



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 31 January 2009

56th Parliament

*Issued by Authority of the President of the Legislative Council
and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly*

The Progress on Investigations provides a summary of the activities of Joint Investigatory Committees and Select Committees with investigatory functions.

1. The Joint Investigatory Committees of the Victorian Parliament are appointed pursuant to the ***Parliamentary Committees Act 2003***.

The functions of the **Joint Investigatory Committees** are detailed in sections 7 to 17 of the Act which, by section 33, also makes the following provisions regarding their role, sources of references and priorities in considering references:

- (1) A Joint Investigatory Committee must inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any proposal, matter or thing that is relevant to its functions and has been referred to the Committee-
 - (a) by resolution of the Council or the Assembly; or
 - (b) by Order of the Governor in Council published in the Government Gazette.
- (2) A resolution of the Council or the Assembly referred to in sub-section (1)(a) may specify a period of time within which the Joint Investigatory Committee must make a final report to the Parliament on the proposal, matter or thing.
- (3) A Joint Investigatory Committee may inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any annual report or other document relevant to the functions of the Committee that is laid before either House of the Parliament in accordance with an Act.
- (4) In carrying out its functions, a Joint Investigatory Committee must –
 - (a) give priority before all other proposals, matters or things being inquired into or being considered by the Committee-
 - (i) first to those proposals, matters or things referred to it by resolution of the Council or the Assembly; and
 - (ii) second, to those proposals, matters or things referred to it by Order of the Governor in Council published in the Government Gazette; and
 - (b) comply with any limitation of time specified under sub-section (2).

2. Select and Standing Committees may be established by resolution of either House of the Parliament and operate in accordance with the Standing Orders and not the ***Parliamentary Committees Act 2003***.

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DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2815 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2838

Email: dcpc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/dcpc

Members:

(Council) *Mr S Leane, Ms J Mikakos and Hon A Coote*

(Assembly) *Mr H Delahunty, Mrs J Maddigan,
Ms Liz Beattie and Mr D Morris.*

Chair: Mrs Judy Maddigan

Executive Officer: Ms Sandy Cook

INQUIRY INTO JUSTICE AND CRIME STRATEGIES IN HIGH VOLUME CRIMES

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2008** on justice and crime strategies in high volume crimes such as breaking and entering, which often involve young people – and the Committee is to recommend on:

- (a) strategies that will reduce high volume crimes with particular emphasis on residential burglaries being committed by young people; and
- (b) strategies that are effective because they change the environment in which these offences are likely to be committed .

**extended to 30 November 2009 by the Legislative Assembly on 30 July 2008

Activities during December 2008 / January 2009

- Review of literature continued
- Mail out of the Discussion Paper continued
- The Committee conducted an Evidence Seeking Trip to New Zealand November 21- 28 2008. The Committee met with the following people:

Christchurch

Professor David Fergusson, Executive Director - Christchurch Health & Development Study, Department of Psychological Medicine

Judge Jane McMeeken - Youth Drug Court Christchurch Family Court

Ms Anni Watkin, Manager - Youth Cultural Development Society

Mr Daniel Mataki, Youth Worker -Youth Cultural Development Society

Mr Robert Stanbridge, Supervision with Activity, Youth Worker -Youth Cultural Development Society

Mr Solomon Joseph Smith, Support Bail, Youth Worker - Youth Cultural Development Society

Mr Philip Nuu, Youth Worker, Course Tutor - Youth Cultural Development Society

Mr Fred Williams, Course Tutor - Youth Cultural Development Society

Ms Helen Pencins, Youth Worker, Course Supervisor - Youth Cultural Development Society
Ms Fala Ta'ase, Community Service Co-ordinator, Youth Worker - Youth Cultural Development Society
Ms Helena Duff, Casual Social Worker - Youth Street Work Project, Youth Cultural Development Society
Ms Manawa Te Heuheu, Course Tutor - Youth Cultural Development Society
Ms Natalia Sukhikh, Office Administrator - Youth Cultural Development Society
Mr Red Ngaia, Information and Events Centre Co-Supervisor - Youth Cultural Development Society
Mr Peter Young, Personal Advisor - Youthworks
Mr Duncan Dunbar, Personal Advisor - Youthworks
Ms Jo Tippett, Personal Advisor - Youthworks
Mr Simon Worthington, Workforce Development Manager - Youthworks
Mr Johnno Harris, Case Worker, Supervisor Multi Agency Co-ordinator - Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo Youth Justice Residence
Ms Trish Barry, Acting Residential Manager - Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo Youth Justice Residence
Mr Ross Haggart, Operations Manager, Southern Region - Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo Youth Justice Residence
Mr Gerrit Walters, Manager - Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo Youth Justice Residence

Wellington

Superintendent Bill Harrison, National Manager, Youth Services Group - New Zealand Police
Ms Basia Arnold, Policy Manager - Youth Justice Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Ministry of Justice
Ms Zoey Caldwell, Youth Offending Teams Advisor - Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Ministry of Justice
Mr Chris Polaschek, Manager - Youth Justice Service Support National Office, Ministry of Social Development
Mr Jim Greening, Senior Manager, Schools and Students - Implementation and Planning Ministry of Education
Mr Carl Crafar, Manager, Youth Intervention Services- Ministry of Social Development
Judge John Walker, Wellington District and Youth Court

