

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

# **Budget Estimates 2007-2008**

Ordered to be printed 5 March 2008

New South Wales Parliamentary Library cataloguing-in-publication data:

**New South Wales. Parliamentary Library cataloguing-in-publication data. General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2**

New South Wales. Parliament. Legislative Council. General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2  
Budget estimates 2007-2008 / Legislative Council, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2. [Sydney, N.S.W.] : The  
Committee, 2008. - ix, 18 p. ; 30 cm. (Report ; 26, March 2008)

Chair: Robyn Parker

ISBN 9781921286209

1. Budget-New South Wales.
  2. Finance, Public-New South Wales.
  3. New South Wales-Appropriations and expenditures.
    - I. Title.
    - II. Parker, Robyn.
    - III. Series: New South Wales. Parliament. Legislative Council. General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2. Report ; 26.
- 352.4944 (DDC22)

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## Terms of Reference

1. That the resolution appointing five general purpose standing committees reflecting Government Ministers' portfolio responsibilities adopted by this House on 10 May 2007 be amended to reflect the changes to Government Ministers' portfolio responsibilities as follows:
  - (a) General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1
    - Premier
    - Citizenship
    - Juvenile Justice
    - Western Sydney
    - Treasury
    - Infrastructure
    - Hunter
    - The Legislature
    - Roads
    - Commerce
  - (b) General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
    - Education and Training
    - Industrial Relations
    - Assistant finance
    - Central Coast
    - Fair Trading
    - Youth
    - Volunteering
    - Ageing
    - Disability Services
    - Health
  - (c) General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3
    - Police
    - Illawarra
    - Attorney General
    - Justice
    - Emergency Services
    - Water Utilities
    - Gaming and Racing
    - Sport and Recreation
    - Local Government
    - Aboriginal Affairs
  - (d) General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4
    - Transport
    - Finance
    - Planning
    - Redfern Waterloo
    - Arts

Science and Medical Research  
 Women  
 Community Services  
 Small Business  
 Regulatory Reform  
 Ports

(e) General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Primary Industries  
 State Development  
 Mineral Resources  
 Energy  
 Lands  
 Rural Affairs  
 Regional Development  
 Waterways  
 Housing  
 Tourism  
 Climate Change and Environment  
 Water.

2. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2007-2008 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.
3. The committees are to consider the Budget Estimates in accordance with the allocation of portfolios to the committees.
4. The committees must hear evidence in public.
5. Not more than two committees are to hear evidence simultaneously.
6. 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.
7. A daily Hansard record is to be published as soon as practicable after each day's proceedings.
8. That the Leader of the Government is to provide to each Committee, by Friday 13 July 2007, a schedule outlining the attendance of relevant ministers to appear before each committee, for the committee's consideration.
9. The committees may hold supplementary hearings as required.
10. The committees are to present a final report to the House by Friday 30 November 2007.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extended to 6 March 2008 by resolution of the House Thursday 29 November 2007, *Minutes of Proceedings, No 33*, 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 54<sup>th</sup> Parliament, 29 November 2007, item 5.

11. Committee members may lodge questions on notice with the Clerk to the committee up to two days following a hearing.
12. Questions lodged on notice are subject to standing order 67 and will be published in the Questions and Answers Paper.

## Committee Membership

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

## Other members who attended the hearings

<b>The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC</b>	Liberal Party
<b>The Hon John Ajaka MLC</b>	Liberal Party
<b>The Hon Mick Veitch MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC</b>	Liberal Party
<b>Dr John Kaye MLC</b>	The Greens
<b>The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>The Hon David Clarke MLC</b>	Liberal Party

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## Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present the report of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 on the 2007-2008 Budget Estimates. The Committee examined the following portfolio areas:

- Education and Training
- Industrial Relations
- Assistant Finance
- Central Coast
- Fair Trading
- Youth
- Volunteering
- Ageing
- Disability Services
- Health

The Committee would like to thank the Ministers and other witnesses who gave evidence during the inquiry.



