

General Purpose Standing Committee No 2

Budget Estimates 2000-2001

Volume 2

Ordered to be printed 29 August 2000

How to contact the Committee

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Terms of Reference¹

1. That the Budget Estimates and related documents presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.
2. That the Committees consider the Budget Estimates in accordance with the allocation of portfolios to the Committees.
3. For the purposes of this inquiry any Member of the House may attend a meeting of a Committee in relation to the Budget Estimates and question witnesses, participate in the deliberations of the Committee at such meeting and make a dissenting statement relating to the Budget Estimates, but may not vote or be counted for the purpose of any quorum.
4. The Committees must hear evidence on the Budget Estimates in public.
5. Not more than 3 Committees are to hear evidence on the Budget Estimates simultaneously.
6. When a Committee hears evidence on the Budget Estimates, the Chair is to call on items of expenditure in the order decided on and declare the proposed expenditure open for examination.
7. The Committees may ask for explanations from Ministers in the House, or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure.
8. The report of a Committee on the Budget Estimates may propose the further consideration of any items.
9. A daily Hansard record of the hearings of a Committee on the Budget Estimates is to be published as soon as practicable after each day's proceedings.
10. The Committees have leave to sit during the sittings or any adjournment of the House.
11. After a Committee has considered proposed expenditure referred to it by the House and agreed to its report to the House, the Committee must fix:
 - (a) a day for the submission to the Committee of any written answers or additional information relating to the proposed expenditure, and
 - (b) a day for the commencement of supplementary meetings of the Committee to consider matters relating to the proposed expenditure, which day must be not less than 10 days after the day fixed under subparagraph (a).

¹ Legislative Council Minutes of the Proceedings, No.41, 23 May 2000, items 16, 19 and 20.

12. (1) A Member may lodge with a Committee, not less than 3 working days before the day fixed under subparagraph (11) (b), notice of matters relating to the written answers or additional information, or otherwise relating to the proposed expenditure referred to the committee, which the Member wishes to raise at the supplementary meetings of the Committee.
- (2) Any notice lodged with a Committee must be forwarded by the Committee to the Minister in the House responsible for the matters to which the notice relates.
13. A Committee may determine at any time the number and duration of any supplementary meetings.
14. At a supplementary meeting, questions may be put to Ministers or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to matters of which notice has been given, and the proceedings of the Committee must be confined to those matters.
15. A Committee may report to the House any recommendation for further action by the House arising from the Committee's supplementary meetings.
16. Written questions relating to the Budget Estimates may be supplied to the Clerk of the Committee, who must distribute them to the relevant Minister and to Members of the Committee. Answers must be supplied to, and circulated by, the Clerk.
17. The Committees must:
 - (a) present a first report to the House before the House adjourns for the winter recess, and
 - (b) present a final report to the House by the first sitting day in August 2000.

Committee Membership

The Dr Brian Pezzutti RFD MLC, *Chair*

Liberal Party

The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC, *Deputy Chair*

Australian Democrats

The Hon Alan Corbett MLC

Better Future for Our Children

The Hon Ron Dyer MLC

Australian Labor Party

The Hon Doug Moppett MLC

National Party

The Hon Janelle Saffin MLC

Australian Labor Party

The Hon Henry Tsang OAM MLC

Australian Labor Party

Other Members who attended the hearings

The Hon John Jobling MLC

Liberal Party

The Hon Richard Jones MLC

Independent

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Chair's Foreword

General Purpose Standing Committee No 2 conducted supplementary hearings to enable further examination of the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates for the portfolio areas of Health, Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women on 23 August 2000.

In this final report on the 2000-2001 Estimates, the Committee considers matters that were the subject of questions to departmental and agency officers at the supplementary hearings.

The report also provides information about the timeframe in which Ministers responded to questions placed on notice during and after the initial round of Budget Estimates hearings, held in June 2000 (refer to the Committee's report *Budget Estimates 2000-2001, Volume 1*) and comments on the conduct of supplementary hearings.

The Committee expresses its appreciation to officers of the Departments who appeared before it.

The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti RFD MLC
Chair

Introduction

On 23 June 2000, General Purpose Standing Committee No 2 tabled Volume 1 of its report entitled “Budget Estimates 2000-2001”. The report considered matters which were the subject of questions put to Ministers, as well as departmental and agency officers, at public hearings held on 6, 7, 9 and 19 June 2000.