Hamilton

Ms Wiremu Weti, Senior Psychologist, Court report Writer – Te Ara Kaupare Youth Forensic Services, Hauora Waikato
Mr Larry Clark, General Manager Funding, New Initiatives - Te Ara Kaupare Youth Forensic Services, Hauora Waikato
Mr Bob Rolleston, General Manager Kaumata - Te Ara Kaupare Youth Forensic Services, Hauora Waikato
Ms Mere Rolleston, General Manager Kaumata Kuia - Te Ara Kaupare Youth Forensic Services, Hauora Waikato
Mr Arran Culver, Psychiatrist, General Manager Youth Forensic Service - Te Ara Kaupare Youth Forensic Services, Hauora Waikato
Mr Syd Taare, Senior Management, Multiple Services - Te Ara Kaupare Youth Forensic Services, Hauora Waikato

Ms Jolene Profit, Senior Management, Multiple Services - Te Ara Kaupare Youth Forensic Services, Hauora Waikato
Mr John Hiakita, Court Liaison Nurse, Assistant General Manager - Te Ara Kaupare Youth Forensic Services, Hauora Waikato
Ms Caroline Landon, Court Liaison Nurse, Youth / Adult Court - Te Ara Kaupare Youth Forensic Services, Hauora Waikato
Ms Sue Poa, Pou Amahaere, Polices Best Practice - Te Ara Kaupare Youth Forensic Services, Hauora Waikato
Mr Rei Wirihana, Chief Executive Officer - Te Ara Kaupare Youth Forensic Services, Hauora Waikato

Auckland

Ms Denal Meihana, Manager, Youth Projects - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Mr John Tamihere, Chief Executive Officer - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Ms Ngaurie Fettia, Executive, Public Relations and Information Technology - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Mr John Ormsby, Case Manager - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Mr Grant Wilson, Team Leader - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Ms Betty Whakatau, Operations Manager, Social Services - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Ms Tracey Adams, Chief Financial Officer - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Ms Ihoeyna Grace, Secretary of Board of Trustees - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Mr Airini Tukerawai, Chair - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Ms Diane Tuari, General Manager, Welfare Social Services and Business Support - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Ms Elaine Porter, Manager, Mental Health and Addiction Behaviour - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Mr Tekopa Kingi, T.L. Addictions - Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
Judge Ida Malosi - Manakau Youth Court
Ms Linda Gow, Lead Clinician Child and Adolescent Mental Health - Kari Centre
Mr Paul Ryan, Psychologist Child and Adolescent Mental Health - Kari Centre
Ms Tanya Wright, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Child and Adolescent Mental Health - Kari Centre
Ms Liz Myers, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Child and Adolescent Mental Health - Kari Centre
Ms Joanne Hicks, Team Leader Child and Adolescent Mental Health - Kari Centre
Mr Greg Versalko, National Contact Centre Manager - CYRAS Information Youth Forensic Service, Child Youth and Family, Ministry of Social Development
Ms Karen Petrie, Practice Manager - CYRAS Information Youth Forensic Service, Child Youth and Family, Ministry of Social Development
Ms Cascade Leggett, Manager, Customer Service - CYRAS Information Youth Forensic Service, Child Youth and Family, Ministry of Social Development
Mr Roy Harish, Operations Manager - CYRAS Information Youth Forensic Service, Child Youth and Family, Ministry of Social Development
Ms Karyl Puklowski, Manager - Auckland City Truant and Alternative Education Service
Ms Ange Edwards, Pathways Co-ordinator - Auckland City Truant and Alternative Education Service

Mr Andrew Illich, Programme Manager, ATS AE Programme
Mr Anita Illich, Administrative Co-ordinator, ATS AE Programme

- The Committee conducted a Public Hearing in Melbourne on 8 December 2008.

Appearing before the Committee was:

Mr James McDougall, Director – National Children’s and Youth Law Centre

- Analysis of information received via submissions and public hearings commenced in January 2009.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2832 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: edic@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/edic

Members:

(Council) *Mr B Atkinson, Mr D Davis and Mr B Tee*
 (Mr E Thornley resigned effective 9 January 2009)

(Assembly) *Hon C Campbell, Mr P Crisp and Ms M Thomson*

Chair: Hon Christine Campbell, MP

Executive Officer: Dr Vaughn Koops

INQUIRY INTO IMPROVING ACCESS TO VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION AND DATA

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 27 February 2008 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2009 on the potential application of open source licensing to Victorian Government information – and, in particular, the Committee is required to:

- (a) report on the potential economic benefits and costs to Victoria of maximising access to and use of Government information for commercial and/or non-commercial purposes, including consideration of:
 - (i) public policy developments elsewhere in Australia and internationally; and
 - (ii) the types of information that will provide the greatest potential benefit;
- (b) consider whether use of open source licensing models, including Creative Commons, would enhance the discovery, access and use of Government information;
- (c) report on the use of information and communication technology to support discovery, access and use of Government information; and
- (d) identify likely risks, impediments and restrictions to open source licensing of Government information, including impacts on and implications for any existing cost recovery arrangements.

