Report No. 30, 55th Parliament
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
November 2016
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Chair
Ms Leanne Linard MP, Member for Nudgee

Deputy Chair¹
Mr Mark McArdle MP, Member for Caloundra (from 10 May 2016)

Members
Mr Sid Cramp MP, Member for Gaven (from 10 May 2016)
Mr Aaron Harper MP, Member for Thuringowa
Mr David Janetzki MP, Member for Toowoomba South (from 22 August 2016)
Mr Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes

Former Members
Ms Ros Bates MP, Member for Mudgeeraba (until 10 May 2016)
Mr Steve Dickson MP, Member for Buderim (until 10 May 2016)
Dr Christian Rowan MP, Member for Moggill (until 10 May 2016)
Mrs Tarnya Smith MP, Member for Mount Ommaney (10 May 2016 to 22 August 2016)

Staff
Mr Karl Holden, Research Director (from 9 August 2016)
Ms Deborah Jeffrey, Research Director (18 January 2016 to 9 August 2016)
Ms Amanda Honeyman, Research Director (16 November 2015 to 15 January 2016)
Ms Kath Dalladay, Acting Research Director (2 November 2015 to 13 November 2015)
Mr Brook Hastie, Research Director (27 March 2015 to 30 October 2015)
Mr James Gilchrist, Principal Research Officer (from 15 February 2016)
Ms Emily Booth, Principal Research Officer (until 29 July 2016)
Ms Kath Dalladay, Principal Research Officer (until 8 January 2016)
Ms Julie Fidler, Committee Support Officer (from 18 January 2016)
Ms Mishelle Young, Committee Support Officer (from 21 October 2016)
Ms Lynette Whelan, Executive Assistant (18 January 2016 to 4 August 2016)
Ms Katie Shalders, Executive Assistant (10 December 2016 to 15 January 2016)
Ms Clare Keyes, Executive Assistant (until 7 December 2015)

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¹ Mr McArdle MP was appointed Deputy Chair on 11 May 2016. Dr Rowan MP was Deputy Chair from 24 February 2016 to 10 May 2016. Ms Bates MP was Deputy Chair from 1 April 2015 to 24 February 2016.
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Chair’s foreword

This report relates to the activities of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee (formerly known as the Health and Ambulance Services Committee of the 55th Parliament) during the 2015-16 financial year.

During the financial year, the committee has tabled a total of 19 reports – 12 examining Bills, four examining subordinate legislation, two examining policy referrals and an annual report.

The committee worked in a bipartisan manner, to try to achieve consensus agreement, wherever possible, during consideration of the inquiries.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank those individuals and organisations that took the time to make submissions and met with, and provided information to, the committee during the course of its inquiries throughout the financial year.

Finally, I would like to thank both the current and former Members of the committee for their hard work and dedication.

I commend this report to the House.

Leanne Linard MP
Chair
1 Introduction

1.1 The committee

The Health and Ambulance Services Committee (HASC) was established on 27 March 2015 as a portfolio committee of the Queensland Legislative Assembly (Legislative Assembly) under the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 (POQA) and the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly (Standing Orders). The HASC’s areas of responsibility were health and ambulance services.

On 16 February 2016, the Legislative Assembly amended the Standing Orders to:

- rename the HASC as the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee (the committee), and expand the committee’s areas of responsibility,
- dissolve the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee (the former committee).

The committee’s areas of portfolio responsibility are:

- health and ambulance services
- communities, women, youth and child safety
- domestic and family violence prevention, and
- disability services and seniors.

1.2 Role of the committee

In relation to its portfolio area, the committee’s main responsibilities are to:

- consider Appropriation Bills
- consider other legislation and proposed legislation
- perform its role in relation to public accounts and public works, and
- deal with an issue referred to the committee by the Legislative Assembly, or under another Act.

In addition, the committee has oversight responsibilities for the Health Ombudsman. The committee must also consider reports of the Auditor-General within its portfolio, once they are tabled in the Legislative Assembly and referred by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

2 Annual report

Section 108 of the POQA provides that the committee must table an annual report within four 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, and
- a brief description of responses by Ministers to recommendations of the committee.

