



SUBJECT STANDING COMMITTEES

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.

Law and Justice Committee

2. The committee may inquire into and report on:
 - (a) legal and constitutional issues in New South Wales, including law reform, parliamentary matters, criminal law, administrative law and the justice system, and
 - (b) matters concerned with industrial relations and fair trading.
3. For the purposes of section 27 of the *State Insurance and Care Governance Act 2015*, the committee is the designated Legislative Council committee to supervise the operation of the insurance and compensation schemes established under New South Wales workers' compensation and motor accidents legislation:
 - (a) the Workers' Compensation Scheme,
 - (b) the Workers' Compensation (Dust Diseases) Scheme,
 - (c) the Motor Accidents Scheme, and
 - (d) the Motor Accidents (Lifetime Care and Support) Scheme.
4. In exercising the supervisory function outlined in paragraph (3), the committee:
 - (a) does not have authority to investigate a particular compensation claim, and
 - (b) must report to the House in relation to the operation of each of the schemes at least once every Parliament.

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.

State Development Committee

6. The committee may inquire into and report on:
 - (a) issues concerned with state, local and regional development in New South Wales, and
 - (b) matters concerned with planning, infrastructure, finance, industry, the environment, primary industry, natural resources, science, local government, emergency services and public administration.

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

[Resolved 10 May 2023, Minutes No 2, Item 8, pp 31-34]