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

- **Commenced drafting of final report.**

Future Activity

- **Drafting of final report continues.**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2821 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2818

Email: etc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/etc

Members:

(Council) *Mr N Elasmir and Mr P Hall*

(Assembly) *Mr M Dixon, Dr A Harkness, Mr S Herbert, Mr G Howard and
Mr N Kotsiras*

Chair: Mr Geoff Howard

Executive Officer: Ms Karen Ellingford

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 December 2008 on effective strategies for teacher professional learning with particular regard to:

- (a) the relationship between ongoing professional learning for teachers and teaching expertise;
- (b) which factors will support high quality professional learning for teachers, including learning methods and environments for the development of professional knowledge, and the pedagogy relevant to professional development of teachers;
- (c) national and international trends regarding ongoing professional learning for teachers and report on innovative initiatives;
- (d) determining how best practice in ongoing professional learning for teachers can be delivered into schools and learning communities;
- (e) examining the potential for greater cross-sectoral links between industry, training institutions and schools in the delivery of ongoing professional learning for teachers; and
- (f) examining gender issues in the delivery of ongoing professional learning for teachers.

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

The Committee adopted its final report.

Future Activity

The Government response is due in August 2009.

GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES IN HIGHER EDUCATION PARTICIPATION

Referred by the Legislative Council on 18 July 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2009 on geographical differences in the rate in which Victorian students participate in higher education.

The Committee will be exploring the reasons for and impact of such differences and would be interested in receiving comment on:

- a) variations in the number and type of university applications, offers, acceptances and completions in different metropolitan, rural and regional areas;
- b) influences of school retention rates, including enrolments and completions for VCE, VCAL and VET in schools on participation in higher education;
- c) influences of participation in other post-school pathways, including TAFE enrolments and take-up of apprenticeships or other employment opportunities, on participation in higher education;
- d) potential geographic, economic, social, cultural and other influences on university applications, offers, acceptances and completions across Victorian communities;
- e) advantages and disadvantages of participation and non-participation in higher education for school leavers and their families and communities in different metropolitan, rural and regional areas;
- f) potential effects of geographical differences in participation in higher education on skills shortages and the Victorian economy; and
- g) strategies to address any barriers contributing to geographic differences in participation in higher education.

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

The research officer continued drafting a final report for the Committee's consideration.

Future Activity

The Committee will continue collecting evidence and drafting a final report.

SKILLS SHORTAGES IN THE RAIL INDUSTRY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 — for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 December 2009 on skills shortages in the rail industry — and the Committee is to explore possible solutions and, in particular, is asked to consider:

- a) factors influencing recruitment and retention;
- b) demographic profile of the workforce and the outlook for future retirements and loss of skills;
- c) implications of the Victorian Industry and Manufacturing Statement commitment in relation to local content; and
- d) whether there is any need for increased training opportunities at university and trade levels and, if so, how industry can stimulate student/user demand.

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

This inquiry is yet to commence.

POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS TO BECOME A FOCUS FOR PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITY LIVING

To the Education and Training Committee — for inquiry consideration and report no later than 1 July 2010 on the potential for developing opportunities for schools to become a focus for promoting healthy community living, in particular:

- a) existing activities carried out by schools to promote holistic healthy living within their school communities involving healthy eating, active lifestyles, sun smart awareness and appreciation of the effects of harmful substances;
- b) successful programs which have been instituted in schools in other states or internationally;
- c) identify whether it is appropriate for the State to encourage schools to extend health programs to be directed at the broader school community and, if so, what the most effective and efficient approaches are;
- d) opportunities for linking with community leaders and forming partnerships with business and community organisations;
- e) existing broader health promotion policies and activities; and
- f) how school-based activities could relate and coordinate with these to maximise impact and efficiency.

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

This inquiry is yet to commence.

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2885 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2858

Email: emc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/emc

Members:

(Council) *Ms C Broad, Mr P Davis and Mr A Somyurek*

(Assembly) *Hon C Campbell, Mr M O'Brien, Mr R Scott and
Mr M Thompson*

Chair: Mr Adem Somyurek

Executive Officer: Mr Mark Roberts

INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE 2006 VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2008 on the conduct of the 2006 Victorian State Election and matters related thereto.

Future Activities

- **Government response tabled 4 December 2008**
- **Committee to consider government response.**

INQUIRY INTO POLITICAL DONATIONS AND DISCLOSURE

Referred by the Legislative Council on 16 April 2008 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 April 2009 on —

- (1) whether the **Electoral Act 2002** should be amended to create a system of political donations disclosure and/or restrictions on political donations; and
- (2) the outcome resulting from similar legislative reforms introduced in Canada, the United Kingdom and other relevant jurisdictions.

Activities during December 2008 / January 2009

- **Secretariat continuing to summarise key points from public hearings, submissions, international investigations and other relevant material for Committee consideration**
- **Briefing papers prepared for Committee members on a range of topics relating to inquiry.**

Future Activity

- **Secretariat to continue research and writing chapters of inquiry report.**

INQUIRY INTO VOTER PARTICIPATION AND INFORMAL VOTING

Committee self-generated new terms of reference on 5 May 2008, as follows -

Pursuant to Section 33(3) of the **Parliamentary Committees Act 2003**, the Electoral Matters Committee inquire into and report to Parliament upon issues relating to – (i) voter participation; and (ii) informal voting.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 June 2009.

Activities during December 2008 / January 2009

- Secretariat continuing to summarise key points from public hearings, submissions, international investigations and other relevant material for Committee consideration
- Briefing papers prepared for Committee members on a range of topics relating to inquiry.

