

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Budget Estimates 2008-2009

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How to contact the Committee

Members of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 can be contacted through the Committee Secretariat. Written correspondence and enquiries should be directed to:

The Director

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Legislative Council

Parliament House, Macquarie Street

Sydney New South Wales 2000

Internet www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2

Email gpscno2@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Telephone 9230 3586

Facsimile 9230 3416

Terms of reference

1. That upon tabling, the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2008-2009 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. That the initial hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Monday 13 October 2008

GPSC 1	Roads	9.15 am - 11.00 am
GPSC 2	Health, Central Coast	9.15 am - 1.00 pm
GPSC 1	Ports & Waterways	11.15 am - 1.00 pm
GPSC 1	Finance, Infrastructure, Regulatory Reform	2.00 pm - 4.30 pm
GPSC 2	Ageing, Disability Services	2.00 pm - 4.30 pm
GPSC 1	The Legislature	4.45 pm - 6.00 pm
GPSC 2	Aboriginal Affairs	4.45 pm - 6.00 pm

Day Two: Tuesday 14 October 2008

GPSC 1	Treasury	9.15 am - 1.00 pm
GPSC 3	Local Government	9.15 am - 11.45 am
GPSC 3	Mental Health	12.00 pm - 1.00 pm
GPSC 1	Premier	2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
GPSC 3	Police	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
GPSC 3	Lands	4.15 pm - 5.00 pm
GPSC 3	Emergency Services	5.15 pm - 6.00 pm
GPSC 1	Arts	5.15 pm - 6.00 pm

Day Three: Wednesday 15 October 2008

GPSC 2	Education & Training	9.15 am - 1.00 pm
GPSC 4	Transport & Illawarra	9.15 am - 1.00 pm
GPSC 2	Women	2.00 pm - 2.45 pm
GPSC 2	Community Services	3.00 pm - 6.00 pm
GPSC 4	Planning, Redfern Waterloo	2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Day Four: Thursday 16 October 2008

GPSC 5	Climate Change and the Environment	9.15 am - 11.45 am
GPSC 4	Fair Trading, Citizenship	9.15 am - 1.00 pm
GPSC 5	Commerce	12.00 pm - 1.00 pm
GPSC 4	Small Business, Science & Medical Research	2.00 pm - 3.45 pm
GPSC 5	Primary Industries, Mineral Resources	2.00 pm - 6.30 pm
GPSC 4	Tourism, Hunter	4.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Day Five: Friday 17 October 2008

GPSC 5	Energy	9.15 am - 11.15 am
GPSC 3	Attorney General, Justice, Industrial Relations	9.15 am - 1.00 pm
GPSC 5	State Development	11.30 am - 1.00 pm
GPSC 3	Gaming and Racing, Sport and Recreation	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
GPSC 5	Water, Rural Affairs, Regional Development	2.00 pm - 4.15 pm
GPSC 5	Housing, Western Sydney	4.30 pm - 6.00 pm
GPSC 3	Juvenile Justice, Volunteering, Youth	4.15 pm - 6.00 pm

4. That an initial round of supplementary hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: 17 November 2008

GPSC 1

GPSC 2

Day Two: 18 November 2008

GPSC 1

GPSC 3

Day Three: 19 November 2008

GPSC 4

GPSC 2

Day Four: 20 November 2008

GPSC 4

GPSC 5

Day Five: 21 November 2008

GPSC 5

GPSC 3

5. That the committees may hold additional supplementary hearings after 21 November 2008 as required.

6. That each scheduled day for the initial round of hearings will begin at 9:15 am and conclude by 6:00 pm except on Thursday 16 October 2008 on which day hearings may conclude by 6.30 pm.
7. The committees must hear evidence in public.
8. 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.
9. There is no provision under this resolution for a Minister to make an opening statement before the committee commences questioning
10. A daily Hansard record is to be published as soon as practicable after each day's proceedings.
11. The committees are to present a final report to the House by the first sitting day in March 2009.
12. Members may lodge questions on notice with the Clerk to the committee during a Budget Estimates hearing and up to two days following.
13. All answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing, and questions on notice lodged up to two days following the hearing, must be provided within 21 days, or as otherwise determined by the committee.

