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# **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS**

**To 30 November 2005**

**55<sup>th</sup> Parliament**

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

The Parliamentary 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).

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**[www.parliament.vic.gov.au](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au)**

# **DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

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**Email:**        dcpc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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## **Members:**

**(Council)**        *Mr J Scheffer and The Hon S M Nguyen.*

**(Assembly)**    *Hon R Cooper, Ms K Marshall, Mr Ian Maxfield,  
Dr B Sykes and Mr K Wells.*

**Chair:**            Mr J Scheffer, MLC

**Executive Officer:** Sandy Cook

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## **INQUIRY INTO STRATEGIES TO REDUCE HARMFUL ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION**

Referred by Order of the Governor in Council on 6 May 2003, to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on strategies to reduce harmful alcohol consumption. In particular the Committee is required to:

1. Investigate the nature, extent and culture of alcohol consumption on the Victorian community and the associated costs to the community.
2. Examine the role of alcohol advertising including its influence on harmful alcohol consumption and high-risk groups such as young people and Kooris.
3. Review the adequacy of existing strategies for reducing harmful alcohol consumption.
4. Recommend best practice strategies to address the issue of harmful alcohol consumption, including regulatory, law enforcement, education and treatment responses.
5. Examine national and international legislation, reports and material relevant to this issue.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 November, 2005.

### ***Activities during November 2005***

- **Discussion Paper continued to be circulated**
- **Ongoing analysis of literature, submissions and evidence gathered from Public Hearings**
- **Drafting of Final Report continued**
- **Committee Chair together with Executive Officer attended the Turning Point Ninth Annual Oration 'Alcohol Policy – thinking globally, acting locally', 21 November 2005.**

### ***Future Activity***

- **Drafting of Final Report continued.**

## **INQUIRY INTO VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH MOTOR VEHICLE USE**

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 3 June 2003 for inquiry, consideration and report on:

1. the incidence, prevalence, severity, cost and impact of violence associated with motor vehicle use;
2. a review of Victorian, national and international research into violence associated with motor vehicle use;
3. the effectiveness of strategies and initiatives relating to violence associated with motor vehicle use; and
4. the need for policy and legislative reform to reduce violence associated with the motor vehicle use at the state level.

The Committee tabled the Report on April 20 2005.

### ***Activity during November 2005***

- **Circulation of Final Report on request.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Inquiry into Crime Trends — Fifth Report — Response due April 2003**

**Inquiry into Fraud and Electronic Commerce - *Interim response tabled 15 September 2004***

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000**

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**Email:**        edc@parliament.vic.gov.au

**Website:**    <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/edevc>

**Members:**

**(Assembly)**        *Mr. H.F. Delahunty, Mr. B.J. Jenkins, Ms M. Morand and  
Mr. T.G. Robinson*

**(Council)**         *The Hons B.N. Atkinson, R.H. Bowden and N. Pullen*

**Chairman:**        Mr. Tony Robinson, MP

**Executive Officer:** Dr. Russell Solomon

## **INQUIRY INTO THE VIABILITY OF THE VICTORIAN THOROUGHbred/STANDARDbred BREEDING INDUSTRIES**

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Referred by Order of the Governor in Council, on 1 February 2005 to inquire into and report to Parliament on the Viability of the Victorian Thoroughbred/Standardbred Breeding Industries with a particular regard to the following:

1. the strength of the Victorian thoroughbred/standardbred breeding industries compared to other Australian states;
2. the role of overseas breeding interests and the influence that they are having on the Victorian industry;
3. the extent to which the Victorian industries are being integrated at a national and international level;
4. the extent to which the Victorian industries have adopted international best practice;
5. employment and investment opportunities and patterns with particular emphasis in regional Victoria; and
6. the development of skills within the industries

with a view to making recommendations on how the industries may be further developed.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 September 2005.