Future Activity

- Secretariat to continue research and writing chapters of inquiry report.

OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES DURING DECEMBER 2008 / JANUARY 2009

- Committee met delegation from the Iraqi Council of Representatives on 1 December 2008 to discuss electoral matters and other issues of common interest
- Report on International Investigations into Political Donations and Disclosure and Voter Participation and Informal Voting Report further considered, and adopted by Committee on 2 December 2008 and tabled on 4 December 2008
- Committee study tour to New Zealand - February 2009 to further inquiries into Political Donations and Disclosure and Voter Participation and Informal Voting – secretariat prepared comprehensive itinerary of individuals and organisations to visit
- Australian Government Electoral Green Paper – Donations, Funding and Expenditure released December 2008 – Committee to consider response to.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2803 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: enrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/enrc

Members:

(Council) *Mrs D Petrovich and Mr M Viney*

(Assembly) *Ms J Duncan, Mrs C Fyffe, Mr C Ingram, Ms T Lobato, Hon J Pandazopoulos and Mr P Walsh*

Chair: Hon J Pandazopoulos, MP

Executive Officer: Mr Derek Benjamin

INQUIRY INTO MELBOURNE'S FUTURE WATER SUPPLY

Referred by the Legislative Council on 19 September 2007 - to inquire, consider and report no later than 31 December 2008 on the relative merits of supplementing Melbourne's water supply by some or all of the following means:

- 1) further water savings that can be achieved by increased conservation and efficiency efforts;
- 2) the collection of stormwater;
- 3) the re-use of treated waste water;
- 4) the use of groundwater;
- 5) small locally based desalination plants; and
- 6) any other optional water source which appears to the Committee to be appropriate.

On the 9 October 2008 the Legislative Council resolved that the reporting date for the *Inquiry into Melbourne's Future Water Supply* be amended so as to require the Committee to present its report by 30 April 2009.

Activities during December 2008 / January 2009

- Background research and literature review

Future Activity

- *Public Hearing - 2 February 2009*

As part of the *Inquiry into Melbourne's Future Water Supply* the Committee will hold a public hearing on 2 February 2009 at Parliament House in the LCCR from 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm.

Witnesses invited to the hearing are as follows:

- Mr Tony Kelly, Chief Executive Officer
Yarra Valley Water (on behalf of Melbourne's Water Retailers)

- Ms Julianne Bell, Convenor
Royal Park Protection Group Inc.
- Mr Brian Walters, President
Protectors of Public Land Inc.
- Mr Geoff Croker
- Dr. Ian McPhail, Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability
- Mr Hamish Walker, Director
- Ms Jane Tovey, Program Manager, State of Environment Report
- Mr Bruce Greenop, Senior Program Officer, State of Environment Report
Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability
- Mr Paul Fearon, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr Sean Creeves, Director of Water
Essential Services Commission
- Ongoing background research and literature review

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2843 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2808

Email: fcdc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fcdc

Members:

(Council) *Mr B Finn, Mr J Scheffer, Mr A Somyurek*

(Assembly) *Mr W Noonan, Mr. J Perera, Mrs E J Powell, Ms M Wooldridge*

Chair: Mr J Perera

Executive Officer: Ms Janine Bush

INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT ACCOMMODATION FOR VICTORIANS WITH A DISABILITY OR MENTAL ILLNESS

To the Family and Community Development Committee — for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2009 on the provision of supported accommodation for Victorians with a disability and/or mental illness and, in particular, the Committee is asked to report on the current situation in Victoria and compare it to best practice in other jurisdictions regarding:

- (a) the standard and range of accommodation currently available;
- (b) the extent of accommodation and services currently available, including the different models for service delivery and funding;
- (c) the methods for measuring unmet demand for accommodation and how these can be improved;
- (d) the process for managing service quality;
- (e) availability of sufficient accommodation to meet future demand with an appropriate range of services;
- (f) access and service issues for particular groups, including rural communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and indigenous Australians; and
- (g) the impact on families of the current service provision of accommodation; and for the purpose of this inquiry ‘supported accommodation’ means public and private accommodation provided for people with a disability or mental illness who need additional support services but excludes mental health treatment services (SEC, PARC) and the disability forensic program (SFS).

INQUIRY ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT’S PROVISION OF SUPPORT ACCOMMODATION FOR VICTORIANS WITH A DISABILITY OR MENTAL ILLNESS

That this house requires the Family and Community Development Committee to inquire, consider and report, no later then 30 June 2009, on the state government’s provision of supported accommodation for Victorians with a disability and/or mental illness with regard to the following:

- (1) description of current government funded supported accommodation, including the number and location of places, occupancy, staffing, demand management, methods of funding and oversight;
- (2) the adequacy of the current number of places and care provided in community residential units, residential institutions, community care units, secure extended care units, prevention and recovery care facilities and other forms of supported accommodation;
- (3) the adequacy and appropriateness of care and accommodation provided in various government, private and community facilities that accommodate clients with a disability or mental illness because of insufficient places in the specialist system, and in particular including supported residential services, boarding houses, public hospitals, nursing homes and SAAP funded services;
- (4) the impact on Victorian families of insufficient supported accommodation;
- (5) estimates of future supported accommodation needs and the appropriateness and transparency of the Government's management of demand and placement;
- (6) the government's response to unmet accommodation needs, including sources of funding, planning and delivery;
- (7) the ability of country Victorians to access supported accommodation and the appropriateness and quality of care they receive;
- (8) the ability of members of culturally and linguistically diverse communities to access supported accommodation and the appropriateness and quality of care they receive;
- (9) the appropriateness of the current mix of service providers, including government, private and community; and
- (10) alternate approaches addressing unmet needs in supported accommodation in Victoria.