On 3 August 2000, General Purpose Standing Committee No 2 met in accordance with paragraph 3 of the resolution establishing the General Purpose Standing Committees. At that meeting the Committee resolved to hold supplementary Budget Estimates hearings for the portfolio areas of Health, Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women on Wednesday 23 August 2000.

Chapters one and two of this report summarise matters discussed at the supplementary hearings. Chapter three provides information about the timeframe in which Ministers responded to questions placed on notice during and after the initial round of Budget Estimates hearings and comments on the conduct of supplementary hearings.

Chapter 1 Health

- 1.1** The Committee heard evidence from Mr M Reid, Director General, Mr R McGregor, Deputy Director-General, Operations, and Mr K Barker, General Manager, Finance and Commercial Services, all of NSW Health, at a public hearing held on 23 August 2000. A summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below. During the course of the hearing two documents were tendered in support of answers provided to the Committee (refer to Appendix 1).

Provision of health care services in the home environment

- 1.2** Mr Reid was asked a number of questions about the increasing tendency for general practitioners (GPs) and specialists to ask patients to attend their offices, as opposed to conducting home visits. Mr Reid provided the Committee with information about general practice activities, primary health care, rehabilitation services and chronic care management. He indicated that in many instances GPs believe they will not receive adequate remuneration for home visits and that there are often inadequate arrangements for GPs to share after hours care. Mr Reid also outlined a number of initiatives of both the State and Federal governments aimed at improving home care.
- 1.3** Mr Reid undertook to advise the Committee whether it was true that the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in the Home program had been stopped because it had run out of funds.

Cost comparisons between Port Macquarie and Nepean hospitals

- 1.4** In response to questions about the confidentiality of cost comparisons between Port Macquarie and Nepean hospitals, Mr Reid indicated that he would consider releasing the information if all parties subject to the confidentiality clause were in agreement that the information could be released.

Specialist medical training positions

- 1.5** Mr Reid was asked whether the government intended to comply with recommendations of the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee (AMWAC) relating to the establishment of specialist training positions. Mr Reid stated he was committed to the AMWAC process, to the number of training positions identified by that process and to the State endeavouring to achieve that target. However, Mr Reid indicated this might not occur in every instance.

Isolated Patients' Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) funding and guidelines

- 1.6** In response to a question about whether funding for the Isolated Patients' Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) would be increased as a result of the

introduction of the Goods and Services tax (GST), Mr Barker indicated this would not be the case.

- 1.7** Mr Reid indicated that if IPTAAS funds were fully expended, hardship cases would be considered.
- 1.8** Mr Reid provided the Committee with two documents: a NSW Health pamphlet about IPTAAS; and guidelines about the service for medical practitioners and specialists.
- 1.9** Mr Reid undertook to respond to a question about the ability of the Southern Area Health Service to pay outstanding accounts for IPTAAS.

Drug and alcohol treatment funding

- 1.10** In response to questioning, Mr Reid advised the Committee that the specific budget of the Drug and Alcohol Directorate had not yet been determined. Mr Reid undertook to provide the information to the Committee once it was available, indicating the budget should be finalised within two or three weeks.
- 1.11** Mr Reid also undertook to provide information about how much of Area Health Service budgets will be allocated to drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation in 2000-2001.

Dental services

- 1.12** In response to questions about the distribution of funds for dental health services, Mr Reid explained that funding was provided on an equity basis. While this might not appear to be the case when glancing at allocations to the various Area Health Services, funding for dental education is provided on a statewide basis by the dental school and Westmead Hospital.
- 1.13** Mr Reid also provided the Committee with information about additional growth funding provided for dental health services.
- 1.14** Mr Reid was asked what was the number of pensioners awaiting public dental treatment. He indicated he would endeavour to find out if he had this information.

Allocation of Corrections Health Service budget to Aboriginal programs

- 1.15** Mr Reid undertook to provide the Committee with information about the allocation of the Corrections Health Service budget to Aboriginal programs.

Disability support services in correctional centres

- 1.16** In response to questioning, Mr Reid advised the Committee that the Department of Corrective Services is responsible for providing disability support services to intellectually disabled prisoners.

Drug and alcohol services in correctional centres

- 1.17** Mr Reid undertook to provide the Committee with information about the review of drug and alcohol services in NSW corrective centres.