The Hon Robyn Parker MLC  
**Chair**

# Chapter 1 Introduction

## Referral of the 2007-2008 Budget Estimates

- 1.1 On Thursday 28 June 2007, the Legislative Council resolved ‘that the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2007-2008 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.’<sup>2</sup>
- 1.2 Each Committee was to examine the Budget Estimates for the relevant portfolios and report to the house by Friday 30 November 2007.<sup>3</sup>

## Hearings

- 1.3 The Committee held four public hearings as follows:
- Monday 15 October 2007 – Fair Trading, Youth, Volunteering
  - Monday 22 October 2007 – Ageing, Disability Services
  - Monday 22 October 2007 – Educational and Training, Industrial Relations, Assistant Finance, Central Coast
  - Friday 26 October 2007 – Health.
- 1.4 A brief summary of the key issues raised during the hearings is contained in Chapter 2.

## Transcripts

- 1.5 Transcripts of the hearings are available on the Committee’s web page at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2).

## Questions on notice

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

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<sup>2</sup> *Minutes of Proceedings, No 15*, 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 54<sup>th</sup> Parliament, 28 June 2007, item 45

<sup>3</sup> *Minutes of Proceedings, No 15*, 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 54<sup>th</sup> Parliament, 28 June 2007, item 45, para 10

## Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

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

### Fair Trading, Youth, Volunteering

**2.1** A hearing examining the portfolios of Fair Trading, Youth and Volunteering was held on Monday 15 October 2007. The following issues were raised:

- Financial Counselling Services
- Review of the Residential Tenancies Act
- Housing affordability
- Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal
- Consumer protection for residential home building
- Product safety laws
- Car rebirthing
- ‘Breaking the Silence’ report
- World Youth Day
- Youth Advisory Council
- Volunteer of the Year Award.

**2.2** In November, the Committee resolved to write to the Minister for Fair Trading seeking clarification regarding the amount of departmental funding provided to AngliCare North Coast for the provision of financial counselling services and to seek facilitation of a meeting between the Office of Fair Trading and AngliCare North Coast.

**2.3** The correspondence from the Committee to the Minister for Fair Trading and the response from the Minister are available on the Committee’s webpage.

### Ageing, Disability Services

**2.4** A hearing examining the portfolios of Ageing and Disability Services was held on Monday 22 October 2007. The following issues were raised:

- The ‘Stronger Together’ and ‘Better Together’ programs
- Issues associated with respite care and services, including length of stay in respite care, availability of beds and flexibility of respite packages
- Prevalence and incidence of abuse allegations and role of independent consultants, nature of allegations and the cost of backfilling positions of those under investigation
- Disability audit in Parliament House

- Remuneration for carers, services and families of children with disabilities
- Waiting lists for therapy places
- Response to recommendations of the New South Wales Ombudsman's 2004 'Children's Report'
- Meeting Aboriginal disability needs and the provision of culturally appropriate disability services
- Initiatives to address current and future needs of the ageing population and the "Ageing 2030" forum
- Services to aid families of children with autism
- Issues associated with devolution – the shift from institutions to community based services, progress of planned closures of large institutions and timeline for closing remaining institutions
- Transition of children and young people from aged care facilities to age appropriate facilities – the 'Young people in nursing homes' program
- Provision of public dental services for older people
- Commonwealth/State and Territory Disability Agreements for funding
- Funds availability for home modification programs
- Details of departmental travel and salary costs
- Impact of possible restrictions on older drivers for voluntary organisations
- Wheelchair accessible taxi transport subsidies
- Quality audit of accommodation and respite services
- Issues associated with the delay in releasing hospital patients to community disability support
- Initiatives to increase engagement of people with disabilities in employment and the community
- Current numbers of people on regionally based service registers seeking places in group homes.