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2 Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 (POQA), section 88 and Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly (Standing Orders), Standing Order 194.
3 Standing Orders, Schedule 6.
5 POQA, section 88 and Standing Orders, Standing Order 194 and Schedule 6.
6 POQA, section 92.
7 Standing Orders, Schedule 6.
8 Standing Orders, Standing Order 194B.
This report provides a summary of the activities of the HASC and the committee from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (the reporting period), including those matters referred to the committee on the dissolution of the former committee on 18 February 2016.
3 Inquiries and reports

During the reporting period, the committee tabled 18 reports and at the end of the reporting period had three open inquiries. The committee’s reports and inquiries are summarised below. Copies of the committee’s publications are available on its webpage.

3.1 Examination of Bills

The committee examined a number of Bills, in accordance with its responsibility under section 93(1) of the POQA. In particular, the committee considered:

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

3.1.1 2015-16 Budget Estimates (Report No. 3)

The examination of the Appropriation Bill 2015 was considered by eight portfolio committees. The committee held a public hearing on Wednesday 26 August 2015, and questioned the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon Cameron Dick MP, about the proposed expenditures within the Minister’s portfolio areas.

The committee tabled its report on 11 September 2015. The report contained one recommendation - that the proposed expenditures, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 for the committee’s areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. The Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 15 September 2015.

3.1.2 Health Legislation (Waiting List Integrity) Amendment Bill 2015 (Report No. 4)

On 19 May 2015, the Member for Caloundra, Mr Mark McArdle MP, introduced the Health Legislation (Waiting List Integrity) Amendment Bill as a Private Members’ Bill into the Legislative Assembly. During its inquiry, the committee invited public submissions and held a public hearing on 15 July 2015. The committee received four submissions.

The committee tabled its report on 14 September 2015. The committee was unable to reach agreement on whether to recommend the Bill should be passed, however, the committee did make three recommendations about the Bill. The Legislative Assembly debated the Bill on 16 March 2016. The motion that the Bill be read a second time was resolved in the negative.

3.1.3 Public Health (Childcare Vaccination) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 (Report No. 5)

On 15 July 2015, the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services introduced the Public Health (Childcare Vaccination) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly.

The committee’s examination of the Bill included seeking written advice from the Department of Health, inviting public submissions and holding a public hearing on 10 September 2015. The committee received 45 submissions.

The committee tabled its report on 2 October 2015. The committee recommended that the Bill be passed. The committee tabled an Erratum to the report on 16 October 2016. The Bill was passed, with amendments, on 29 October 2015.
3.1.4 Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015 (Report No. 6)

On 14 July 2015, the Member for Caloundra, Mr Mark McArdle MP, introduced the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015 as a Private Members’ Bill into the Legislative Assembly.

During its examination of the Bill, the committee invited public submissions and received a public briefing from the Member for Caloundra and the Department of Health and held a public hearing on 16 September 2015. The committee received 16 submissions.

The committee tabled its report on 16 October 2015. In addition to recommending that the Bill be passed, the committee made four recommendations. On 23 February 2016, the Legislative Assembly agreed to treat the Bill as cognate with the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015 – see section 3.1.6 of this report.

3.1.5 Mental Health Bill 2015 and Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill 2015 (Report No. 9)

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. On the same day, the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, informed the Legislative Assembly of the Government’s intentions in relation to mental health reform.

The Minister wrote to the committee on 6 May 2015 to advise that he expected to introduce a Bill in relation to mental health policy in the September parliamentary sitting, and to request that the committee defer taking submissions and conducting hearings on the Private Members’ Bill until after this time.

On 17 September 2015, the Minister introduced the Mental Health Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly. The Bill was referred to the committee for consideration. The committee was required to report on both Bills by 24 November 2015.

The committee’s consideration of the Bills included an invitation for public submissions, public briefings with officers from the Department of Health, the Member for Caloundra and prominent clinicians on 14 October 2015, 9 November 2015 and 23 November 2015 and a public hearing on 28 October 2015. The committee also received written advice on the Bills and 77 submissions.

