

Minutes No. 1

Tuesday 28 May 2019

Standing Committee on Social Issues

Members' Lounge, Parliament House, Sydney, 7.20 pm

1. Members present

Mr Mallard, *Chair*

Mr Mookhey, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Franklin

Ms Jackson

Revd Mr Nile

Mr Shoebridge (substituting for Ms Boyd)

Mrs Ward

2. Apologies

Mr Martin

3. Tabling of resolution establishing the committee

The Chair tabled the following resolution of the House of 8 May 2019 establishing the committee:

1. Three standing committees are appointed as follows:

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

.....

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.

.....

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. (a) The Leader of the Government is to nominate in writing to the Clerk of the House the Chair of each committee.
- (b) The Leader of the Opposition is to nominate in writing to the Clerk of the House the Deputy Chair of each committee.

Quorum

12. The quorum of a committee is three members, of whom two must be government members and one a non-government member.

Sub-committees

13. A committee has the power to appoint sub-committees.

Conduct of committee proceedings

14. Unless the committee decides otherwise:
- (a) 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,
 - (b) attachments to submissions are to remain confidential,
 - (c) 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,
 - (d) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published,
 - (e) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, 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, and

- (f) 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.

4. **Committee Chair and Deputy Chair**

The Chair tabled the following extract from the Minutes of the House this day concerning the Chair and Deputy Chair of the committee:

Committees—Chairs and Deputy Chairs

The Deputy President informed the House that the following members had been nominated by the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition as Chair and Deputy Chair of standing committees:

...

Standing Committee on Social Issues

Chair: Mr Mallard

Deputy Chair: Mr Mookhey

5. **Conduct of committee proceedings – Media**

Resolved, on the motion of Revd Mr Nile: That unless the committee decides otherwise, the following procedures are to apply for the life of the committee:

- the committee authorises the filming, broadcasting, webcasting and still photography of its public proceedings, in accordance with the resolution of the Legislative Council of 18 October 2007
- the committee webcast its public proceedings via the Parliament's website, where technically possible
- committee members must use social media and electronic devices during committee proceedings unobtrusively, to avoid distraction to other committee members and witnesses
- media statements on behalf of the committee may be made only by the Chair.

6. **Legacy Report of 56th Parliament**

The committee noted the Legacy Report detailing the committee's work in the previous Parliament.

The committee also noted Recommendations 1 and 2 from its report into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010:

Recommendation 1: That the NSW Legislative Council re-establish the inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010 in the 57th Parliament and the terms of reference for further inquiry and report be subject to a decision of the House.

Recommendation 2: That all evidence received and records produced by the Standing Committee on Social Issues during its inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010 in the 56th Parliament, be made available to the Standing Committee on Social Issues for further inquiry and report in the 57th Parliament.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Shoebridge: That the Committee Chair give notice of and move in the House the re-establishment of the inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010, including reference to the committee of the evidence and records of the committee's inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010 in the 56th Parliament.

7. Publication of minutes of the first meeting

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

8. Inquiry into the provisions of the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Bill 2019

8.1 Terms of reference

The committee note the referral on 28 May 2019 of the following terms of reference: That:

- (a) the provisions of the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Bill 2019 be referred to the Standing Committee on Social Issues for inquiry and report,
- (b) the bill be referred to the committee upon receipt of the message on the bill from the Legislative Assembly, and
- (c) the committee report by 4 June 2019.

8.2 Proposed timeline

The committee noted the short timeframe available for the inquiry.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Mookhey: That the committee adopt the following timeline for the administration of the inquiry:

- Friday 31 May 2019 (morning) – Half day public hearing
- Monday 3 June 2019 (late afternoon) – Chair's draft report circulated to committee
- Tuesday 4 June 2019 (9.00 am) – Report deliberative
- Tuesday 4 June 2019 (12.00 noon) – Table report.

8.3 Closing date for submissions

Resolved, on motion of Mr Mookhey: That the closing date for submissions be Thursday 30 May 2019.

8.4 Stakeholder and witness list

The Chair tabled a proposed stakeholder list.

Ms Jackson tabled an additional list of proposed stakeholders.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Shoebridge: That the following list of stakeholders be invited to make a submission to the inquiry, and that the Committee Chair circulate ahead of the hearing on Friday 31 May 2019 a proposed list of witnesses to be invited to appear and give evidence:

- The Department of Family and Community Services
- NSW Ombudsman
- Aged Rights Advocacy Service
- Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association
- NSW Council for Intellectual Disability
- NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance
- The Australian Centre for Disability Law
- The Council of the Ageing NSW
- The Intellectual Disability Rights Service
- The Older Women Network
- Unions NSW
- The Health Services Union

- The Australian Services Union
- The Nurses and Midwives Association
- The Public Service Association of New South Wales
- United Voice
- NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS)
- People with Disability Australia
- Physical Disability Council of NSW
- Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW
- Motor Neurone Disease Association of NSW
- Council of the Aged (COTA)
- The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)
- The Royal Australian College of Physicians
- Carers NSW
- The Law Society
- Legal Aid

8.5 Advertising

The committee noted that the inquiry would be advertised via social media, stakeholder letters and a media release distributed to all media outlets in New South Wales.

8.6 Conduct of the inquiry

Resolved, on motion of Ms Ward: That there be no questions on notice taken at the public hearing to be held on Friday 31 May 2019 or supplementary questions from members.

9. Next meeting

Friday, 31 May 2019 (public hearing).

10. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 7.42 pm until Friday, 31 May 2019.

Stephen Frappell
Clerk to the Committee