## **Education and Training, Industrial Relations, Assistant Finance, Central Coast**

**2.5** A hearing examining the portfolios of Education and Training, Industrial Relations, Assistant Finance and the Central Coast was held on Monday 22 October 2007. The following issues were raised:

- The distribution of political material at schools and the protection of the independence of schools from partisan politics
- Fees and rebates for apprentices and trainees at TAFE, together with the current funding arrangements for TAFE in NSW

- Reform of the NSW school curriculum to include greater Australian content
- The quality of teaching and teacher training in NSW, together with student/teacher ratios
- Funding by the State and Commonwealth Governments of public and private schools, TAFEs and Australian Technical Colleges in NSW
- Issues relating to specific schools including the proposal for a new Kariong High School, the closure of Macquarie Boys High School, the sale of surplus land attached to Bass Hill School and the impact of the proposed sand mine at Somersby on Somersby Public School
- The number and training of school counsellors and speech pathologists in NSW schools
- The number and targeting of workplace inspections by the Office of Industrial Relations, and the number of employment breaches by employers, in 2006/2007
- The operation of the fairness test under the Federal Government's WorkChoices scheme and the impact of WorkChoices on NSW employers and employees
- WorkCover conduct of workplace inspections, workshops and education programs in 2006/2007
- The results of an internal WorkCover survey of the job satisfaction of its employees and the level of bullying within the organisation
- Recent changes to the greenslip scheme including the introduction of the Lifetime Care and Support Scheme.

## Health

2.6 A hearing examining the portfolio of Health was held on Monday 15 October 2007. The following issues were raised:

- Budget issues at North Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service
- Australian Medical Association report card on hospitals in New South Wales
- Internal complaints regarding bullying and intimidation
- Triage categories
- Model of care for women who attend emergency departments with threatened miscarriage
- Resource Distribution Formula
- Budget for PADP Program (Programs of Appliances for Disabled People)
- Dental waiting lists for children
- Rural Oral Centres.

## Appendix 1 Witnesses

### 1. Fair Trading, Youth, Volunteering – Monday 15 October 2007

Name	Position
Hon Linda Burney MP	Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth and Minister for Volunteering
Ms Lyn Baker	Commissioner, Office of Fair Trading
Mr Rod Stowe	Deputy Commissioner, Policy and Strategy, Office of Fair Trading
Mr David Catt	Acting Assistant Commissioner, Operations, Office of Fair Trading
Mr Steve Griffin	General Manager, Home Building Service, Office of Fair Trading
Mr Michael Silk	Executive Director, Fair Trading Service, Office of Fair Trading
Ms Gillian Calvert	Commissioner, NSW Commission for Children and Young People
Dr Neil Shepherd	Director General, Department of Community Services
Ms Donna Rygate	Deputy Director General, Strategy, Communication and Governance, Department of Community Services
Mr Paul Murphy	Director, Strategy and Planning, Department of Community Services
Mr John Scott	Director, Strategic Projects Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet

### 2. Ageing, Disability Services – Monday 22 October 2007

Name	Position
Hon Kristina Keneally MP	Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services
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 Carol Mills	Deputy Director General, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
Mr Stephen Mudge	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

### 3. Education and Training, Industrial Relations, Assistant Finance, Central Coast – Monday 22 October 2007

Name	Position
Hon John Della Bosca MLC	Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance
Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter	Director General, Department of Education and Training; and Managing Director, TAFE NSW
Dr John Bennett	General Manager, Office of the Board of Studies
Mr Alastair Hunter	Deputy Director General, Finance & Infrastructure, Department of Education and Training
Mr Jon Blackwell	Chief Executive Officer, WorkCover NSW

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Ms Pat Manser	Deputy Director General, Office of Industrial Relations, Department of Commerce
Mr David Bowen	General Manager, Motor Accidents Authority; and Chief Executive Officer, Lifetime Care Support Authority

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#### **4. Health – Friday 26 October 2007**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Hon Reba Meagher MP	Minister for Health
Prof Debra Picone	Director General, New South Wales Health
Dr Denise Robinson	Chief Health Officer, and Deputy Director General, Population Health, New South Wales Health
Ms Karen Cranshaw	Deputy Director General, Health Systems Support, New South Wales Health
Mr Kenneth Barker	Chief Financial Officer, New South Wales Health
Dr Richard Matthews	Deputy Director General, Strategic Development, New South Wales Health

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## Appendix 2 Minutes

### Minutes No. 4

Monday 15 October 2007

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1:45pm

#### 1. Members present

Mr Tony Catazanrati

Ms Catherine Cusack (*Ficarra*)