The committee tabled its report on 24 November 2015. The committee was unable to make a recommendation on whether either Bill should be passed. The committee made 15 recommendations - 12 recommendations were addressed to the Government and three recommendations were addressed to the Member for Caloundra. Three of the recommendations addressed to the Government sought clarification and nine recommended amendments to the Bills. The committee tabled an Erratum to the report on 30 November 2015.

The Government response to the recommendations was tabled on 18 February 2016. The Government response supported the nine recommendations proposing amendments to the Bills. The Bills were debated in the Legislative Assembly on 18 February 2016. The Speaker made the following ruling:

Whilst the bills differ with respect to some matters, I am satisfied that the bills deal with the same substance and the same question rule is enlivened. Therefore, it is necessary to consider how the bills should be proceeded with. I foreshadow that the second reading question for the Mental Health Bill (the government bill) will be put first.

At that point I will immediately make a ruling in relation to the application of the same question rule for the Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill.
If the government bill passes its second reading, the Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill would then be discharged from the Notice Paper, as the ruling would not allow any further decisions to be made on that bill.9

The Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill was discharged at the Second Reading stage. The Mental Health Bill was passed, with amendments, on 18 February 2016.

3.1.6 Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015 (Report No. 10)

On 10 November 2015, the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, introduced the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly.

During its inquiry, the committee invited public submissions, held a public departmental briefing on 2 December 2015, and held a public hearing on 15 December 2015. The committee also sought additional written advice from the Department of Health. The committee received 20 submissions.

The committee tabled its report on 15 February 2016. The committee made one recommendation that the Bill be passed.

On 23 February 2016, the Legislative Assembly resolved to treat the Bill as cognate with the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015 — see section 3.1.4. The Speaker made the following ruling:

The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill, introduced on 14 July 2015, seeks to achieve substantially the same objectives as those of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill, which the House has just resolved to read a second time. Therefore, under standing orders 87 and 150, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill cannot proceed and is therefore discharged from the Notice Paper.10

The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015 was passed on 23 February 2016.

3.1.7 Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 (Report No. 11)

On 12 November 2015, the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services introduced the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly. The committee’s examination of the Bill included an invitation for public submissions, a public departmental briefing on 2 December 2015 and a public hearing on 15 December 2015. The committee also received additional written advice from the Department of Health. The committee received nine submissions.

The committee tabled its report on 15 February 2016. The committee was unable to reach agreement on whether to recommend that the Bill be passed.

The committee made two recommendations. The Government response, supporting the committee’s recommendations, was tabled on 25 February 2016. The Bill was passed, with amendments, on 15 March 2016.

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9 Hon Peter Wellington MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2016, p 341.
10 Hon Peter Wellington MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2016, p 460.
3.1.8 Disability Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 (Report No. 13)

The Disability Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly by the Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors, and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, Hon Coralee O’Rourke MP, on 1 December 2015.

The Bill was referred to the former committee for examination. Responsibility for the examination of the Bill was transferred to the committee on dissolution of the former committee on 18 February 2016.

The committee tabled its report on 1 March 2016. The committee made two recommendations in addition to recommending that the Bill be passed. Both recommendations were accepted by the Government. The Bill was passed, with amendments, on 15 March 2016.

3.1.9 Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2016 (Report No. 16)

On 16 February 2016, the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, introduced the Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2016 into the Legislative Assembly. The committee considered the Bill in conjunction with the Director of Child Protection Litigation Bill 2016 – see section 3.1.10 of this report.

During its examination of the Bill, the committee invited public submissions, held a public departmental briefing on 24 February 2016, and held a public hearing on 5 April 2016. The committee also received additional written advice from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. The committee received six submissions.

The committee tabled its report on 28 April 2016. The committee made three recommendations in addition to recommending that the Bill be passed. Two of the recommendations required the Minister to provide additional information to the Legislative Assembly. The committee’s other recommendation recommended that an additional matter be included in the planned review of the Child Protection Act 1999. The recommendations were supported by the Government. The Bill was passed, with amendment, on 11 May 2016.

