
Minutes no. 1

Thursday, 3 August 2023

Joint Modern Slavery Committee

Room 1043, Parliament House, Sydney, 9.30 am

1. Members present

Mrs Ayyad

Mr Borsak

Mr Donnelly

Dr Kaine

Ms Leong

Mrs MacDonald

Dr McGirr

Ms Wilkinson

2. Tabling of resolution establishing the committee

The Committee Clerk tabled the resolution of the of 10 May 2023, establishing the committee, which reads as follows:

1. That under section 21 of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018*, a joint committee known as the Modern Slavery Committee be appointed.
2. That under section 23(1)(a) of the Act, the committee consist of four members of the Legislative Council comprising:
 - (a) two government members,
 - (b) one opposition member, and
 - (c) one crossbench member.
3. That a message be sent acquainting the Legislative Assembly of the resolution and requesting the Legislative Assembly to appoint four of its members to serve with the members of the Legislative Council on the committee.
4. In addition to the provisions of Schedule 1 to the Act, 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) the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings is to alternate between opposition, crossbench and government members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each,
- (f) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published,
- (g) 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,
- (h) 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
- (i) media statements on behalf of the committee are to be made only by the Chair.

3. Election of the Chair

The Committee Clerk called for nominations for the Chair.

Ms Leong moved: That Dr McGirr be elected Chair of the committee.

There being no further nominations the Clerk declared Dr McGirr the Chair.

4. Election of Deputy Chair

Dr McGirr took the Chair.

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Dr Kaine moved: That Ms Leong be elected Deputy Chair of the committee.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Ms Leong Deputy Chair.

5. Briefing on the resolution establishing the committee and conduct of committee proceedings

The secretariat briefed committee members on the resolution establishing the committee and conduct of committee proceedings.

6. Conduct of committee proceedings

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.

7. Publication of minutes of the first meeting

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

8. Correspondence

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That the Chair write to Dr James Cockayne, Anti-slavery Commissioner, advising of the establishment and membership of the Joint Modern Slavery Committee and invite him to meet with the Committee and provide a briefing.

9. Statutory review

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs MacDonald: That the committee commence the statutory review in the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* and consider the timeline for review at the next meeting.

10. Other business

The committee discussed a potential inquiry to be formally considered at the next meeting, noting that it would commence after the statutory review.

11. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 9.49 am, *sine die*.

Shaza Barbar
Committee Clerk