The terms of reference were referred to the Committee by the House on 5 December 2007, see *LC Minutes* (5/12/2007), 423-426, amended by *LC Minutes* (26/6/2008) 721-723, amended by *LC Minutes* (24/09/2008) 785-787

Committee membership

The Hon Robyn Parker MLC	Liberal Party	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Christine Robertson MLC	Australian Labor Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
The Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Greg Donnelly MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC	The Greens	
Revd the Hon Dr Gordon Moyes MLC	Christian Democratic Party	
The Hon Marie Ficarra MLC	Liberal Party	

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

Dr John Kaye MLC	The Greens
The Hon Melinda Pavey MLC	The Nationals
The Hon Mick Veitch MLC	Australian Labor Party
Mr Ian Cohen MLC	The Greens
The Hon Eddie Obeid MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Henry Tsang MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Kayee Griffin MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Helen Westwood MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon John Robertson MLC	Australian Labor Party

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Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this report on the Budget Estimates 2008-2009. This annual Inquiry into the Budget Estimates ensures parliamentary oversight of the Budget, and provides an important mechanism for the accountability of the executive government to the Council.

During the initial round of hearings the Committee held six hearings, receiving 15 hours of evidence, to examine the portfolio areas of Health, Central Coast, Ageing, Disability Services, Aboriginal Affairs, Education and Training, Women and Community Services. The Committee subsequently held a further two supplementary hearings to again examine the portfolios of Education and Training, and Disability Services.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the Ministers and their officers who assisted the Committee during this important Inquiry. I am grateful to my fellow committee members for their contributions to the Inquiry process.



Hon Robyn Parker MLC

Chair

Chapter 1 Introduction

Referral of the 2008-2009 Budget Estimates

- 1.1 On 5 December 2007, the Legislative Council resolved ‘that the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2008-2009 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.’¹
- 1.2 The resolution (referred to as the Budget Estimates Resolution) required each committee to examine the Budget Estimates for the relevant portfolios and report to the House by the first sitting day in March 2009.²
- 1.3 On 2 December 2008, the House extended the reporting date to Thursday 5 March 2009.³

Hearings

- 1.4 The Committee held eight public hearings as follows:
 - Monday 13 October 2008 – Health, Central Coast
 - Monday 13 October 2008 – Ageing, Disability Services
 - Monday 13 October 2008 – Aboriginal Affairs
 - Wednesday 15 October 2008 – Education and Training
 - Wednesday 15 October 2008 – Women
 - Wednesday 15 October 2008 – Community Services
 - Wednesday 19 October – Education and Training – supplementary hearing
 - Wednesday 19 October – Disability Services – supplementary hearing.
- 1.5 A brief summary of the key issues raised during the hearings is contained in Chapter 2.

Transcripts

- 1.6 Transcripts of the hearings are available on the Committee’s web page at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2

¹ *LC Minutes* (5/12/2007), 423-426

² *LC Minutes* (5/12/2007), 423-426, amended by *LC Minutes* (26/6/2008) 721-723, amended by *LC Minutes* (24/09/2008) 785-787

³ *LC Minutes* (2/12/08), 12119

Questions on notice

- 1.7 Questions taken on notice, and the answers to these questions, are also available on the Committee's web page.

Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

This chapter provides a brief summary by portfolio of the key issues raised during the hearings.

Health, Central Coast

2.1 A hearing to examine the portfolios of Health and Central Coast was held on Monday 13 October 2008. The following issues were raised in relation to the Health portfolio:

- Consultation by the current Minister with the former Minister for Health, following the recent ministerial reshuffle
- Funding for NSW Health in the 2008-2009 Budget and in the Mini-Budget
- Number and management of displaced staff and staff shortages in NSW Health
- Rate and reporting of preventable deaths as a result of avoidable mistakes in NSW hospitals
- Funding of health services across the State based on population, age and other factors according to the resource distribution formula
- Measures to address drug and alcohol abuse
- Budget and capital investment needs of Westmead Children's Hospital, Royal North Shore Hospital, Gosford Hospital, Woy Woy Hospital, Orange Hospital, Bathurst Hospital and other hospitals
- Rate of childhood obesity, including issues of marketing and advertising of junk food to children, and parental skills in selecting nutritionally balanced meals
- Health initiatives for Aboriginal people, including health outcomes for pregnant women
- Roll-out and operation of the new phone service, Health Direct
- Latest health performance data, including patient feedback on their experiences in hospital
- Operation of the NSW Ambulance Service
- Funding for dental care
- NSW Health response to climate change.

2.2 The following issues were raised in relation to the Central Coast portfolio:

- Traffic blockages on the F3 and alternative traffic management strategies
- Closure of the Kincumber Police Station
- Operation of The Entrance Fire Station
- Operation of Kariong High School.