Mr Greg Donnelly

Dr Gordon Moyes

Ms Robyn Parker

Ms Lee Rhiannon

Ms Christine Robertson

#### 2. Substitute members

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Ms Catherine Cusack to substitute for Ms Marie Ficarra

#### 3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

##### *Received*

- Letter from Mr Don Harwin advising of substitution for Ms Marie Ficarra (8 October 2007)
- Letter from Ms Robyn Parker, Ms Marie Ficarra and the Reverend Gordon Moyes requesting GPSC 2 undertake an inquiry into Royal North Shore Hospital (15 October 2007).
- Letter from Ms Lee Rhiannon advising that Dr John Kaye will substitute for Ms Rhiannon for Fair Trading for the portfolio only (15 October 2007).

##### *Sent*

- Letter to Minister Burney inviting her to appear before the Committee at 2:00pm, Monday 15 October 2007 (11 September 2007).

#### 4. Conduct of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack: That the sequence of questions to be asked alternate between Government, Opposition and Cross Bench members with the following times allocated to the three portfolios:

- Fair Trading, 20 minutes allocated each to Government, Opposition and Cross Bench members for first round of questioning and thereafter 20 minutes allocated to the Opposition members and 10 minutes allocated to the Government and Cross Bench members.
- Youth and Volunteering, 10 minutes allocated to the Opposition members and 20 minutes allocated to each of the Cross Bench and Government members.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That the Minister be requested to return answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing within 21 days of the date that the questions are forwarded to the Minister by the Committee Clerk.



Resolved on the motion of Ms Cusack: That the Minister's opening statement be limited to five minutes.

The Clerk tabled a letter from Ms Robyn Parker, Ms Marie Ficarra and the Reverend Gordon Moyes requesting GPSC 2 undertake an inquiry into Royal North Shore Hospital (15 October 2007). The Clerk informed the Committee that a meeting to discuss the proposed terms of reference would be held at 2.15pm on Tuesday 16 October 2007.

#### **5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Public Hearing**

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon Linda Burney MP, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth and Minister for Volunteering, was admitted, accompanied by the following officers:

##### **Department of Commerce – Office of Fair Trading**

Ms Lyn Baker, Commissioner

Mr Rod Stowe, Deputy Commissioner, Policy & Strategy

Mr David Catt, Acting Assistant Commissioner

Mr Steve Griffin, General Manager, Home Building Service

Mr Michael Silk, Executive Director

##### **NSW Commission for Children and Young People**

Ms Gillian Calvert, Commissioner

##### **Department of Community Services**

Dr Neil Shepherd, Director-General

Ms Donna Rygate, Deputy Director General, Strategy, Communication and Governance

Mr Paul Murphy, Director, Strategy and Planning

##### **Department of Premier and Cabinet**

Mr John Scott, Director, Strategic Projects Division

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. All witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Fair Trading, Youth and Volunteering open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

Ms Cusack tabled an Australian Government Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia (ITSA) report on sources of bankruptcy.

Reverend Moyes tabled an email from a constituent regarding assistance from the Office of Fair Trading.

Minister Burney tabled a briefing note on improving consumer protection in home building.

Minister Burney tabled a briefing note detailing key demographic data for young people in NSW.

Evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

## 6. Deliberative meeting

### *Supplementary hearings*

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack: That the Committee defer consideration of the question of supplementary hearings until after the receipt of answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing.

## 7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 4.50pm until 2.15pm on Tuesday, 16 October 2007 in the Members Lounge.

Beverly Duffy  
Clerk to the Committee

## Minutes No. 6

Monday 22 October 2007

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9am

## 1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (Chair)  
Mr John Ajaka (*Ficarra*)  
Mr Tony Catanzariti  
Mr Greg Donnelly  
Ms Lee Rhiannon  
Ms Christine Robertson

## 2. Substitute members

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Mr John Ajaka to substitute for Ms Marie Ficarra
- Ms Sylvia Hale to substitute for Rev Dr Gordon Moyes

## 3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

### *Received*

- Letter from Mr Don Harwin advising of substitution for Ms Marie Ficarra (8 October 2007)
- Letter from Rev Dr Gordon Moyes advising that Ms Sylvia Hale will substitute for him (17 October 2007)

### *Sent*

- Letter to Minister Keneally attaching an invitation for her to appear before the Committee at 9:00am, Monday 22 October 2007 (11 September 2007).