3.1.10 Director of Child Protection Litigation Bill 2016 (Report No. 17)

On 16 February 2016, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon Yvette D’Ath MP, introduced the Director of Child Protection Litigation Bill 2016 into the Legislative Assembly. The committee considered the Bill in conjunction with the Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2016 – see section 3.1.9 of this report.

The committee’s examination of the Bill included an invitation for public submissions, a public departmental briefing on 24 February 2016 and a public hearing on 5 April 2016. The committee also received additional written advice from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The committee received seven submissions.

The committee tabled its report on 28 April 2016. The committee made nine recommendations in addition to recommending that the Bill be passed. Six recommendations recommended that the Minister provide additional information to the Legislative Assembly. Two recommendations recommended amendments to the Bill. The committee’s other recommendation recommended that guidelines be published by the department. The Government response supported one of the recommendations to amend the Bill, but did not supported the other. The Government response did not support the recommendation for the department to publish guidelines. The Bill was passed, with amendment, on 11 May 2016.
3.1.11 Hospital and Health Boards (Safe Nurse-to-Patient and Midwife-to-Patient Ratios) Amendment Bill 2015 (Report No. 18)

On 1 December 2015, the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, introduced the Hospital and Health Boards (Safe Nurse-to-Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Amendment Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly.

During its examination of the Bill, the committee invited public submissions, held a public departmental briefing on 17 February 2016, held four public hearings, including three in regional Queensland (Townsville, Cairns and Gladstone) in March 2016 and travelled to Perth and Melbourne to meet with relevant stakeholders. The committee also received additional written advice from the Department of Health and stakeholders. The committee received 18 submissions.

The committee tabled its report on 28 April 2016. The report made no recommendations. The committee was unable to agree on whether to recommend that the Bill be passed.

The Bill passed, with amendment, on 12 May 2016.

3.1.12 Child Protection (Mandatory Reporting – Mason’s Law) Amendment Bill 2016 (Report No. 20)

On 17 March 2016, Ms Tracy Davis MP, Member for Aspley, introduced the Child Protection (Mandatory Reporting – Mason’s Law) Amendment Bill 2016, as a Private Members’ Bill, into the Legislative Assembly.

During its examination of the Bill, the committee invited public submissions, received a public briefing from the Member for Aspley and held a public hearing on 11 May 2016. The committee received 12 submissions. The committee also received a written briefing from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

The committee tabled its report on 8 June 2016. The committee made two recommendations including a recommendation that the Bill be passed, subject to an amendment to the proposed commencement date of the Bill.

3.1.13 Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016

On 10 May 2016, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Ambulance Services, introduced the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016 into the Legislative Assembly. This inquiry will be completed in the next reporting period.

3.1.14 Abortion Law Reform (Woman’s Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016 and Inquiry into laws governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland

On 10 May 2016, the Member for Cairns, Mr Rob Pyne MP, introduced the Abortion Law Reform (Woman’s Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016 as a Private Members’ Bill into the Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly resolved, on 26 May 2016, that the committee, concurrent with its consideration of the Bill, consider, report and make recommendations on aspects of the law governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland to the House on options regarding:

- existing practices in Queensland concerning termination of pregnancy by medical practitioners
- existing legal principles that govern termination practices in Queensland
- the need to modernise and clarify the law (without altering current clinical practice), to reflect current community attitudes and expectations
- legislative and regulatory arrangements in other Australian jurisdictions including regulating terminations based on gestational periods, and
• provision of counselling and support services for women.
This inquiry will be completed in the next reporting period.