***Activities during November 2005***

**31 written submissions received as at 30 November 2005**

**Appointment of Research Officer.**

***Future Activity***

**Consideration of draft chapters.**

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

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**Level 3, 157 Spring Street, Melbourne, 3000**

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## **Members:**

**(Council)**      *The Hons Helen Buckingham and Peter Hall*

**(Assembly)**    *Ms Anne Eckstein, Mr Steve Herbert, Mr Nicholas Kotsiras, Ms Janice Munt and Mr Victor Pertou.*

**Chair:**                      Steve Herbert MP

**Executive Officer:** Karen Ellingford

## **PROMOTION OF MATHS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION**

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Referred by Order of the Governor in Council on 27 July 2004 to inquire into and report on opportunities to promote maths and science in Victorian education.

In particular, the Committee is requested to:

1. Determine which factors will support high quality teaching and learning of mathematics and science including teaching method and environment, subject knowledge, pedagogy, and teaching expertise.
2. Examine national and international trends and report on innovative initiatives that promote the teaching and learning of maths and science.
3. Determine how best practice in teaching of maths and science can be shared among schools and other education communities and identify other opportunities for cross government action.
4. Determine how new business, industry and research applications of mathematics and science can be integrated into schools and learning communities.
5. Examine the potential for greater cross-sectoral links between industry, tertiary and training institutions and schools in the promotion of mathematics and science education.
6. Examine gender issues in the teaching and learning of mathematics and science education.
7. Consider ways of promoting greater interest by suitably qualified people to undertake mathematics and/or science teaching careers.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by February 2006.

### ***Activities during November 2005***

The Committee continued to deliberate draft chapters of the report.

The Executive Officer and Research Officer attended the Science Teachers Association of Victoria Science Talent Search Finalists Exhibition at La Trobe University, Bundoora on 2 November 2005. They used this opportunity to view a wide range of science related projects and to speak with primary and secondary school students and teachers from all sectors, about their experiences with science in schools.

The Executive Officer visited Mount Eliza Primary School on 4 November 2005 to speak with the Science Coordinator and his Grade 4 students about science in primary schools. The Executive Officer also observed the Questacon Science Circus deliver its show to Grades 3 and 4.

The Research Officer attended the Shell Questacon Science Circus Public Exhibition in Geelong on 11 November 2005.

The Executive Officer and Research Officer attended the Science Teachers Association of Victoria Conference, held at La Trobe University, Bundoora on 24 and 25 November.

### ***Future Activity***

The Committee to continue deliberating on its evidence and drafting its final report.



7. the roles of State Government and Federal bodies in developing and regulating an energy efficiency services industry, including the impact that a future greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme might have.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 15 June 2006.

#### ***Activities during November 2005***

- 29 submissions received to date
- Committee briefed by DoI and DSE on the energy services industry reference on 2 November 2005
- Executive Officer and Research Officer attended the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources Energy Efficiency Opportunities information session on 8 November 2005
- a public hearing was held on 14 November 2005 in Melbourne with the following witnesses:

**Mr Euan Williamson, Household Program Coordinator and Mr Bruce Thompson, Business Program Coordinator, Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd**

**Mr Ric Brazzale, Executive Director and Mr Tristan Eddis, Manager, Policy and Research, Business Council for Sustainable Energy**

**Mr Barton Williams, Urban Designer, VicUrban**

- Committee staff and two Committee members attended the Business Council for Sustainable Energy, Energy Efficiency Conference in Melbourne on 22 and 23 November 2005

#### ***Future Activities***

- public hearing scheduled for 5 December 2005
- site visit to Holmesglen Institute of TAFE and public hearing scheduled for 12 December 2005
- develop draft report structure.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Inquiry into Sustainable Communities - Response due 14 December 2005.**

# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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**Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000**

**Telephone:** (03) 9651 3526 **Facsimile:** (03) 9651 3691

**Email:** [fcfdc@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:fcfdc@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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## **Members:**

**(Council)** *The Hon D Davis, Mr R Smith*

**(Assembly)** *Ms H McTaggart, Ms L Neville, Mrs E J Powell, Mrs H Shardey, and Mr D Wilson*

**Chairman:** Mr R Smith, MLC

**Acting Executive Officer:** Ms Iona Annett

## **INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF THE FUNERAL INDUSTRY**

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Referred by Order of the Governor in Council on 20 January 2004, to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on:

The current regulatory framework, including self-regulatory mechanisms, that is relevant to the funeral industry and assess its adequacy, where necessary identifying options for industry and government to improve practices in the industry.