## 4. Conduct of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That the sequence of questions to be asked alternate between Government, Opposition and Cross Bench members with 20 minutes allocated to each.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That Ageing and Disability Services be examined together.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Ajaka: That the Minister be requested to return answers to questions on notice taken during Budget Estimates hearings within 21 days of the day on which the question is forwarded to the Minister by the Committee Clerk.

**5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Public hearing**

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon Kristina Keneally MP, Minister for Juvenile Justice and Minister for Western Sydney, was admitted and accompanied by the following officers:

***Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care***

Mr Brendan O'Reilly, Director General

Ms Ethel McAlpine, Deputy Director General

Ms Carol Mills, Deputy Director General

Mr Stephen Mudge, Chief Financial Officer

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. All witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Ageing and Disability Services open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

**6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Deliberative meeting**

***Supplementary hearings***

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That the Committee defer consideration of the question of supplementary hearings until after the receipt of answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing.

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 1pm until 5pm on Monday 22 October 2007 in the Jubilee Room.

Simon Johnston

Clerk to the Committee

**Minutes No. 7**

Monday 22 October 2007

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 4.50pm

**1. Members present**

Ms Robyn Parker (Chair)  
 Ms Christine Robertson (Deputy Chair)  
 Mr Tony Catazanrati  
 Dr John Kaye (Moyes) (until 7.30pm)  
 Mr Matthew Mason-Cox (Ficarra)  
 Ms Lee Rhiannon (from 7.30pm)  
 Mr Mick Veitch (Donnelly)

**2. Substitute members**

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Mr Mick Veitch to substitute for Mr Greg Donnelly
- Mr Matthew Mason-Cox to substitute for Ms Marie Ficarra
- Dr John Kaye to substitute for Rev Dr Gordon Moyes

**3. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

***Received***

- Email from Mr Greg Donnelly advising of the substitution of Mr Mick Veitch for Mr Greg Donnelly (14 September 2007)
- Email from Dr John Kaye advising he will be a participating member in the GPSC 2 meeting scheduled for 5pm, Monday 22 October (25 September 2007).
- Letter from Mr Don Harwin advising of substitution for Ms Marie Ficarra (8 October 2007)
- Letter from Rev Dr Gordon Moyes advising that Dr John Kaye will substitute for him (17 October 2007)

***Sent***

- Letter to Minister Della Bosca attaching an invitation for him to appear before the Committee at 5:00pm, Monday 22 October 2007 (11 September 2007).

**4. Conduct of hearing**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Matthew Mason-Cox, that the Minister be requested to return answers to questions on notice taken during Budget Estimates hearings within 21 days of the day on which the question are forwarded to the Minister by the Committee Clerk.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Matthew Mason-Cox, that the sequence of questions to be asked alternate between Opposition, Cross Bench and Government members, with time allocated equally between the three.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Mason-Cox, that the Education and Training portfolio be examined from 5:00pm until 7:30pm and that the Industrial Relations, Central Coast and Assistant Finance portfolios be examined from 7:30pm to 9:00pm, with a 10 minute break at 7:30pm.

**5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Public hearing**

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance, was admitted and accompanied by the following officers:

***Department of Education and Training***

Mr Alastair Hunter, Deputy Director (Finance & Infrastructure)  
Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director General

***TAFE NSW***

Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Managing Director

***Office of the Board of Studies***

Dr John Bennett, General Manager

***WorkCover NSW***

Mr Jon Blackwell, CEO

***Office of Industrial Relations, Department of Commerce***

Ms Pat Manser, Deputy Director General

***Motor Accidents Authority***

Mr David Bowen, General Manager

***Lifetime Care Support Authority***

Mr David Bowen, CEO

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. All witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Education and Training, Industrial Relation, the Central Coast and Assistant Finance open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

Mr Coutts-Trotter tabled a memorandum to Principals, School Education Directors and Regional Directors entitled 'Distribution of Political Material to Students'.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

## **6. Deliberative meeting**

***Tabled documents***

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Matthew Mason-Cox, that under section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and under the authority of Standing Order 223(1), the Committee authorises the Clerk of the Committee to publish the document tabled during the hearing.

