accepted by the government (97%).

Committees tabled a total of 127 publications, mostly reports, in the Parliament during 2019-20.

The review of budget estimates for the 2019-20 appropriations was conducted by the seven portfolio committees during the financial year. Each portfolio committee is responsible for examining the proposed expenditures of the Government departments for their respective areas of responsibility, and advising the Parliament accordingly. Seven estimates hearings were held from 23 July to 1 August 2019 with each of the committees reporting back to Parliament in August 2019.

Other work of committees included a large-scale inquiry into Aged Care, End of Life and Palliative Care and Voluntary Assisted Dying. As well as receiving nearly 5,000 written submissions, 34 public and private hearings and briefings were held around Queensland, hearing evidence from 502 witnesses; and a cross section of aged and palliative care facilities were visited during the inquiry. The inquiry reports were tabled in March 2020.

An inquiry was also conducted into the closure of the Earle Haven residential aged care facility. Committees commenced two large inquiries into the government's economic, and health, responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. These ensure ongoing parliamentary scrutiny of what have been significant areas of government activity during 2019-20.

The volume of committee work completed and the outcomes achieved during 2019-20 continues to demonstrate that parliamentary committees are supporting parliamentary scrutiny of government activity, and contributing to an open, consultative and modern parliamentary system.

## Public consultation by parliamentary committees

Parliamentary committees use a number of strategies to promote Queensland's committee inquiry process and raise awareness of how Queenslanders can be involved in influencing legislative decision making. Strategies include:

- publishing details of all inquiries on the Parliament's website
- issuing media releases
- utilising the Parliament's social media channels
- chairs giving media interviews
- identifying persons and groups who may be interested in each particular inquiry and directly contacting those persons with information about the inquiry and how they can participate
- sending information about committee activities to committee subscriber email alert lists, including when submissions are invited and public proceedings held
- advertising in local community newspapers in a particular regional area where an inquiry may have a focus, and
- placing advertisements and articles in trade journals and publications relevant to a committee inquiry topic.

Committee hearings held at Parliament House are generally broadcast live on 'ParliamentTV' via the Parliament's website, and can be accessed on demand following the hearing. The live broadcast allows people across Queensland with an interest in particular inquiries to follow hearings and events as they occur. Transcripts of public proceedings are also published. Where an inquiry topic is of particular relevance to Queensland First Nations people or communities, the Parliament's Indigenous Liaison Officer may assist in raising awareness of inquiries, supporting consultation activities, and providing assistance to those who may wish to participate.

Implementation of new videoconferencing capacity in February 2020 was timely. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has seen an increased use of videoconferencing for committee proceedings. The new capacity has ensured committees continue to meet, and hear from people all around the state, the country, and internationally, fulfilling their functions while maintaining social distancing.

## Major initiatives

Key projects	Overview	Status
<i>Human Rights Act 2019</i>	Implementation of support for committees to undertake their new responsibilities.	Complete
Online submission platform	Trialling of online platform undertaken over 2019-20 for two large inquiries.	Evaluation completed, broader implementation in 2020-21
Improve video conferencing capacity	Implement secure, broadcast-integrated video conferencing.	Complete
Provided support to the 50th Annual Presiding Officers and Clerks' Conference	The 50th Presiding Officers and Clerks' Conference was held in July 2019.	Complete
Delivery of the Regional Parliament	A regional parliament was conducted in Townsville in September 2019.	Complete

## Key Performance Indicators

Measures	2019–20 Target	2019–20 Actual
Number of Parliamentary Committee publications tabled	60	127
Number of Questions on Notice processed	1,500	1,544
Number of Tabled Papers and Reports registered/archived	2,200	2,172
Internet publication of the first two hours of proceedings (Hansard) each sitting day	2.30pm each sitting day	99%

## Looking ahead

### Initiatives in 2020–21 include:

- Deliver the induction program for the new Members of the 57th Parliament
- Facilitate the opening of the 57th Parliament
- Develop and implement improved processes for making and managing submissions to committee inquiries, and
- Planning for an upgrade of the Tabled Papers database.