Mental health services

- 1.18** In response to a question about how, when there was an absence of information about how the money was to be spent, the government decided to provide \$36 million of new funding for mental health services in the community, Mr Reid indicated interstate per capita comparisons had assisted in determining the amount. Mr Reid also provided information about progress to date in determining how the money is to be spent.

Quit program

- 1.19** Mr Reid was questioned about the cost-effectiveness of the Quit campaign, and whether an analysis had been undertaken by NSW Health to determine a break-even point for the program. Mr Reid undertook to provide the Committee with information about whether such an analysis had been undertaken, and if not to ask the department to do it as best as is possible. Mr Reid also provided information about the economic cost of tobacco usage.

Mid North Coast Area Health Service surgery services

- 1.20** In response to a question about surgery activity at Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Taree base hospitals, Mr Reid indicated that elective surgery at Coffs Harbour was reduced by two days per week from 17 April through to 30 June 2000 as part of a strategy by the health board. Mr Reid stated that one of the elective surgery days was reinstated in July, and the second was now being provided.

Laboratory testing of Sydney's drinking water

- 1.21** Mr Reid was asked about independent laboratory testing of Sydney's drinking water. Mr Reid advised the Committee that an Adelaide-based company, the Australian Water Quality Centre, had been selected to provide the laboratory testing service. A contract had been signed with the company on 13 June 2000, and processing of samples had commenced on 24 July 2000. Mr Reid explained that delays in selecting the laboratory were associated with a detailed process of probity arrangements and a requirement that the laboratory meet National Association of Testing Authorities accreditation standards.
- 1.22** Mr Reid undertook to respond to a question about whether NSW Health had breached the 1999 drinking water plan by failing to undertake the required sampling for trihalomethanes in six consumer properties in the Woronora and Potts Hill systems.

NSW Ambulance Service

- 1.23** In response to questioning, Mr Reid provided the Committee with details about the NSW Ambulance Service budget allocation for the period 1999-2000 to 2002-2003. Mr Reid undertook to provide the Committee with additional information about the increase in ambulance services.
- 1.24** Mr Reid also undertook to provide the Committee with information about the servicing of ambulance vehicles.

Chapter 2 Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women

- 2.1** The Committee heard evidence from Ms C Niland, Director General, Department of Community Services, Mr P Loxton, Acting Director General, and Ms J Milligan, Director, Program Performance, both of the Ageing and Disability Department, and Ms R Henderson, Director General, Department of Women, at a public hearing held on 23 August 2000. A summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below.

Community Services

Wards in Care project

- 2.2** In response to questioning about State wards in the juvenile justice system, Ms Niland told the Committee that the Wards in Care project, a joint project conducted by the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Community Services, had established that four percent of the total number of children in the Department of Juvenile Justice were wards of the State. Ms Niland undertook to provide additional information about government initiatives relating to State wards in the New South Wales juvenile justice system.

Substitute Care

- 2.3** Ms Niland was asked about criticisms contained in a July 2000 Community Services Commission report into substitute care practices at a regional community services centre, and changes that may have been made in the Department of Community Services as a result of those criticisms. In response, Ms Niland provided the Committee with information about current budget initiatives relating to substitute care. Ms Niland was asked to provide additional information about substitute care in the form of a written answer.

Transformation

- 2.4** The Committee questioned Ms Niland about the production of a video, entitled *Transformation*, that was viewed by employees of the Department of Community Services in early 2000. Ms Niland indicated that she had appeared in the video, and the video was filmed at the O-Ten network of TAFE. Ms Niland undertook to provide the Committee with information about who produced the video, the cost of production and the cost of staff viewing and discussing the video.

Investigation of child deaths

- 2.5** In response to questioning about the referral of child deaths for investigation, Ms Niland provided information about agencies that might be involved in investigations or reviews of child deaths. Ms Niland indicated the many pathways that results of these investigations feed back into system changes. Ms Niland undertook to obtain information for the Committee about whether the proceedings of reviewing bodies were protected by privilege.

Senior Executive Service staff

- 2.6** Ms Niland was asked a number of questions about Senior Executive Service (SES) staff of the Department of Community Services. Ms Niland advised the Committee that the Department currently employs 13 SES staff, whereas previously this number was 21. Ms Niland undertook to advise the Committee of the number of SES staff she had appointed since commencing as Director General, and to provide the Committee with a brief summary of duties of the SES staff.