Activities during December 2008 / January 2009

- Public Hearings held in Melbourne on 10 December
 - Evidence received from DHS – Mental Health & Drugs Division and Disability Services Division
- Summary of submissions completed

Future Activities

- Analysis of transcripts
- Consideration of gaps in evidence
- Literature review and review of policy context
- Ongoing research

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2851 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: VPLRC@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/lawreform

Members:

(Council) Mrs Jan Kronberg, Mr Edward O'Donohue, Mr Johan Scheffer (from 9 August 2007), Mr Brian Tee (member and chair until 9 August 2007)

(Assembly) Mr Colin Brooks, Mr Robert Clark, Mr Luke Donnellan, Mr Martin Foley (from 30 October 2007), Mrs Judy Maddigan (member from 8 August 2007 until 30 October 2007) and Mr Tony Lupton (member until 8 August 2007)

Chair: Mr Johan Scheffer (from 20 August 2007)

Executive Officer: Ms Kerry Riseley

PROPERTY INVESTMENT

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2008 on property investment and property marketeers with particular regard to:

- a) reviewing the regulatory framework for the provision of property investment advice, with the objective of establishing how best to control the exploitation of Victorians in the context of keeping the burden on business as low as possible;
- b) the Commonwealth's role in regulating financial advice, and the ongoing work of the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs in considering regulation of this area.

Activities

- The Committee tabled its final report on 10 April 2008
- The Government response is due to be tabled by 10 October 2008.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2009 on:

- a) the reach and use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, including Government established ADR schemes and restorative justice schemes, so as to improve access to justice and outcomes in civil and criminal court jurisdictions and to reduce the need, where possible, for contact with the court system, particularly in marginalised communities;
- b) whether a form of Government regulation of alternative dispute resolution providers is appropriate or feasible so as to ensure greater consistency and accountability for Victorians wishing to access alternative dispute resolution.

Activities during December 2008 / January 2009

- Drafting of final report.
- Mr Ben Symon completed a two-week placement with the Committee in December 2008. Ben is a fourth year law student participating in the University of Melbourne's Student Work Placement program. He assisted the Committee with a variety of research tasks for this inquiry.

Future activities

- The Committee will consider the draft final report.
- The Committee's final report will be tabled by 31 March 2009.

VEXATIOUS LITIGANTS

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 4 December 2008 on the effect of vexatious litigants on the justice system and the individuals and agencies who are victims of vexatious litigants — and, the Committee should:

- a) inquire into the effectiveness of current legislative provisions in dealing with vexatious litigants;
- b) make recommendations which better enable the courts to more efficiently and effectively perform their role while preserving the community's general right of access to the Victorian courts.

Activities

- The Committee tabled its final report on 4 December 2008
- The Government response is due to be tabled by 4 June 2008.

REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (REGISTER OF INTERESTS) ACT 1978

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 – that the Law Reform Committee:

1. be required to undertake a review of the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978 to consider and make recommendations on amending the Act; and
2. present the report on its review six months from the date of this resolution.

This inquiry has not yet commenced.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 — for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 December 2009 on law reforms aimed at streamlining and simplifying powers of attorney documents to enable more Victorians to plan for their future financial, lifestyle and healthcare needs — specifically the Committee is asked to:

- a. consider the differing formality requirements and terminology, and coverage of the power of attorney documents, governed by the Instruments Act 1958 and the Guardianship and Administration Act 1986;
- b. establish whether the donor of a power of attorney has capacity to create a legally enforceable document and differing execution requirements and the different tests that apply;
- c. clarify the powers granted by the donor when making a power of attorney;
- d. examine ways of minimising abuse in relation to the execution of and exercise of powers under powers of attorney documents;
- e. consider the issue of legal capacity in the context of when an enduring power of attorney is executed and activated; and
- f. advise on the need for adopting potential safeguards such as the registration of documents (voluntary or mandatory).

This inquiry has not yet commenced.

OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2826 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2858

Email: osisd@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/osisd

Members:

(Council) *Mr N Elasmir, Mr M Guy and Ms C Hartland*

(Assembly) *Ms D Green, Mr D Hodgett, Mr D Nardella, Mr G Seitz and Hon K Smith*

Chair: Mr George Seitz

Executive Officer: Mr Sean Coley

INQUIRY INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS IN OUTER SUBURBAN MELBOURNE

Received from the Legislative Assembly on 9 October 2008.