Ageing, Disability Services

2.3 A hearing to examine the portfolios of Ageing and Disability Services was held on Monday 13 October 2008. The following issues were raised:

- Investigations into cases of client abuse by officers of the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC)
- Number of displaced staff within DADHC
- Number of vacant properties owned by DADHC and the number of DADHC clients seeking accommodation
- Number of young people with a disability in nursing homes
- Funding for sporting activities undertaken by DADHC clients
- Services to families of children with challenging behaviour
- Progress of the 'Stronger Together' program, including provision of services to rural and regional communities
- Effectiveness of home care services provided by DADHC
- Measures to prevent social isolation of older community members
- Extended respite care packages provided under intensive family support services
- Number of DADHC clients staying for extended periods in respite centres.

2.4 A supplementary hearing to examine the portfolio of Disability Services was held on Wednesday 19 November 2008. The following issues were raised:

- Expected reductions in Senior Executive Service positions within DADHC
- Stronger Together Program, including self-managed care packages, future planning for the Program and its budget
- Potential sale of properties owned by DADHC
- Measures to deal with staff conflicts-of-interest
- Fees for respite care
- Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement
- Supported accommodation program, including the number of places and properties
- DADHC management structure.

Aboriginal Affairs

2.5 A hearing to examine the portfolio of Aboriginal Affairs was held on Monday 13 October 2008. The following issues were raised:

- Extension of the completion date for the Aboriginal Communities Development Program until 2010
- Child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities and inter-agency coordination to address the problem
- Operation of Land Councils, including the number of Councils in administration, the lodging of financial statements by Councils, and the performance of the Board of Governance of Councils
- Delays in processing Aboriginal land claims
- Impediments to young Aboriginal people getting their drivers' licences
- Impact of the Northern Territory Aboriginal intervention program on services to Aboriginal communities in New South Wales.

Education and Training

2.6 A hearing to examine the portfolio of Education and Training was held on Wednesday 15 October 2008. The following issues were raised:

- Asbestos in school buildings
- Participation in the Federal Government's National Secondary School Computer Fund program
- Operation of the Priority Schools Funding Program and Priority Action Schools Program for economically disadvantaged schools
- Retention of new teachers
- Recognition and accreditation of high quality teachers
- Air conditioning in school classrooms
- Maintenance of home schooling standards
- Processes for registering and funding non-government schools
- Ranking of schools and publication of school performance data
- Early intervention through the Reading Recovery Program to assist students falling behind in their literacy skills
- Support for children with special needs and disabilities
- Operation of the HSC Advice Line and alternative online information available to students

- Development of the proposed national school curriculum
- Vacancy in the position of President of the NSW Board of Studies and the role of the Minister in relation to the NSW curriculum
- Teaching of intelligent design and creationism in schools and the requirements of the science curriculum
- Religion programs in public schools and the requirement of secular education
- Training of teachers in computers
- Education and training in rural and regional New South Wales, including vocational TAFE training that is specific to regional demands
- New enrolments of international students at TAFE
- Initiatives for addressing the skills shortage
- Employment of part-time and casual trainers in the TAFE system
- Competition between the TAFE system and private training providers for contestable Federal government funding
- Efficiency savings in the Education and Training budget in 2008-2009
- Pay rises for teachers
- Spending on media liaison officers in the Education and Training portfolio
- Sale of assets, including land, by the Department of Education and Training (DET)
- School maintenance backlog.

2.7 A supplementary hearing to examine the portfolio of Education and Training was held on Wednesday 19 November 2008. The following issues were raised:

- Potential sale of properties owned by DET
- Changes to the School Transport Scheme announced in the Mini-Budget
- Expected reductions in Senior Executive Service positions
- Board of Studies inspections of private schools
- Number of teachers expected to retire in future years
- School maintenance building works
- New Aboriginal education program, including funding
- DET budget
- DET voluntary redundancy program.

Women

2.8 A hearing to examine the portfolio of Women was held on Wednesday 15 October 2008. The following issues were raised:

- Domestic violence and the work of the Violence Prevention Policy Unit within the Department of Premier and Cabinet
- 2008-2009 budget allocation and other resources for addressing violence against women
- Bullying and harassment of women in public sector agencies
- Location and funding of the Office for Women's Policy within the Department of Premier and Cabinet
- New health technologies to assist women in rural and regional areas
- Number of women in Parliament and public sector positions.

2.9 Following this hearing, the Committee resolved to request that there be a review of the timetable for Budget Estimates hearings in future years, to ensure that the Women portfolio is allocated at least 1.5 hours for the taking of evidence. The Committee subsequently wrote to the Opposition Whip and the Government Whip, to request that this resolution be taken into consideration in the formulation of next year's timetable.