Permanency planning and adoption

- 2.7** Ms Niland responded to questions about plans under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Permanency Planning) exposure Bill to make adoption one of the options under permanency planning. Ms Niland offered to provide the Committee with a summary of the views of certain persons opposed to the proposed legislation, and of relevant matters addressed at a recent ACWA conference. Ms Niland assured the Committee that a discussion paper, summarising public concerns about the proposed legislation, would be made available prior to the legislation reaching the Legislative Council.

Adoption Bill 2000

- 2.8** Ms Niland advised the Committee about consultation that occurred prior to the Adoption Bill 2000 being introduced into the Legislative Assembly.

Employee screening

- 2.9** In response to questions about employee screening initiatives undertaken as a result of the Wood Royal Commission, Ms Niland advised the Committee that the Department of Community Services had gone through an extensive program of checking. Further, the department was accredited to be involved in employee screening.
- 2.10** Ms Niland undertook to provide the Committee with information about departmental employees who had been sacked, placed on a monitoring program or moved away from direct services for children as a result of the Wood Royal Commission. Ms Niland further undertook to provide information about employee screening in non-government organisation partners.

Appropriation of additional funds in 1999-2000

- 2.11** In response to questions about overspending in 1999-2000 and the need for additional moneys to be appropriated, Ms Niland undertook to provide the Committee with details of those areas where actual spending exceeded projected spending, with particular reference to foster care, award increases, motor vehicles and workers compensation premiums.

Olympics-related vacation care costs

- 2.12** Ms Niland was asked about funding for the provision of vacation care during the additional week of school holidays associated with the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Ms Niland advised the Committee that the Minister has approved additional funding of \$207,000 in grants for allocation to 158 services that have notified the Department of Community Services they will be operating the extra days of that third week of the holidays.

Department of Community Services exit interviews

- 2.13** Ms Niland agreed to provide the Committee with copies of staff exit survey reports and the trends in turnover and exit survey outcomes.

Aboriginal caseworkers

- 2.14** Ms Niland was questioned about the percentage of district officers, now known as caseworkers, who are from an Aboriginal background. Ms Niland was unable to provide this information to the Committee at the hearing, though she did state that 2.1 percent of Department of Community Services staff are from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background.

Caseworker vacancies

- 2.15** In response to questioning, Ms Niland advised the Committee that 47 of the 880 full-time equivalent caseworker positions were currently vacant. Ms Niland defended the vacancy rate, stating it was half the benchmark figure for vacancy rates in government departments.

Child notification response times

- 2.16** Ms Niland advised the Committee that information about how long it takes for children who are notified to be seen had not yet been published. The Committee notes that the issue of benchmarking in regard to child notifications has been raised in previous years, but as yet these benchmarks have not been published.

Support for Families sub-program

- 2.17** Ms Niland undertook to provide the Committee with information about the actual budget of the Support for Families sub-program for 1999-2000.

Priority One

- 2.18** Ms Niland responded to a number of questions about the Priority One project. Ms Niland indicated that while the project had provided a useful workload management tool, it was unable to provide practical statistical information about the allocation of cases.

Children at risk notifications

- 2.19** Ms Niland clarified information previously provided to the Committee about the number of children at risk notifications that required and received direct contact from a Department of Community Services officer in 1998-99. Ms Niland explained that there is no need for the department to respond to all notifications, citing the example of multiple notifications being made about the one incident.
- 2.20** Ms Niland undertook to provide the Committee with information about the re-notification rate for children who do not receive direct contact.

Refurbishment and maintenance of ministerial office

- 2.21** In response to questioning, Ms Niland undertook to provide the Committee with a copy of the relevant guidelines for the refurbishment and maintenance of ministerial offices.

Therapy services available on Peat Island

- 2.22** Ms Niland undertook to advise the Committee whether persons in the Peat Island residential facility are receiving therapy services such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

Positions occupied by acting staff as opposed to permanent appointees

- 2.23** In response to a question about the number of positions occupied by acting staff as opposed to permanent appointees, Ms Niland advised the Committee that certain positions within the department were subject to a staff freeze that had been in place since March 1999. Ms Niland indicated that caseworker positions and some district care workers were exempt from the staff freeze.
- 2.24** Ms Niland undertook to provide the Committee with information about the number of positions occupied by acting staff as opposed to permanent appointees.