In particular the Committee is required to:

1. Identify all existing regulation and self-regulatory arrangements applying to the funeral industry in Victoria, including those covering practices associated with planning, health, employee safety and consumer protection.
2. Examine the adequacy of the current regulatory framework, taking into account:
  - the quantity and severity of complaints;
  - community perceptions of ethical standards;
  - public and environmental health concerns;
  - occupational and employee health and safety issues; and
  - consumer protection and fair trading issues.
3. Assess the nature and extent of problems in the industry and, if necessary, consider options to address these. Options could include, but not be limited to:
  - Standards of the conduct of funerals, including storage, transportation and physical treatment of deceased persons that protect public health and safety and ensure dignity and respect for the dead;
  - Standards of employee training and workplace support;
  - Planning requirements regarding the establishment of funeral parlours; and
  - Extending coverage and enforcement of fair-trading laws.
4. Identify the form any intervention should take and whether government agencies, industry bodies or a combination of the two would best undertake it. In particular consider non-legislative options such as the development of codes of conduct, accreditation schemes, education and training programs and the development of information products.

In considering this reference, the Committee should take into account:

Community experiences of the industry and the nature and extent of community concerns;

The level of consumer complaints;

Employee complaints and compensation claims within the industry;

Pricing practices;

The costs and benefits to the community of different approaches to regulation; and

Regulation and other activities being undertaken in other jurisdictions.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 April 2005.

### ***Activity during November 2005***

**The Committee tabled its Report into the Regulation of the Funeral Industry on 17 November. The Committee now awaits the Government response, which is due by 17 May 2006.**

## **IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF URBAN DESIGN AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC ART IN VICTORIA**

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Referred by Order of the Governor in Council on 6 May 2003, to inquire into, consider, and make recommendations on options to improve the quality of urban design and increase opportunities for public art in development in Victoria and, in particular to report on:

1. Mechanisms and good practice for the delivery of urban art outcomes, both by the public and private sectors, either as integral parts of development or as contributions to art works in the public realm.
2. The adequacy of existing programs and funding mechanisms for the delivery of and support of urban design and public art, and make recommendations for cost-effective improvement in these programs and mechanisms.
3. Recommendations for mechanisms to increase funding for urban design and public art, and in particular ways to forge partnerships between the public and private sectors for that purpose.
4. Recommendations to improve community understanding of, access to and active participation in urban design and public art.
5. The need for change to legislation or statutory requirements to implement any recommendations made as a result of the Inquiry.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 December 2005.

### ***Activity during November 2005***

**The Committee appointed a temporary Research Officer to assist with the conduct of the Inquiry and was briefed by Prof. Rob Adams (Melbourne City Council) and Mr Simon Perry (public artist, and lecturer RMIT). The Secretariat is continuing its research and identifying appropriate witnesses for further briefings or public hearings.**

**COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Inquiry into the Regulation of the Funeral Industry - Response due 17 May 2006.**



# LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

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**Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000**

**Telephone:** (03) 9651 3644    **Facsimile:** (03) 9651 3674

**Email:**        VPLRC@parliament.vic.gov.au

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## **Members:**

**(Council)**        *Ms D. G. Hadden, the Hons R.A. Dalla-Riva, J.G. Hilton and D Koch.*

**(Assembly)**      *Ms D.A. Beard, Ms E.J. Beattie, Mr R. Hudson, Mr A. G. Lupton and Mr N. J. Maughan.*

**Chairman:**        Mr R. Hudson, MP

**Executive Officer:** Ms M. L. Mason

## **INQUIRY INTO WARRANT POWERS AND PROCEDURES**

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Referred by Order in Council on 3 June 2003.

To inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on:

1. Victoria's existing warrant powers and procedures, including arrest warrants, warrants to seize property and search warrants; and
2. whether the existing laws should be amended, and in what way, having particular regard to the need to promote fairness, consistency and efficiency.

The Committee was initially required to report to Parliament by 31 March 2004. An extension has been granted with the report now required by 31 October 2005.

### ***Activity during November 2005***

- **report tabled in the Legislative Council on 16 November.**

## **INQUIRY INTO THE CORONER'S ACT 1985**

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Referred by Order in Council on 7 December 2004

To inquire into and report to Parliament on the effectiveness of the Coroner's Act 1985 (the Act) and to consider whether the Act (excluding Part 9) provides an appropriate legislative framework for:

- (a) the independent investigation of deaths and fires in Victoria;
- (b) the making of recommendations to:
  - (i) prevent deaths and fires in Victoria; and
  - (ii) improve the safety of Victorians; and
- (c) the provision of support for the families, friends and others associated with a deceased person who is the subject of a coronial inquiry.

In particular, the Committee is required to recommend any areas where the Act should be amended or modernised to better meet the needs of the Community.

In making its inquiry the Committee should examine equivalent legislation and its operation in other jurisdictions.

The Committee was initially required to report to Parliament by 31 December 2005. An extension has been granted with the report now required by 1 June 2006.

**Activities during November 2005**

- research project participants interviewed
- further public hearings, as follows -

<b>Witnesses, 28 November 2005</b>	
<b>Bill O’Shea, Corporate Counsel Professor Catriona McLean, Director of Anatomical Pathology at The Alfred</b>	<b>Bayside Health</b>
<b>Dr Eric Wigglesworth, Honorary Senior Research Fellow</b>	<b>Monash University Accident Research Centre</b>
<b>Margaret Way, Director of Strategy, Risk and Clinical Governance, Dr Andrea Kattula, Medical Leader, Clinical Governance Simon Rosalie, Mortuary Scientist.</b>	<b>Austin Health</b>
<b>Assoc Prof David Ranson, Deputy Director Dr Noel Woodford, Forensic Pathologist</b>	<b>Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM)</b>
<b>Assoc Prof David Ranson, Director Prof Joseph Ibrahim, Research Manager; Megan Bohensky, Research Officer.</b>	<b>Clinical Liaison Service (joint service of VIFM and the State Coroner’s Office);</b>

**Future Activity**

- further public hearings to be held 5 December 2005.

**INQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION AND PROBATE ACT 1958**

Referred by Order in Council on 3 June 2003.

To inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on:

The **Administration and Probate Act 1958** and in particular to have regard to issues including, but not limited to:

1. the desirability of new legislation and procedures to deal with the administration of a deceased person's estate.
2. whether the act should be amended to provide alternative mechanisms for the resolution of disputes that involve small estates;
3. whether the Magistrates Court and the County Court should also be given jurisdiction to deal with grants of probate and administration and deal with disputes relating to wills; and

4. whether amendments are necessary in relation to the charges and commissions of solicitors who also act as executors.

The Committee was originally required to report to Parliament by 30 September 2004. An extension has been granted to the last sitting day of the Spring sittings 2006. The commencement of this inquiry has been delayed to await the final report of the National Committee for Uniform Succession Laws.

**Inquiry has not yet commenced.**

## **INQUIRY INTO THE COUNTY COURT APPEALS**

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Referred by Order in Council on 22 September 2005.