To inquire, consider and report to Parliament on the major issues relating to the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products in the interface municipalities and peri-urban areas of Melbourne. In particular, the Committee is requested to:

- 1) Identify the types of agricultural sectors operating in interface municipalities and peri-urban areas;
- 2) Examine the role of agribusiness in enhancing economic growth, increasing jobs and the sector's contribution towards promoting healthy, sustainable and prosperous outer suburban areas;
- 3) Investigate the role of planning in encouraging the development of agribusiness;
- 4) Analyse the options for sustainable food production, including environmental stewardship and local food production;
- 5) Investigate impediments faced by the industry to its long term growth and sustainability and recommend options to resolve these barriers;
- 6) Highlight niche and well performing sectors operating in the interface of Melbourne, with particular reference to viticulture, horticulture and sustainable agriculture;
- 7) Examine exemplary programs supported by governments (at all levels), the private sector and non-government organisations, which assist the sustainability of the agribusiness sector; and
- 8) Investigate national and international initiatives relevant to these issues.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament no later than 31 August 2009.

Activities during December 2008 / January 2009

- The Committee and Secretariat contacted organisations and individuals requesting written submissions on its Inquiry into the Sustainable Development of Agribusiness in Outer Suburban Melbourne.

- The Committee has been undertaking preliminary background research on agribusiness issues.
- Extension to the closing date for submissions was extended to 2 February 2009, upon request to the Committee Secretariat.

Future Activity

- The Committee will undertake a series of public hearings and site visits during the first half of 2009.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

Inquiry into Local Economic Development in Outer Suburban Melbourne – Response due April 2009.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2862 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2898

Email: paec@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec

Members:

(Council) *Mr G Barber, Mr R Dalla-Riva, Mr M Pakula (until December 2008), Mr G Rich-Phillips,*

(Assembly) *Mr B Stensholt (Chair), Mr K Wells (Deputy Chair), Ms J Munt, Mr W Noonan, Mr R Scott, Dr B Sykes*

Chair: Mr Bob Stensholt

Executive Officer: Ms Valerie Cheong

THE VICTORIAN AUDITOR–GENERAL’S OFFICE

Source of reference: *Audit Act 1994*, sections 17(1) and 19(2).

Activities during December 2008 / January 2009:

Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General’s reports tabled March 2007-August 2007 (Round Two)

Public hearings were conducted with various witnesses from:

- Department of Transport;
- Department of Human Services;
- Department of Planning and Community Development; and
- VicHealth,

in relation to:

- Maintaining Victoria’s Rail Infrastructure Assets; and
- Promoting Better Health through Healthy Eating and Physical Activity.

A list of names of witnesses and transcripts of evidence can be obtained from this weblink:

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec/inquiries/agreports/hearings.htm>

Draft Performance Audit Specifications

The Audit Sub-Committee considered draft specifications in relation to:

- International students.

The Committee considered:

- Further responses from Departments to audit review questionnaires; and
- Questions on Notice arising from hearings sent to relevant witnesses.

Future Activities

Progressing the research and drafting of the Committee's reports in relation to Round Two priority one and priority two audit subject matters:

Priority one

- State Investment in Major Events
- Maintaining Victoria's Rail Infrastructure Assets
- Promoting Better Health through Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

Priority two

- Raising and Collection of Fees and Charges by Departments
- Administration of Non-judicial Functions of the Magistrates Court of Victoria
- Contracting and Tendering Practices in Selected Agencies
- Managing Emergency demand in Public Hospitals

Committee consideration of:

- A draft report for Round Two audit reviews;
- 2009-10 Budget for the Victorian Auditor-General's Office;
- Draft specifications for proposed performance audits to be conducted by the Auditor-General; and
- Response from the Auditor-General and the Government's Response on the Committee's recommendations Report on the *Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General's reports tabled July 2006-February 2007*, due 13 May 2009

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC FINANCE PRACTICES AND LEGISLATION

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, section 33(3).

Terms of reference are available via:

http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec/inquiries/finance_practices_legislation/terms.html

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

Further development and drafting of the final *Report on New Directions in Accountability, Inquiry into Victoria's Public Finance Practices and Legislation*.

Future Activities

Consideration of submissions on the Preliminary Report.

Committee consideration and adoption of the final *Report on New Directions in Accountability, Inquiry into Victoria's Public Finance Practices and Legislation* for tabling in February 2009.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2007-08 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003, section 33(3).*

Activities during December 2008 – January 2009

Review of annual reports completed.

Questionnaire Part Two for Departments and related agencies considered and approved by the Committee for sending to Departments.

Responses to Questionnaire Part One and Part Two received and to be considered.

Research and drafting of Report content progressed.

Future Activities

Further research and drafting of the Report content.

Review of responses to Questionnaires from Departments, agencies and the Auditor-General.

Clarification of responses to Questionnaires.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2009-10 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

Planning for the 2009-10 Budget Estimates Inquiry including public hearings with Ministers commenced.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003, section 33(3).*

Future Activity

Response from the Government on the Committee's recommendations due 15 April 2009.

2006-07 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Future Activity

Response from the Government received 19 November 2008 on the Committee's recommendations are to be considered within the *2007-08 Financial and Performance Outcomes Report*.

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2846 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: rsc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/rsc

Members:

(Council) Mr D Koch and Mr S Leane

(Assembly) Mr J Eren, Mr C Langdon, Mr T Mulder, Mr I Trezise and Mr P Weller

Chair: Mr John Eren

Executive Officer: Ms Alexandra Douglas

FEDERAL–STATE ROAD FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 September 2008* on Federal – State road funding arrangements – and the Committee should –

- (a) review current arrangements in Australia;
- (b) assess the current arrangements in Australia in respect of economic efficiency and equity;
- (c) make recommendations for improving Federal–State road funding arrangements in Australia.