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program

- 2.25** In response to questions about the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), Ms Niland advised the Committee that it is not appropriate for State wards who are not intoxicated and not chronic alcoholics to be referred to a place of adult care for people who are intoxicated. Ms Niland assured the Committee that, to the best of her knowledge, the department has in place the protocols, the practice, the training, the dedication and the philosophy not to refer a State ward to a proclaimed place.

Review of community service centres in light of the Nowra office investigation

- 2.26** In response to questions about steps taken to ensure problems at the Nowra office are not encountered at other community service centres, Ms Niland provided information about review processes in place at these centres.
- 2.27** Ms Niland also provided information about staffing changes at the Nowra office to improve services at that office.

Evaluation: Case Planning and Management Strategy report

- 2.28** Ms Niland was asked whether she had confidence in the case planning system, given findings contained in a 1999 report, *Evaluation: Case Planning and Management Strategy*, produced by a company called Matrix. Ms Niland advised the Committee that the recommendations contained in the report are being considered and will be dealt with with the roll-out of the new child protection legislation. Ms Niland indicated she did not know whether the report would be made public.
- 2.29** Ms Niland was also asked about concerns expressed in the report relating to the loss of files. Ms Niland explained that a move to computer files would eliminate many problems relating to itinerant clients, and to the movement of files between offices.

Prostitution risks for State wards

- 2.30** Ms Niland undertook to provide the Committee with information about programs, reports and funding to specifically address problems associated with prostitution risks for State wards.

Ageing and Disability Services

Positions occupied by acting staff as opposed to permanent appointees

- 2.31** Mr Loxton undertook to provide the Committee with information about the number of positions occupied by acting staff as opposed to permanent appointees.

Women

- 2.32** The Committee did not ask any questions relating to the portfolio area of Women during the hearing.

Chapter 3 Administrative matters

Questions on notice – all portfolios

3.1 Following completion of the initial round of budget estimates hearings, the Committee set 14 July 2000 as the date by which Ministers were to respond to questions placed on notice. The table below details the dates on which hearings were held, questions were forwarded to Ministers and responses were received.

Portfolio	Date of hearing	Date that Committee forwarded questions on notice	Date that Committee received responses to questions on notice
Small Business, Tourism	6 June 2000	9 June 2000	27 July 2000
Health	7 June 2000 19 June 2000	16 June 2000 28 June 2000	3 August 2000
Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services, Women	7 June 2000	15 June 2000	15 August 2000
Mineral Resources, Fisheries	9 June 2000	16 June 2000	27 July 2000

3.2 The Committee was disappointed with the time taken by Ministers to provide answers to questions placed on notice.

3.3 The Committee also notes the lack of completeness and detail of some answers.

Conduct of supplementary hearings

3.4 Paragraphs 12(1), 12(2) and 14 of the resolution referring the 2000-2001 budget estimates reference to the General Purpose Standing Committees places the following requirements on members of the committee in relation to supplementary hearings:

12. (1) A Member may lodge with a Committee, not less than 3 working days before the day fixed under subparagraph (11) (b), notice of matters relating to the written answers or additional information, or otherwise relating to the proposed expenditure referred to the committee, which the Member wishes to raise at the supplementary meetings of the Committee.
12. (2) Any notice lodged with a Committee must be forwarded by the Committee to the Minister in the House responsible for the matters to which the notice relates.
14. At a supplementary meeting, questions may be put to Ministers or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to matters of which

notice has been given, and the proceedings of the Committee must be confined to those matters.²

- 3.5** Some Members of the Committee felt the restriction of questions to those subject areas previously notified was too limiting. It is accepted that Committee Members do have the opportunity to indicated in advance broad areas of interest upon which they wish to base their questions. The Committee suggests that the House review these requirements prior to the referral of next year's Budget Estimates.

² *Minutes of the Proceedings*, No.41, 23 May 2000, item No.16.

Appendix 1 – Documents tabled at the hearing

Health

23 August 2000

NSW Isolated Patients' Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS), pamphlet produced by NSW Health, dated June 2000

NSW Isolated Patients' Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS), Guidelines for Medical Practitioners and Specialists, booklet produced by NSW Health, dated June 2000

Proceedings of the Committee

Minutes No. 17

Thursday 3 August 2000
At Parliament House at 10.00 am

1. Members Present

Dr Pezzutti (in the Chair)
Dr Chesterfield-Evans
Mr Dyer
Mr Jobling (Moppett)
Mr Primrose (Saffin)
Ms Rhiannon (Corbett)
Mr Tsang

2. Confirmation of minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Jobling, that minutes of meeting number 16 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

Letter from the Hon Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC, to Chair, dated 27 July 2000, requesting that a meeting of the Committee be convened to consider matters relating to the Budget Estimates reference.

