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# Minutes no. 1

Thursday 1 June 2023

Standing Committee on Social Issues

Room 1043, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.31 am

## 1. Members present

Dr Kaine (Chair)

Mrs Mitchell (Deputy Chair)

Mr Buckingham (via videoconference)

Dr Cohn

Mr D'Adam

Ms Merton

Mr Murphy (substituting for Mr Nanva)

Ms Suvaal

## 2. Tabling of resolution establishing the committee

The Chair tabled the resolution of the House establishing the committee of 10 May which reads as follows:

That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the standing orders:

### Appointment

(1) Three standing committees be appointed as follows:

- (a) Law and Justice Committee,
- (b) Social Issues Committee, and
- (c) State Development Committee.

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### Social Issues Committee

(5) The committee may inquire into and report on:

- (a) issues concerned with the social development and wellbeing of the people of New South Wales, including health, education, housing, ageing, disability, children's services and community services, and
- (b) matters concerned with citizenship, sport and recreation, and gaming and racing.

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### Referral of inquiries

(7) A committee:

- (a) is to inquire into and report on any matter relevant to the functions of the committee which is referred to the committee by resolution of the House,
- (b) may inquire into and report on any matter relevant to the functions of the committee which is referred by a Minister of the Crown, and
- (c) may inquire into and report on any annual report or petition relevant to the functions of the committee which has been laid upon the Table of the Legislative Council.

- (8) Whenever a committee resolves to inquire into a matter, under paragraph (7)(b) or (7)(c), the terms of reference or the resolution is to be reported to the House on the next sitting day.

#### **Powers**

- (9) The committee has power to make visits of inspection within New South Wales and, with the approval of the President, elsewhere in Australia and outside Australia. Membership
- (10) Each committee is to consist of eight members, comprising:
- (a) four government members,
  - (b) two opposition members, and
  - (c) two crossbench members. Chair and Deputy Chair
- (11) The Leader of the Government is to nominate in writing to the Clerk of the House the Chair of each committee.
- (12) The Leader of the Opposition is to nominate in writing to the Clerk of the House the Deputy Chair of each committee.

#### **Quorum**

- (13) The quorum of a committee is three members, of whom two must be government members and one a non-government member. Sub-committees
- (14) A committee has the power to appoint sub-committees.

#### **Conduct of committee proceedings**

- (15) Unless the committee decides otherwise:
- (a) all inquiries are to be advertised via social media, stakeholder emails and a media release distributed to all media outlets in New South Wales,
  - (b) submissions to inquiries are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration,
  - (c) attachments to submissions are to remain confidential,
  - (d) the Chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the Chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement,
  - (e) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published,
  - (f) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two business days, following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within 21 calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness,
  - (g) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration, and

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(h) media statements on behalf of the committee are to be made only by the Chair.

**3. Committee chair and deputy chair**

The committee noted that the following members were nominated by the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Issues:

- Dr Kaine (Chair)
- Mrs Mitchell (Deputy Chair)

**4. Conduct of committee proceedings**

**4.1 Media**

The committee noted the Broadcast of Proceedings resolution (as amended by the Legislative Council on 19 October 2022), in particular the provisions relating to the filming, broadcasting, rebroadcasting and photography of committee proceedings, including:

- (4) That unless resolved otherwise by a committee, this House authorises:
- (a) the filming, broadcasting and photography of members and witnesses in committee proceedings:
    - (i) by representatives of media organisations, including from around the committee meeting table,
    - (ii) by any member of the public, from the position of the audience, and
  - (b) the rebroadcasting of committee proceedings on the Legislative Council and Parliament's social media channels.

**5. Publication of minutes of the first meeting**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Murphy: That the committee publish the minutes of the first meeting on the committee's webpage, subject to the draft minutes being circulated to members.

**6. Correspondence**

The committee noted the following item of correspondence:

***Received***

- 30 January 2023 – Letter from Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, NSW Department of communities and Justice to Chair, enclosing government response to report entitled *Homelessness amongst Older People Aged Over 55 in New South Wales*.

**7. Legacy report**

The committee noted that the report entitled *Legacy Report: 57<sup>th</sup> Parliament* was published in February 2023.

**8. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 9.39 am, *sine die*.

Peta Leemen  
**Committee Clerk**