*Report date extended to 30 September 2009 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2007.

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

- Work on this inquiry has not yet commenced.

INQUIRY INTO LEVEL CROSSINGS

Referred by the Legislative Council on 18 July 2007 –

That this House requires the Road Safety Committee to inquire into and report by 29 February 2008* on existing, new and developing technologies for implementation to improve safety at level crossings.

* Report date extended to 31 December 2008 by resolution of the Legislative Council on 9 October 2008.

Activities during December 2008 / January 2009

- The Committee received a draft report and commenced deliberations
- The report was adopted by the Committee 11 December and tabled out of session, 18 December 2008.

Future Activity

- Government response is due June 2009.

INQUIRY INTO THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AUSTRALIAN DESIGN RULES

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 9 September 2008 –

That, under s33 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, the Road Safety Committee be required to inquire into, consider and report no later than 30 November 2009 on the process of development, adoption and implementation of Australian design rules and to consider other worldwide practices with a focus on improving vehicle safety.

Activities during December 2008 / January 2009

- Submissions close 6 February 2009
- Preliminary research and literature review begun by the Research Officer.

Future Activity

- Commence public hearings.

INQUIRY INTO THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS IN CAR PARKS

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 –

That under s33 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003* the following matters be referred to the Road Safety Committee for inquiry consideration and report, no later than 31 May 2010, on the current rules and standards that apply to pedestrian safety in car parks and the Committee is to recommend potential measures that relevant authorities should consider to improve safety for pedestrians.

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

- Work on this inquiry has not yet commenced.

RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

Telephone: 1300 787 202 / 03 8682 2884

Facsimile: 03 8682 2858

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/rrc

Email: rrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Members:

(Council) *Ms K Darveniza, Mr D Drum, Ms W Lovell, Ms G Tierney and Mr J Vogels*

(Assembly) *Ms K Marshall and Mr R Northe*

Chair: Mr Damian Drum MLC

Executive Officer: Ms Lilian Topic

INQUIRY INTO THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO TAXATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGED INVESTMENT SCHEMES (NON-FORESTRY)

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – to inquire, consider and report no later than 30 September 2007 on the potential economic impacts to Victoria's rural and regional businesses and communities as a result of the proposed changes to the taxation arrangements for Managed Investment Schemes (non-forestry), which have been recently announced by the Commonwealth; of particular interest are the impacts on investment, job creation, exports and resource use (water and land) — and, to this end, the Committee should consider the core issues of the:

- (a) investment, job creation and exports which have occurred over the past three years in rural and regional areas as a result of Managed Investment Schemes;
- (b) investment, job creation and exports, which is occurring in rural and regional areas following the planned transition period;
- (c) net economic impacts on Victoria's rural and regional areas over the next five years;
- (d) impacts on northern Victoria's irrigation water markets; and
- (e) anticipated structural changes and the new industry opportunities in rural and regional areas —

and the Committee should make recommendations on any necessary or desirable actions that could be taken to assist Victoria's rural and regional businesses to adapt to the proposed changes in order to limit the potential negative impacts of the changes.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 September 2007.

INQUIRY INTO RURAL AND REGIONAL TOURISM

Referred by the Legislative Council on 15 March 2007 – to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on –

- (1) the economic benefits of tourism in regional areas, including tracking the flow-on benefits through other regional businesses and industry;
- (2) potential impediments to the sustained growth of regional tourism, economic activity and jobs;
- (3) the effectiveness, at a National, State and local level, of current programs to promote and enhance tourism in regional Victoria;
- (4) initiatives to increase both international and domestic visitor nights in regional Victoria;
- (5) the efficacy of existing mechanisms at a National, State and local level to address the impact on regional tourism of natural events such as bushfires, floods and drought, and effective measures to drive long term economic recovery; and
- (6) opportunities to leverage private investment and commercial activity in regional tourism infrastructure, including ecotourism.

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

Government Response received 3 January 2009

INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL CENTRES OF THE FUTURE

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 27 May 2008 – to inquire into, consider and report no later than 30 September 2009 on measures to build on the current Government’s investment in regional Victoria, through further development and enhancement of regional centres, focusing on the development of regional centres as places of economic, environmental, social and cultural innovation that enable regional Victoria to meet the challenge of predicted future population growth in this state, and, in particular, the Committee is required to report on:

- (1) measures that could be taken to encourage new and existing businesses, industries and government authorities to establish operations in regional centres;
- (2) the development of industrial land to support the economic base of regional centres;
- (3) the most effective investments in infrastructure to encourage business and industry development in regional centres, and to support and encourage further population growth in regional centres;
- (4) measures to promote strong social capital and high quality-of-life outcomes in growing regional centres; and
- (5) examples from other jurisdictions where promotion of population growth in regional centres has successfully occurred.

The Committee is required to report to the Parliament by 30 September 2009.