Letter from the Hon Alan Corbett MLC, to Chair, dated 27 July 2000, requesting that a meeting of the Committee be convened to consider matters relating to the Budget Estimates reference.

Letter from the Hon Doug Moppett MLC, to Chair, dated 29 July 2000, requesting that a meeting of the Committee be convened to consider matters relating to the Budget Estimates reference.

Letter from the Hon Alan Corbett MLC, and counter-signed by Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC, to Committee Clerk, dated 2 August 2000, advising Mr Corbett's desire that Ms Rhiannon represent him at the deliberative meeting on 3 August 2000.

Memo from the Hon John Jobling MLC, Opposition Whip, to Committee Clerk, dated 3 August 2000, advising that the Hon John Jobling MLC will be representing the Hon Doug Moppett MLC at the deliberative meeting on Thursday 3 August 2000.

Memo from the Hon Peter Primrose MLC, Government Whip, to Committee Clerk, received 3 August 2000, advising that the Hon Peter Primrose MLC will be representing the Hon Janelle Saffin MLC at the deliberative meeting on Thursday 3 August 2000.

4. Budget Estimates reference

The Chair advised that:

- none of the Ministers of portfolios allocated to the committee had answered questions on notice by the due date of 14 July 2000,
- the portfolios of Small Business and Tourism and Mineral Resources and Fisheries had provided answers on 27 July 2000,
- the portfolios of Health and Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women were yet to respond to the committee with answers.

The committee deliberated.

Resolved on motion of Dr Chesterfield-Evans that:

- a supplementary meeting of the committee to consider matters relating to the proposed expenditure of the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women be held on Wednesday 23 August 2000,
- the Directors-General of the relevant Departments and Mr Ken Barker, General Manager, Financial and Commercial Services NSW Health be invited to attend the hearing on that date,
- should the Ministers of those portfolios fail to supply the answers to the questions on notice by Thursday 17 August 2000, or the witnesses fail to confirm in writing their attendance at the hearing by Thursday 17 August 2000; the Chair will issue a summons under his hand and in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901 ordering attendance at the hearing organised under this resolution on Wednesday 23 August 2000,
- if a witness advises in writing of reasons that prevent the witness from appearing at the hearing on Thursday 23 August 2000 the Chair has the discretion not to issue a summons but to accept an alternative nominee who in the view of the Chair is suitably briefed to appear before the committee in relation to its estimates inquiry,
- the committee hear from the portfolio of Health for a period of 1½ hours and the portfolios of Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women for a period of 2 hours.

The committee deliberated

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that the committee meet at 10.00am Monday 28 August 2000 to consider it's final report.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.35am until a time to be advised on Wednesday 23 August 2000.

Warren Cahill
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 18

Wednesday 23 August 2000
At Parliament House at 10.00 am

1. Members Present

Dr Pezzutti (in the Chair)
Dr Chesterfield-Evans
Mr Corbett
Mr Dyer
Mr Jobling (Moppett)
Mr Tsang

2. Apologies

Ms Saffin

3. Confirmation of minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that the minutes of meeting no 17 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The Chair tabled seven items of correspondence received.

Memo from the Hon John Jobling MLC, to Director, dated 15 August 2000, advising that the Hon John Jobling MLC will be representing the Hon Doug Moppett MLC at the hearing on 23 August 2000.

Memo from the Hon Alan Corbett MLC and the Hon Richard Jones MLC, to Director, dated 17 August 2000, advising that the Hon Richard Jones MLC will be representing the Hon Alan Corbett MLC at the hearing on 23 August 2000, between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

Letter from the Hon Alan Corbett MLC, to Director, dated 17 August 2000, giving notice of matters to be raised at the supplementary hearing of the Committee on 23 August 2000.

Letter from the Hon Faye Lo Po' MP, Minister for Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women, to Director, dated 17 August 2000, advising that certain departmental officers will attend the hearing on 23 August 2000.

Letter from the Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC, to Director, dated 18 August 2000, giving notice of matters to be raised at the supplementary hearing of the Committee on 23

August 2000.