## **7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 8.55pm until 5.00pm on Friday 26 October 2007 in Room 814/815.

Stephen Frappell  
Clerk to the Committee

**Minutes No. 8**

Friday 26 October 2007

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 5pm

**1. Members present**

Ms Robyn Parker (Chair)  
Mr David Clarke (*Ficarra*)  
Ms Amanda Fazio (*Catanzarati*)  
Dr Gordon Moyes  
Ms Lee Rhiannon  
Ms Christine Robertson  
Mr Mick Veitch (*Donnelly*)

**2. Substitute members**

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Ms Amanda Fazio to substitute for Mr Tony Catanzarati
- Mr Mick Veitch to substitute for Mr Greg Donnelly
- Mr David Clarke to substitute for Ms Marie Ficarra.

**3. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That draft Minutes Nos 4, 6 and 7 be confirmed.

**4. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

***Received***

- Email from Mr Greg Donnelly advising of the substitutions for Mr Tony Catanzarati and Mr Greg Donnelly (14 September 2007)
- Letter from Mr Don Harwin advising of substitution for Ms Marie Ficarra (8 October 2007).

***Sent***

- Letter to Minister Meagher attaching an invitation for her to appear before the Committee at 5:00pm, Friday 26 October 2007 (11 September 2007).

**5. Conduct of hearing**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Fazio: That the sequence of questions to be asked alternate between Opposition, Cross Bench and Government members with 20 minutes allocated to each.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That the Minister be requested to return answers to questions on notice taken during Budget Estimates hearings within 21 days of the day on which the questions are forwarded to the Minister by the Committee Clerk.

**6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Public hearing**

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon Reba Meagher MP, Minister for Health, was admitted and accompanied by the following officers:

***NSW Health***

Mr Ken Barker, Chief Financial Officer

Professor Debora Picone, Director General

Dr Richard Matthews, Deputy Director General, Strategic Development

Ms Karen Crawshaw, Deputy Director General, Health Systems Support

Dr Denise Robinson, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Director General – Population Health

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. All witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of Health open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

**7. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Deliberative meeting**

***Supplementary hearings***

Revd Dr Moyes moved: That the Committee not hold supplementary hearings for the portfolio area of Health.

Question put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes: Ms Fazio, Revd Dr Moyes, Ms Robinson, Mr Veitch

Noes: Mr Clarke, Ms Parker, Ms Rhiannon.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**8. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 9.05 *sine die*.

Beverly Duffy

Clerk to the Committee

**Minutes No. 10**

Wednesday 21 November 2007

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 2:10pm

**1. Members present**

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)

Mr Tony Catanzariti

Mr Greg Donnelly

Ms Marie Ficarra

Dr Gordon Moyes (*after item 4.1*)

Ms Lee Rhiannon

Ms Christine Robertson

**2. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That draft Minutes No 8 be confirmed.

**3. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence received:

- 7 November 2007 – Letter from the Hon Linda Burney MP, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth and Minister for Volunteering enclosing answers to questions taken on notice at the public hearing held on 15 October 2007.
- 15 November 2007 – Letter from the Hon Kristina Keneally MP, Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services enclosing answers to questions taken on notice at the public hearing held on 22 October 2007.
- 15 November 2007 – Letter from the Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance enclosing answers to questions taken on notice at the public hearing held on 22 October 2007.
- 20 November 2007 – Letter from Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director General of Education and Training and Managing Director of TAFE NSW to Committee Chair clarifying comments made by Mr Coutts-Trotter during his appearance before the Committee at the public hearing held on 22 October 2007

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Catanzariti: That, according to section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and Standing Order 223(1), the Committee authorises the publication of the correspondence from Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter of 20 November 2007 and that it be placed on the Committee's Budget Estimates 2007-2008 website.