Activities during December 2008 / January 2009

- Committee formally accepted further submissions, at a deliberative meeting
- Committee conducted a regional public hearing in Shepparton, with the following witnesses appearing:
 - Local councils; Loddon Murray Community Alliance; Dookie Campus of the University of Melbourne; Northeast Area Consultative Committee; Goulburn Valley Branch of the National Council of Women of Victoria; the

Goulburn Valley Islamic Council; and interested members of the local population

- Committee conducted a regional public hearing in Bendigo, with the following witnesses appearing:
 - Local councils; RMCG Consulting; Bendigo Business Council; Industrial Conveying Pty Ltd; Australian Industry Group; Coliban Water Board; the Centre for Sustainable Regional Communities ; and interested members of the local population
- Preparation for regional public hearings to be held during February 2009 in Horsham and Warrnambool
- Preliminary preparation for regional public hearings to be held in Mildura, Wodonga and Wangaratta
- Planning for consultations in Canberra
- Preparation of a proposal for overseas consultations in 2009 – submitted to Presiding Officers December 12
- Discussion and review of a proposed 2009 timetable
- Research and literature review continued

Future activities

- Organisation and coordination of public consultation program
- Research and writing of briefing material for regional hearings
- Processing of submissions received
- Summary of submissions and transcripts of evidence
- Ongoing research and drafting
- Preparation of a timetable for drafting of the report
- Preparation of draft recommendations and chapter outlines for the report
- Finalisation of the proposal to visit international jurisdictions, and planning and organisation of meetings and travel.

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2891 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2858

Email: andrew.homer@parliament.vic.gov.au (Scrutiny of Bills)
helen.mason@parliament.vic.gov.au (Scrutiny of Regulations)
simon.dinsbergs@parliament.vic.gov.au (Administration)
victoria.kalapac@parliament.vic.gov.au (Administration – Regulations)

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/sarc

Members

(Council) *Mr K Eideh, Mr E O'Donohue, Mrs I Peulich and Ms J Pulford*

(Assembly) *Mr C Brooks, Mr C Carli (Chair), Mr K Jasper (Deputy Chair),
Mr T Languiller and Mr R Smith*

Chair: Mr Carlo Carli

Executive Officer: Mr Andrew Homer

FULL COMMITTEE

Activity during December 2008

The Committee met on 1 December 2008, where it considered and approved:

- Alert Digest No. 15 of 2008
Assisted Reproductive Treatment Bill 2008
Coroners Bill 2008
Gambling Legislation Amendment (Responsible Gambling and Other Measures) Bill 2008
Local Government Amendment (Councillor Conduct and Other Matters) Bill 2008
Major Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2008
Primary Industries Legislation Amendment Bill 2008
Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Amendment Bill 2007
Relationships Amendment (Caring Relationships) Bill 2008
Sheriff Bill 2008

Activity during January 2009

The Committee did not meet during January.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Redundant Legislation

Mr Edward O'Donohue, MLC (Chair)
Mr Carlo Carli, MP
Mr Khalil Eideh, MLC

Mrs Inga Peulich, MLC
Ms Jaala Pulford, MLC

Activity during December 2008

The Subcommittee did not meet during December.

Activity during January 2009

The Subcommittee did not meet during January.

Regulation Review

Mr Ken Jasper, MP (Chair)
Mr Carlo Carli, MP
Mr Colin Brooks, MP
Mr Khalil Eideh, MLC
Mr Ryan Smith, MP

Activity during December 2008

The Subcommittee met on 10 December 2008, where it considered and approved the following Regulations:

• **Statutory Rules 2008**

SR No. 126 – Building Amendment Regulations 2008

SR No. 124 – Subordinate Legislation (Wildlife (Whales) Regulations 1998 – Extension Of Operation) Regulations 2008

SR No. 135 – Subordinate Legislation (Dangerous Goods (Transport By Rail) Regulations 1998 – Extension Of Operation) Regulations 2008

SR No. 131 – Road Safety (Vehicles) Amendment (Assignment Fees) Regulations 2008

SR No. 137 – Road Safety (General) Further Amendment (Fatigue Management) Regulations 2008

SR No 128 – Estate Agents (Education) Regulations 2008

SR No. 129 – Tobacco (Victorian Health Promotion Foundation) Regulations 2008

SR No. 134 – Transport (Infringements) Amendment (Obsolete Offences) Regulations 2008

SR No. 114 – Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulations 2008

• **Road Management Act 2004**

Management of Infrastructure in Road Reserves

Activity during January 2009

The Subcommittee did not meet in January.

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696 Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/SCFPA/

Members:

(Council) *Mr Greg Barber, Ms Candy Broad, Mr Matthew Guy, Mr Peter Hall and Mr Peter Kavanagh.*

Chair: Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

Deputy Chair: Mr Matt Viney

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO DEPARTMENTAL AND AGENCY PERFORMANCE AND OPERATIONS

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on Victorian departmental and agency performance and operations for the previous financial year.

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

- Public hearings held on 10 December 2008 with VicForests.

Future Activity

- Public hearings with Goulburn-Murray Water proposed for Tuesday 17 February 2009.

INQUIRY INTO BUSINESS CASE FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on the estimated benefits and costs arising from the north-south pipeline, the Wonthaggi desalination plant, and the modernisation of irrigation infrastructure.

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

- 26 written submissions received.

Future Activity

- Public hearings proposed early 2009.

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE DATA

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on the capacity of hospitals to meet demand, standards and quality of care, resourcing and access levels, and the accuracy and completeness of performance data for Victorian public hospitals.

Activity during December 2008 / January 2009

- 38 written submissions received.

Future Activity

- Public hearings proposed early 2009.
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