Community Services

2.10 A hearing to examine the portfolio of Community Services was held on Wednesday 15 October 2008. The following issues were raised:

- Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection in New South Wales being conducted by Justice Wood and future implementation of its recommendations
- Increase in reviewable child deaths between 2006 and 2007 and the implementation of the previous recommendations of the NSW Ombudsman
- Response of the Department of Community Services (DOCS) to the Breaking the Silence Report
- Number and nature of projects funded by DOCS under the Community Services Grants Program, together with the current review of the program
- Number of families receiving support under the Brighter Futures Early Intervention Program
- Participation rate of four-year-olds in preschool programs
- Collapse of ABC Learning and the implications for the child care sector
- Balancing the role of DOCS caseworkers and the non-government sector in child protection

- Roll-out of funding for agencies providing out of home care
- Staffing issues for DOCS, including the number of Aboriginal and Senior Executive Service staff, displaced staff and recent recruitment of caseworkers
- Data on cases of abuse by DOCS caseworkers
- Support for young people in the care of DOCS beyond the age of 18
- Support for foster care providers
- Changes to adoption arrangements
- Review of the Children's Services Regulation 2004
- Overseas travel by the Minister.

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

1. Health, Central Coast – Monday 13 October 2008

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon John Della Bosca MLC	Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast and Vice President of the Executive Council
Professor Debra Picone	Director-General, Department of Health
Dr Richard Matthews	Deputy Director-General, Strategic Development, Department of Health
Professor James Bishop	Deputy Director-General, Population Health and Chief Health Officer, Department of Health
Mr Ken Barker	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health

2. Aging, Disability Services – Monday 13 October 2008

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Paul Lynch MP	Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Mr Brendan O'Reilly	Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
Ms Ethel McAlpine	Deputy Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
Ms Carolyn Burlew	Deputy Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

3. Aboriginal Affairs – Monday 13 October 2008

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Paul Lynch MP	Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Ms Kerry Pearse	Executive Director, Policy and Regulation, Department of Aboriginal Affairs
Mr Stephen Wright	Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA)

4. Education and Training – Wednesday 15 October 2008

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Verity Firth MP	Minister for Education and Training and Minister for Women
Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter	Director-General, Department of Education and Training
Mr Alistair Hunter	Deputy Director-General, Finance and Infrastructure, Department of Education and Training
Dr John Bennet	General Manager, Board of Studies
Mr Tom Alegounarias	Chief Executive Officer, Teachers Institute

5. Women – Wednesday 15 October 2008

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Verity Firth MP	Minister for Education and Training and Minister for Women
Ms Gillian Ferguson	Director, Office for Women's Policy, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Ms Alexandra Shehadie	Manager, Violence Prevention Coordination Unit, Office for Women's Policy, Department of Premier and Cabinet

6. Community Services – Wednesday 15 October 2008

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Linda Burney MP	Minister for Community Services
Ms Jennifer Mason	Director-General, Department of Community Services
Ms Annette Gallard	Deputy Director-General, Department of Community Services
Mr Lance Favelle	Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Community Services
Ms Sonja Stewart	Executive Director Communities Division, Department of Community Services
Ms Kerry Boland	Children's Guardian, NSW Office for Children

7. Education and Training – Wednesday 19 November 2008

Name	Position and Organisation
Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter	Director-General, Department of Education and Training
Dr John Bennett	General Manager, Board of Studies

8. Disability Services – Wednesday 19 November 2008

Name	Position and Organisation
Mr Brendan O'Reilly	Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
Ms Carolyn Burlew	Deputy Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
Ms Ethel McAlpine	Deputy Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
Mr James Moore	Deputy Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

Appendix 2 Tabled documents

Monday 13 October 2008

Public Hearing, Jubilee Room, Parliament House

1. *Number of matters reported, formally investigated and finalised in 2007/08 financial year* – Tendered by Mr O'Reilly, DADHC

Monday 13 October 2008

Public Hearing, Jubilee Room, Parliament House

2. *Table of Departmental properties vacant, as of 14 July 2008, or newly acquired since then and not currently occupied* – Tendered by Mr O'Reilly, DADHC

Monday 13 October 2008

Public Hearing, Jubilee Room, Parliament House

3. *Better Together* – Tendered by Minister Lynch

Wednesday 15 October 2008

Public Hearing, Room 814/815, Parliament House

4. *Itinerary for France and New Zealand 16-23 May 2008 for the Hon Linda Burney Minister for Fair Trading, Youth and Volunteering, accompanied by Leigh McLaughlin, Chief of Staff* – Tendered by Minister Burney

Wednesday 15 October 2008

Public Hearing, Room 814/815, Parliament House

5. *Expenditure on Intensive Family Based Services* – Tendered by Minister Burney

Appendix 3 Minutes

Minutes No. 22

Wednesday 1 October 2008

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, 9.15am

1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)

Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)

Mr Tony Catanzariti

Mr Ian Cohen

Mr Greg Donnelly

Ms Marie Ficarra

Rev Dr Gordon Moyes

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That draft Minutes No.21 be confirmed.