Letter from the Hon Richard Jones MLC, to Director, dated 18 August 2000, giving notice of matters to be raised at the supplementary hearing of the Committee on 23 August 2000.

Letter from the Hon Craig Knowles MP, to Director, dated 22 August 2000, advising that certain departmental officers will attend the hearing on 23 August 2000.

5. Budget Estimates reference

The Chair advised that Mr Jobling would be representing Mr Moppett.

The Chair made a statement to Members about the broadcasting of proceedings.

The public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for Health open for examination.

Mr Michael Reid, Director General, Mr Bob McGregor, Deputy Director General, Operations, and Mr Ken Barker, General Manager, Finance and Commercial Services, all of NSW Health, were examined.

Mr Reid tendered two documents to support his evidence.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Jobling, to accept the documents.

Evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and the media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Jobling, that under section 4 of the Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975 and under the authority of Standing Order 252, the Committee authorises the Director to publish the documents tendered by Mr Reid today.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Jobling, that any additional written questions relating to the portfolio area of Health be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 5pm on Thursday, 24 August 2000.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Chesterfield-Evans, that answers to questions on notice be required to be provided to the Committee by 5pm on Friday, 6 October 2000.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that the Committee meet at 3.00pm on Monday, 28 August 2000, to deliberate of the Chair's draft report.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11.45am until 2.00pm on Wednesday 23 August 2000.

Anna McNicol
Director

Minutes No. 19

Wednesday 23 August 2000
At Parliament House at 2.00 pm

1. Members Present

Dr Pezzutti (in the Chair)
Dr Chesterfield-Evans
Mr Dyer
Mr Jobling (Moppett)
Mr R Jones (Corbett)
Mr Tsang

2. Apologies

Ms Saffin

3. Budget Estimates reference

The Chair advised that Mr Jobling would be representing Mr Moppett and Mr Jones would be representing Mr Corbett.

The Chair made a statement to Members about the broadcasting of proceedings.

The public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women open for examination.

Ms Carmel Niland, Director General, Department of Community Services, Mr Peter Loxton, Acting Director General, and Ms Janett Milligan, Director, Program Performance, both of the Ageing and Disability Department, and Ms Robyn Henderson, Director General, Department of Women, were examined.

Evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and the media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Chesterfield-Evans, that any additional written questions relating to the portfolio areas of Community Services, Ageing, Disability

Services and Women be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 5pm on Thursday, 24 August 2000.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that answers to questions on notice be required to be provided to the Committee by 5pm on Friday, 6 October 2000.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4.17pm until 3.00pm on Monday 28 August 2000.

Anna McNicol
Director

Minutes No. 20

Monday 28 August 2000
At Parliament House at 3.00 pm

1. Members Present

Dr Pezzutti (in the Chair)
Dr Chesterfield-Evans
Mr Corbett
Mr Dyer
Mr Moppett
Ms Saffin
Mr Tsang

2. Confirmation of minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that the minutes of meetings no 18 and 19 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The Chair tabled four items of correspondence received.

Answers to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference, from the Hon Sandra Nori MP, Minister for Small Business and Minister for Tourism, received 27 July 2000.

Answers to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference, from the Hon Eddie Obeid MLC, Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for Fisheries, received 27 July 2000.

Correspondence from the Hon Craig Knowles MP, Minister for Health, to Director, received 3 August 2000, providing responses to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference.

Correspondence from the Hon Faye Lo Po' MP, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Women, to Director, received 15 August 2000, providing responses to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference.

4. Budget Estimates reference

The Chair submitted his draft report entitled "Budget Estimates 2000-2001, Volume 2", which having been circulated to each Member of the Committee, was accepted as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that paragraph 2.14 be amended by inserting at the end of the last sentence "though she did state that 2.1 percent of Department of Community Services staff are from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that paragraph 3.5 be amended by inserting after the second sentence, the sentence "It is accepted that Committee Members do have the opportunity to indicate in advance broad areas of interest upon which they wish to base their questions."

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Tsang, that the report, as amended, be adopted.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Tsang, that the report be signed by the Chair and presented to the House in accordance with the resolution referring the Budget Estimates.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Tsang, that responses to questions on notice and documents received in relation to the inquiry be tabled with the report and made public.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3.56pm sine die.

Anna McNicol
Director