**4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008****4.1 Publication of answers to questions taken on notice at Budget Estimates hearings**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That, according to section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and Standing Order 223(1), the Committee authorises the publication of the answers to questions taken on notice at Budget Estimates 2007-2008 hearings with the exception of those answers for which confidentiality is requested.

**4.2 Future inquiry activity**

The Committee deliberated.



Ms Robertson moved: That the Committee not hold supplementary hearings for the portfolio areas of Ageing and Disability Services; and Education and Training, Industrial Relations, Assistant Finance and the Central Coast.

Question put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Catanzariti, Mr Donnelly, Dr Moyes, Ms Robertson.

Noes: Ms Ficarra, Ms Parker, Ms Rhiannon.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson:

- That the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to the Minister for Fair Trading regarding the amount of departmental funding provided to Anglicare North Coast for the provision of financial counselling services.
- That the Chair be authorised to seek facilitation, in negotiation with the Minister, of a meeting between the Minister or the Office of Fair Trading and representatives of Anglicare North Coast to clarify the issue of departmental funding for financial counselling services, and that the Chair advise the Committee of the outcomes achieved.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Rhiannon: That the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, request the House extend the reporting date for the reference to General Purpose Standing Committee No 2 relating to the Budget Estimates and related papers to the first sitting Thursday in March 2008.

## 5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 2.45pm *sine die*.

John Young  
Clerk to the Committee

## Minutes No. 12

Wednesday 27 February 2008

Members' Lounge, Parliament House, at 1:00pm

### 1. Members present

Ms Robyn Parker (*Chair*)  
Mr Greg Donnelly  
Ms Fazio (*Catanzariti*)  
Ms Marie Ficarra  
Dr Gordon Moyes  
Ms Lee Rhiannon

Ms Christine Robertson

**2. Apologies**

Mr Catanzariti

**3. Substitutions**

The Chair advised that she had received written advice from the Government Whip that Ms Fazio would be substituting for Mr Catanzariti for the purposes of this meeting.

**4. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That draft Minutes No 10 be confirmed.

The Committee considered draft Minutes No 11.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Ficarra: That the last sentence of the last paragraph on page 4 of draft Minutes No 11 be amended by omitting the words: “*This may further influence the structure of a builder’s business, its annual turnover, and the size of projects the builder can undertake.*” and inserting instead: “*This may further restrict the amount of work undertaken.*”

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Ficarra: That draft Minutes No 11, as amended, be confirmed.

**5. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence received:

***Sent***

- 29 November 2007 – Letter from the Chair to the Minister for Fair Trading regarding the amount of departmental funding provided to AngliCare North Coast for the provision of financial counselling services, and seeking facilitation of a meeting between the Office of Fair Trading and AngliCare North Coast.

***Received***

*Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008*

- 11 January 2008 – Letter from the Hon Linda Burney MP, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth and Minister for Volunteering providing a response to the issues raised in 29 November 2007 correspondence from the Chair.

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**6. Sound and television broadcasting of public proceedings**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Robertson: That, unless the Committee decides otherwise, the Committee authorises the sound and audio-visual broadcast, filming and still photography of its public proceedings in accordance with the resolution of the Legislative Council of 18 October 2007.

**7. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008**

**7.1 Publication of correspondence**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Fazio: That, according to section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and Standing Order 223(1), the Committee authorises the publication of the correspondence from the Chair to the Minister for Fair Trading date 29

November 2007 and from the Minister for Fair Trading to the Chair dated 11 January 2008 and that the correspondence be placed on the Committee's Budget Estimates 2007-2008 website.

### **7.2 Consideration of Chair's draft report**

The Chair tabled her draft report entitled *Budget Estimates 2007-2008* which having been previously circulated was taken as being read.

The Committee considered the draft report *in globo*.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Ficarra: That the Committee present the report to the House, together with transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice, minutes of proceedings and correspondence relating to the inquiry, with the exception of documents kept confidential by resolution of the Committee.

### **8. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 1:15pm *sine die*.

John Young  
Clerk to the Committee