3.2 Subordinate legislation
During the reporting period, the committee examined a number of pieces of subordinate legislation in accordance with its responsibility under section 93(1) of the POQA. In particular, the committee considered:

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

The committee tabled the following reports during the reporting period:

• Subordinate Legislation tabled between 26 March 2015 and 15 September 2015 (Report No. 8) tabled on 30 October 2015
• Subordinate Legislation tabled between 16 September 2015 and 13 October 2015 (Report No. 12) tabled on 17 February 2016
• Subordinate Legislation tabled between 13 October 2015 and 16 February 2016 (Report No. 14) tabled on 17 March 2016, and
• Subordinate Legislation tabled between 16 February 2016 and 15 March 2016 (Report No. 15) tabled on 20 April 2016.

3.3 Policy referrals
The Parliament referred two policy inquiries to the committee during the reporting period. Details of these inquiries are outlined in this section.

3.3.1 Inquiry into tobacco licensing arrangements in Queensland (Report No. 19)
On 28 October 2015, the Legislative Assembly agreed to the following motion:

That the Health and Ambulance Services Committee inquire into licensing arrangements that affect the sale and use of tobacco in Queensland.

That, in undertaking this inquiry, the committee should consider: what arrangements currently apply in Queensland with respect to licensing the wholesale and retail supply of tobacco products; what licensing arrangements apply in other states and territories for the wholesale and retail supply of tobacco products; and the capacity for licensing arrangements for tobacco wholesalers and retailers to support broader public health objectives.

Further, that the committee report to the Legislative Assembly by 29 April 2016.

During its inquiry, the committee:

• invited public submissions – receiving 11 submissions
• held a public departmental briefing on 2 December 2015
• held a public hearing on 24 February 2016
• sought additional written advice from the Department of Health, and
• met with representatives from the Western Australia Department of Health, Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and QUIT Victoria during its visits to Perth and Melbourne from 29 February to 2 March 2016.
The committee tabled its report on 28 April 2016. It made one recommendation as follows:

*The Committee recommends that the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services consider implementing a positive wholesale and retail tobacco licensing scheme in Queensland, giving weight to appropriate licensing fees and avoiding unnecessary regulatory red tape for small businesses.*

The Government response, tabled on 29 July 2016, supported the committee’s recommendation.

### 3.3.2 Inquiry into the establishment of a Queensland Health Promotion Commission (Report No. 21)

On 16 September 2015, the Legislative Assembly agreed to the following motion:

1. That the Health and Ambulance Services Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 12 May 2016 on:
   a) the potential role, scope and strategic directions of a Queensland Health Promotion Commission,
   b) the effectiveness of collaborative, whole-of-government and systems approaches for improving and sustaining health and wellbeing including:
      i. models used in other jurisdictions (including specific agencies or whole-of-government policy frameworks); and
      ii. population based strategies other than personal interventions delivered by telephone or ICT.

2. That, in undertaking the inquiry, the committee should consider:
   a) approaches to addressing the social determinants of health;
   b) population groups disproportionately affected by chronic disease;
   c) economic and social benefits of strategies to improve health and wellbeing;
   d) emerging approaches and strategies that show significant potential;
   e) ways of partnering across government and with industry and community including collaborative funding, evaluation and research; and
   f) ways of reducing fragmentation in health promotion efforts and increasing shared responsibility across sectors

On 18 February 2016, the Legislative Assembly agreed to a motion that the committee report back on its inquiry into the establishment of a Queensland Health Promotion Commission by 30 June 2016.

The committee’s inquiry included:

- an invitation for public submissions – 43 submissions were received
- a public departmental briefing on 20 April 2016
- a public hearing on 25 May 2016
- the consideration of additional written advice provided by Queensland Health
- meetings with the Western Australian Department of Health; Western Australian Health Promotion Commission (Healthway); Dr Sharyn Burns from Western Australian Centre for Health Promotion, Curtin University; Ms Janine Freeman MLA representing the Western Australian Parliament’s Education and Health Standing Committee; the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services; and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) during its visits to Perth and Melbourne from Monday 29 February to Wednesday 2 March 2016, and
a meeting with representatives from the South Australian Department of Health and Ageing on Wednesday 22 June 2016.

The committee tabled its report on 30 June 2016. The committee made one recommendation as follows:

The Committee recommends that a Queensland Health Promotion Commission be established but could not determine what model.