3. ***

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2008-2009

The Clerk advised the arrangements for the 2008-09 Budget Estimates hearings regarding catering, briefing sessions for members and their staff, filming and witness requests.

The Committee noted that a sandwich lunch would be provided for the Committee on the two days of hearings.

5. ***

6. ***

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 4.45pm until Thursday 2 October (PADP public hearing).

Beverly Duffy

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 24

Monday, 13 October 2008

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.03 am

1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)

Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)

Mr Greg Donnelly

Dr John Kaye (Rhiannon)

Rev Dr Gordon Moyes (from 9.15 am)

Mrs Melinda Pavey (Ficarra)

Mr Mick Veitch (Catanzariti)

2. Substitute members

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Dr Kaye to substitute for Ms Rhiannon
- Mrs Pavey to substitute for Ms Ficarra
- Mr Veitch to substitute for Mr Catanzariti

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence sent:

- 29 September 2008 – From Secretariat to Minister Della Bosca, Minister for Health and Minister for the Central Coast; regarding the Minister's scheduled appearance time for the Inquiry into the Budget Estimates 2008-2009.

4. ***

5. Conduct of hearing

Order for examination of portfolios

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Kaye: That the sequence of questions for the Health portfolio alternate between Opposition, Cross Bench and Government, in that order, with 20 minutes allocated to each, and that the sequence of questions for the Central Coast portfolio alternate between Opposition, Cross Bench and Government, in that order, with 10 minutes allocated to each.

Return date for answers to questions on notice

The Committee indicated their intention not to vary the Budget Estimates Resolution requiring answers to questions on notice to be returned within 21 days.

Publication of answers to questions on notice

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That, according to section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and Standing Order 223(1), the Committee authorise the Clerk of the Committee to publish the answers provided to questions on notice, except those answers for which a confidentiality is requested, after these answers have been circulated to committee members.

Morning/afternoon break

The Chair advised that there would be a brief break at 10.30 am and 3.30 pm.

6. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2008-2009

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded the Minister that he did not need to be sworn, as he had sworn an oath to his office as a member of Parliament.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Professor Debra Picone, Director-General, Department of Health
- Dr Richard Matthews, Deputy Director-General, Strategic Development, Department of Health
- Professor James Bishop, Deputy Director-General, Population Health and Chief Health Officer, Department of Health
- Mr Ken Barker, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health

The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Health and Central Coast open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 1.03 pm. The public and media withdrew.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 1.04 pm until Monday, 13 October 2008 at 2.00pm.

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 25

Monday, 13 October 2008

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 2:00 pm

1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)

Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)

Mr Ian Cohen (Rhiannon)

Mr Greg Donnelly

Rev Dr Gordon Moyes

Mr Eddie Obeid (Catanzariti)

Mrs Melinda Pavey (Ficarra)

2. Substitute members

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Mr Cohen to substitute for Ms Rhiannon
- Mr Obeid to substitute for Mr Catanzariti
- Mrs Pavey to substitute for Ms Ficarra.

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence sent:

- 29 September 2008 – From Secretariat to Minister Lynch, Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services; regarding the Minister's scheduled appearance time for the Inquiry into the Budget Estimates 2008-2009.

4. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2008-2009

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded Minister Lynch that he did not need to be sworn, as he had sworn an oath to his office as a member of Parliament.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Mr Brendan O'Reilly, Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
- Ms Ethel McAlpine, Deputy Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
- Ms Carolyn Burlew, Deputy Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Ageing and Disability Services open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

Mr O'Reilly tendered the following documents:

- 'Number of matters reported, formally investigated and finalised in 2007/08 financial year'
- Table of Departmental properties vacant, as of 14 July 2008, or newly acquired since then and not currently occupied.

