



Commission for Children and Young People Amendment (Parliamentary Joint Committee) Bill 2007

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Bill introduced on motion by Ms Linda Burney.

Agreement in Principle

Ms LINDA BURNEY (Canterbury—Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, and Minister for Volunteering) [12.44 p.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now agreed to in principle.

The Committee on Children and Young People monitors and reviews the exercise of the functions of the Commission for Children and Young People and the Child Death Review Team. The committee also examines trends and changes in services and issues affecting children and reports to both Houses of Parliament on any changes it thinks desirable to the functions and procedures of the Commission for Children and Young People and the Child Death Review Team. The committee is a joint parliamentary committee and currently has 11 members.

The former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly wrote to the Premier to suggest that the size of the committee be reduced to seven members prior to re-appointing it after Parliament commences. The former Speaker advised that while the committee's current size reflected the high demand to serve on it when the committee was first established, reducing the size of the committee would help to improve the functioning of Parliament and reduce the demands on members' time, possibly making some members available to serve on other committees.

Importantly, the Government considers that changing the number of members on the committee will not adversely affect the committee's ability to carry out its review functions. Reducing the size of the committee to seven members would make its size consistent with two other joint parliamentary committees. They are the Committee on the Office of the Ombudsman and the Police Integrity Commission, and the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission. As members would be aware, each of those committees effectively and efficiently carries out its review functions with the same number of members as is proposed by this bill. For those reasons the Government supports the former Speaker's

request to reduce the size of the committee to seven members. I would like to thank past and present members who have served on the committee for their efforts. I commend the bill to the House.