3.4 Public Accounts and Public Works

Under section 94 of the POQA, portfolio committees have the following responsibilities to the extent they relate to the committee’s portfolio area:

(a) the assessment of the integrity, economy, efficiency and effectiveness of government financial management by—

(i) examining government financial documents; and

(ii) considering the annual and other reports of the auditor-general;

(b) works (public works) undertaken by an entity that is a constructing authority for the works if the committee decides to consider the works;

(c) any major works if the committee decides to consider the works.11

The committee did not undertake any public accounts or public works inquiries during the reporting period.

3.5 Consideration of Auditor-General’s reports

Standing Order 194B provides that the Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall, as soon as practicable after a report of the Auditor-General is tabled in the Legislative Assembly, refer that report to the relevant portfolio committee for consideration.

The Auditor-General tabled three reports during the current Parliament which were referred to the committee:

• Auditor-General’s Report No 5: 2015-16 – Hospital and Health Services: 2014-15 financial statements – tabled 1 December 2015, and

The following reports were tabled in the previous Parliament and were referred to the committee on 5 May 2015:


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The committee agreed to note the following reports and take no further action at this time:


The committee resolved to:

- consider issues requiring further action contained in the Auditor-General’s Report No 15: 2015-16 – Queensland public hospital operating theatre efficiency during the next reporting period, and
- further consider the Auditor-General’s Report No 17: 2014-15 – Managing child safety information during the next reporting period.

### 3.6 Monitoring and oversight role

The committee has oversight responsibilities for the Health Ombudsman. 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) and 14 health practitioner registration boards (National Boards) – regarding the conduct, performance and health of registered health practitioners who provide health services in Queensland.

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 reporting period, the committee held a public hearing with the Health Ombudsman. In addition, the committee held private and public meetings with the Health Ombudsman and AHPRA in July 2015. The committee also received regular reports and correspondence from the Health Ombudsman in compliance with requirements under the Health Ombudsman Act 2013.

Section 85 of the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 stipulates that if an investigation is not completed within two years after the decision to carry it out, the Health Ombudsman must give notices to the Minister and the committee stating details of the matter being investigated and why the investigation has not been completed. During the reporting period, the committee received and considered 14 notifications from the Health Ombudsman under section 85 of the Health Ombudsman Act 2013.

The committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the performance of the Health Ombudsman’s functions pursuant to section 179 of the Health Ombudsman Act 2013. This inquiry will be completed in the next reporting period.

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12 Standing Orders, Schedule 6.
4 Committee expenditure

The committee had no revenue during the reporting period. The committee is funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly. The expenditure of the committee during the reporting period is shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff salaries and related expenses(^{13})</td>
<td>304,362</td>
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<td>Business travel</td>
<td>56,358</td>
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<td>Printing and production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultants/Contractors</td>
<td>5,104</td>
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<td>Telecommunication costs</td>
<td>1,649</td>
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<td>Meeting expenses, stationery, consumables and miscellaneous expenses</td>
<td>905</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure Total</strong></td>
<td>369,182</td>
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</table>

\(^{13}\) 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 during the year.
5 Meeting attendance record

The table below shows the attendance of committee members at committee meetings and other activities 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Ms Leanne Linard MP</th>
<th>Ms Ros Bates MP</th>
<th>Mr Steve Dickson MP</th>
<th>Mr Aaron Harper MP</th>
<th>Mr Joe Kelly MP</th>
<th>Dr Christian Rowan MP</th>
<th>Mr Mark McArdle MP</th>
<th>Mr Sid Cramp MP</th>
<th>Mrs Tarnya Smith MP</th>
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<tr>
<td>15/07/2015 (Estimates)</td>
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<th>Mr Joe Kelly MP</th>
<th>Dr Christian Rowan MP</th>
<th>Mr Mark McArdle MP</th>
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15 Ms Nikki Boyd MP was a substitute for Mr Aaron Harper MP.
16 Ms Joan Pease MP was a substitute for Mr Joe Kelly MP.