Minister Lynch tendered the following document:

- 'Better together'.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That the Committee accept and publish, according to section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and Standing Order 223(1), the following documents tendered during the public hearing:

- 'Number of matters reported, formally investigated and finalised in 2007/08 financial year' tendered by Mr Brendan O'Reilly
- Table of Departmental properties vacant, as of 14 July 2008, or newly acquired since then and not currently occupied tendered by Mr Brendan O'Reilly
- 'Better together' tendered by Minister Lynch

The public hearing concluded at 4:34 pm. The public and media withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 4:34 pm until Monday, 13 October 2008 at 4.45pm.

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 26

Monday, 13 October 2008

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 4.45 pm

1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)
 Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)
 Mr Ian Cohen (Rhiannon)
 Rev Dr Gordon Moyes
 Mrs Melinda Pavey (Ficarra)
 Mr Henry Tsang (Donnelly)
 Mr Mick Veitch (Catanzariti)

2. Substitute members

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Mr Cohen to substitute for Ms Rhiannon
- Mrs Pavey to substitute for Ms Ficarra
- Mr Tsang to substitute for Mr Donnelly

- Mr Veitch to substitute for Mr Catanzariti.

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence sent:

- 29 September 2008 – From Secretariat to Minister Lynch, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; regarding the Minister's scheduled appearance time for the Inquiry into the Budget Estimates 2008-2009.

4. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2008-2009

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded the Minister that he did not need to be sworn, as he had sworn an oath to his office as a member of Parliament.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Ms Kerry Pearse, Executive Director, Policy and Regulation, Department of Aboriginal Affairs
- Mr Stephen Wright, Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA)

The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Aboriginal Affairs open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5:48 pm. The public and media withdrew.

5. Deliberative meeting

Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That the Committee hold a further meeting to deliberate on supplementary hearings relating to the following portfolios on a date to be determined following receipt of answers to questions on notice:

- Health
- Central Coast
- Ageing
- Disability Services
- Aboriginal Affairs.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 5:49 pm until Tuesday, 14 October 2008 at 9.00 am (*Ambulance report deliberative*).

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 28

Wednesday, 15 October 2008

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.02 am

1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)
Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)
Ms Catherine Cusack (Ficarra)
Mr Greg Donnelly
Dr John Kaye (Rhiannon)
Rev Dr Gordon Moyes
Mr Mick Veitch (Catanzariti)

2. Substitute members

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Ms Cusack to substitute for Ms Ficarra
- Dr Kaye to substitute for Ms Rhiannon
- Mr Veitch to substitute for Mr Catanzariti.

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence sent:

- 29 September 2008 – From Secretariat to Minister Firth, Minister for Education and Training; regarding the Minister's scheduled appearance time for the Inquiry into the Budget Estimates 2008-2009.

4. Conduct of hearing

Morning break

The Chair advised that there would be a brief break at 10:30 am.

5. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2008-2009

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded the Minister that she did not need to be sworn, as she had sworn an oath to her office as a member of Parliament.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director-General, Department of Education and Training
- Mr Alistair Hunter, Deputy Director-General, Finance and Infrastructure, Department of Education and Training
- Dr John Bennett, General Manager, Board of Studies
- Mr Tom Alegounarias, Chief Executive Officer, Teachers Institute.

The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Education and Training open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12:40 pm. The public and media withdrew.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 12:40 pm until Wednesday, 15 October 2008 at 2.00 pm.

Stephen Frappell
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 29

Wednesday, 15 October 2008

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 2.02 pm

1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)
Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)
Ms Marie Ficarra
Ms Kayee Griffin (Donnelly)
Rev Dr Gordon Moyes
Ms Lee Rhiannon
Ms Helen Westwood (Catanzariti)

2. Substitute members

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Ms Griffin to substitute for Mr Donnelly
- Ms Westwood to substitute for Mr Catanzariti

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence sent:

- 29 September 2008 – From Secretariat to Minister Firth, Minister for Women; regarding the Minister's scheduled appearance time for the Inquiry into the Budget Estimates 2008-2009.

4. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2008-2009

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded the Minister that she did not need to be sworn, as she had sworn an oath to her office as a member of Parliament.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Ms Alexandra Shehadie, Manager, Violence Prevention Coordination Unit, Office for Women's Policy, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Ms Gillian Ferguson, Director, Office for Women's Policy, Department of Premier and Cabinet

The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Women open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 2.45. The public and media withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 2.45 pm until Wednesday, 15 October 2008 at 3.00 pm.

Stephen Frappell
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 30

Wednesday, 15 October 2008
 General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
 Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 2.58 pm

1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)
 Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)
 Mr Ian Cohen (Rhiannon)
 Mr Greg Donnelly
 Ms Marie Ficarra
 Rev Dr Gordon Moyes
 Mr Mick Veitch (Catanzariti)

2. Substitute members

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Mr Cohen to substitute for Ms Rhiannon
- Mr Veitch to substitute for Mr Catanzariti

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence sent:

- 29 September 2008 – From Secretariat to Minister Burney, Minister for Community Services; regarding the Minister's scheduled appearance time for the Inquiry into the Budget Estimates 2008-2009.

4. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2008-2009

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded the Minister that she did not need to be sworn, as she had sworn an oath to her office as a member of Parliament.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Ms Jennifer Mason, Director-General, Department of Community Services
- Ms Annette Gallard, Deputy Director-General, Department of Community Services
- Mr Lance Favelle, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Community Services
- Ms Sonja Stewart, Executive Director, Communities Division, Department of Community Services
- Ms Kerryn Boland, Children's Guardian, NSW Office for Children.

The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Community Services open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

Minister Burney tendered the following documents:

- Itinerary for France and New Zealand 16-23 May 2008 for the Hon Linda Burney Minister for Fair Trading, Youth and Volunteering, accompanied by Leigh McLaughlin, Chief of Staff;
- Expenditure on Intensive Family Based Services.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.50 pm. The public and media withdrew.

5. Deliberative meeting

Tabled documents

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That the Committee accept and publish, according to section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and Standing Order 223(1), the following documents tendered during the public hearings on Wednesday 15 October 2008:

- Itinerary for France and New Zealand 16-23 May 2008 for the Hon Linda Burney Minister for Fair Trading, Youth and Volunteering, accompanied by Leigh McLaughlin, Chief of Staff;
- Expenditure on Intensive Family Based Services.

Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That the Committee hold a further meeting to deliberate on supplementary hearings relating to the following portfolios on a date to be determined following receipt of answers to questions on notice:

- Education and Training
- Women
- Community Services.

6. Other business

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That there be a review of the timetable for GPSC Budget Estimates hearings in future years to ensure that the Women portfolio is allocated at least two hours for the taking of evidence.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 5.55 pm until 9:30 am on Friday, 24 October 2008.

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 31

Friday, 24 October 2008

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.30 am

1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)
Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)
Mr Ian Cohen (Rhiannon)
Mr Greg Donnelly
Ms Marie Ficarra
Ms Kayee Griffin (Catanzariti)

2. Apologies

Rev Dr Gordon Moyes

3. Substitute members

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Ms Griffin to substitute for Mr Catanzariti

4. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Sent

- 23 October 2008 - Letter from the Chair to Mr Steve Hogeveen and Mr Tony Weekes suggesting they refer their concerns to the appropriate authorities
- 16 October 2008 – Letters from the Secretariat requesting answers to budget estimates questions on notice by 5 pm Thursday 6 November 2008, to:
 - Minister Della Bosca – Health, Central Coast
 - Minister Lynch – Ageing, Disability Services, Aboriginal Affairs.
- 20 October 2008 – Letters from the Secretariat requesting answers to budget estimates questions on notice by 5 pm Monday 10 November 2008, to:
 - Minister Firth – Education and Training, Women
 - Minister Burney – Community Services.

5. ***

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 11:30 am

Beverly Duffy

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 32

Wednesday 12 November 2008

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Members' Lounge, Parliament House, Sydney, at 10.30 am

1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)
 Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)
 Mr Tony Catanzariti
 Mr Greg Donnelly
 Ms Marie Ficarra
 Dr John Kaye
 Revd Dr Gordon Moyes

2. Minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Ficarra: That draft minutes no. 31 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- Letters providing answers to questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates hearings on Monday 13 October 2008:
 - 6 November – Minister Della Bosca (Health, Central Coast)
 - 6 November – Minister Lynch (Aboriginal Affairs)
 - 11 November – Minister Lynch (Ageing, Disability Services)
- Letters providing answers to questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates hearings on Wednesday 15 October 2008:
 - 7 November – Minister Burney (Community Services)
 - 10 November – Minister Firth (Education and Training, Women)

4. ***

5. ***

6. Budget Estimates supplementary hearings

Ms Ficarra moved: That there be a further hearing to consider matters relating to the Disability Services portfolio.

Question put.

The Committee divided:

Ayes: Ms Parker, Ms Ficarra, Dr Kaye, Revd Dr Moyes.

Noes: Mr Catanzariti, Mr Donnelly, Ms Robertson.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Dr Kaye moved: That there be a further hearing to consider matters relating to the Education and Training portfolio, and that the Committee request the attendance of Mr Coutts-Trotter, Director General, Department of Education and Training, and a representative from the Board of Studies.

Question put.

The Committee divided:

Ayes: Ms Parker, Ms Ficarra, Dr Kaye, Revd Dr Moyes.

Noes: Mr Catanzariti, Mr Donnelly, Ms Robertson.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That the Committee hold no further hearings to consider matters relating to the portfolios of:

- Health
- Central Coast
- Ageing
- Aboriginal Affairs
- Women
- Community Services.

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Kaye: That the supplementary Budget Estimates hearings be held on Wednesday 19 November as follows:

- Education and Training 9.15-11
- Disability Services 11.15 – 1.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Ficarra: That the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to the Opposition Whip and the Government Whip, to note that this year the portfolio of Women was inadvertently allocated only 45 minutes, and to request that the Budget Estimates timetable for next year allow at least 1.5 hours for the portfolio of Women.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 10.57 am.

Madeleine Foley

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 33

Wednesday 19 November 2008

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Members' Lounge, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.05 am

1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)
 Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)
 Ms Catherine Cusack (Ficarra) (from 9.15 am)
 Mr Greg Donnelly
 Dr John Kaye (Rhiannon)
 Revd Dr Gordon Moyes
 Ms Helen Westwood (Catanzariti) (from 9.15 am)

2. Substitutions

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Ms Cusack for Ms Ficarra
- Dr Kaye for Ms Rhiannon
- Ms Westwood for Mr Catanzariti.

3. Minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That draft minutes no. 32 be confirmed.

4. ***

5. Conduct of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That for each of the two supplementary Budget Estimates hearings to be held on Wednesday 19 November, the time allowed for questions be divided equally between the Opposition, Cross Bench and Government.

6. Public hearing: Education and Training

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded the following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn in the initial Budget Estimates hearing:

- Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director-General, Department of Education and Training

- Dr John Bennett, General Manager, Board of Studies.

The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Education and Training open for examination.

The witnesses were examined by the Committee.

Dr Bennett was excused by the Committee at 10 am.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 10.45 am. The public and media withdrew.

7. Deliberative meeting

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Kaye: That the Committee defer consideration of further supplementary hearings for the portfolio of Education and Training until the answers to questions on notice have been received.

8. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 10.47 am until 11.15 am on Wednesday 19 November 2008.

Madeleine Foley

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 34

Wednesday 19 November 2008

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Members' Lounge, Parliament House, Sydney, at 11.15 am

1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)

Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)

Mr Greg Donnelly

Revd Dr Gordon Moyes

Mrs Melinda Pavey (Ficarra)

Ms Helen Westwood (Catanzariti)

2. Apologies

Ms Lee Rhiannon

3. Substitute members

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Mrs Pavey for Ms Ficarra
- Ms Westwood for Mr Catanzariti.

4. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2008-2009

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded the following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn in the initial Budget Estimates hearing:

- Mr Brendan O'Reilly, Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

- Ms Carolyn Burlew, Deputy Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
- Ms Ethel McAlpine, Deputy Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

The following departmental official was sworn:

- Mr James Moore, Deputy Director-General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Disability Services open for examination.

The witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.15. The public and media withdrew.

5. **Deliberative meeting**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That the Committee hold no further hearings to consider matters relating to the Disability Services portfolio.

6. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 12.17 pm until 10 am on 5 December 2008.

Madeleine Foley

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 36

Friday 5 December 2008

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Room 1102, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9:35 am

1. **Members present**

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)

Ms Christine Robertson (*Deputy Chair*)

Mr Tony Catanzariti

Mr Ian Cohen (Rhiannon)

Ms Marie Ficarra

Mr John Robertson (Donnelly)

2. **Apologies**

Revd Dr Gordon Moyes

3. **Substitutions**

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following member would be substituting for the purposes of this deliberative:

- Mr Robertson to substitute for Mr Donnelly.

4. **Minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Ficarra: That draft minutes nos. 33, 34 and 35 be confirmed.

5. **Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence sent

- 24 November 2008 - Letters from the Secretariat requesting answers to budget estimates questions on notice by 5 pm Monday 15 December 2008, to:
 - Minister Firth - Education and Training
 - Minister Lynch - Disability Services.

6. ***

7. ***

8. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 12:00 pm until Thursday 26 February 2009 (*Inquiry into governance of NSW universities*)

Beverly Duffy

Clerk to the Committee