**Inquire into and report to Parliament on:**

County Court Appeals with a particular regard to the following:

1. the historical justifications for appeals from the Magistrate's Court to the County Court being heard de novo and whether such justifications continue to exist;
2. the effects of the 1999 changes to County Court Appeals and the extent to which the procedures are applied in practice;
3. the desirability or otherwise of any change having regard to any changes to the seriousness of offences heard by the Magistrates Court;
4. the effect on the number of appeals should the current rights of appeal be changed;
5. if that number would be reduced, the savings to the County Court which would follow;
6. whether any proposed change would affect the way in which hearings in the Magistrates Court are conducted;
7. if so, whether any anticipated gains in the County Court from the proposed change would be outweighed by additional costs in the Magistrates Court;
8. in general, how the Magistrates Court and the County Court operate as one system, and what if any changes to that system will produce the best outcomes for the justice system.

This will be with a view to making recommendations on whether appeals from the Magistrate's Court to the County Court should continue to be hearings de novo, or whether they should be heard in some other way, and if so, what.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament no later than 31 March 2006. An extension has been requested.

### ***Activities during November 2005***

- **legal research officer appointed**
- **preliminary research.**

### ***Future Activity***

- **public hearings.**

## **INQUIRY INTO THE LAW OF CONTEMPT OF COURT**

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Referred by Order in Council on 22 September 2005.

### **Inquire into and report to Parliament on:**

the law of Contempt of Court with particular regard to the following:

1. what are the aims of the law of Contempt of Court;
2. what conduct amounts, under the existing law, to Contempt of Court;
3. what are the features of the law of Contempt of Court which distinguish it from other laws;
4. where such features exist, is there a clear justification for them;
5. are the principles of the law of Contempt of Court sufficiently certain, or can criticism justifiably be made that they are inappropriately vague;
6. are the procedures currently adopted in relation to allegations of Contempt of Court fair, and do they comply with internationally recognised standards of fairness for such proceedings;
7. are the provisions of the law of Contempt of Court effective in achieving their ostensible aims.

This will be with a view to making recommendations on whether the existing law of Contempt of Court is adequate or whether any reform is required, and if so, what.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament no later than the last sitting day of Spring 2006.

**Inquiry has not yet commenced.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Inquiry into Warrant Powers and Procedures – Response due May 2006.**

# OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Level 3, 157 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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## Members:

**(Council)** The Hons L Argondizzo and A K Somyurek

**(Assembly)** Mr E N Baillieu, Ms R Buchanan, Mr M F Dixon,  
Mr D A Nardella and Hon K M Smith

**Chairman:** Mr Don Nardella MP

**Executive Officer:** Mr Sean Coley

## INQUIRY INTO BUILDING NEW COMMUNITIES

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Terms of reference – received by Order in Council on 18 January 2005.

To inquire into and report to Parliament on issues relating to strengthening communities through improved community engagement in outer urban areas, including both developing and established communities.

In particular, the Committee is requested to:

1. Investigate existing forms of community engagement and recommend ways to strengthen and empower communities and build social capital;
2. Examine the role of community groups and all levels of government in promoting community engagement, with a view to strengthening outer suburban communities;
3. Investigate the role of new forms of communication, including the Internet and associated technologies, in supporting and enhancing community engagement;
4. Identify opportunities for increasing community engagement between Melbourne's outer suburban municipalities and communities;
5. Identify barriers to participate in various forms of community engagement and ways to overcome these barriers;
6. Investigate and report into how life-long learning, neighbourhood houses and other organisations can strengthen local communities;
7. Investigate and report on options for engaging, with a culturally diverse community, older persons, people with a disability and youth in the local community;
8. The role of volunteers and volunteer organisations in strengthening local communities;
9. The role of mentoring in the outer suburbs;
10. Examine national and international initiatives relevant to these issues; and
11. Investigate the implications of building new outer urban communities, on community cohesion in nearby rural communities, particularly during the transition period from rural to urban.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament no later than 31 March 2006.

### ***Activities during November 2005***

The Committee undertook an International Study Tour between 28 October and 11 November 2005 and held meetings in Los Angeles, Vancouver, New York, London and Rome.

#### **Los Angeles**

- **Mr Greg Nelson, General Manager  
Department of Neighbourhood Empowerment, City of Los Angeles**

#### **Vancouver**

- **Cr Ellen Woodsworth, Deputy Mayor of Vancouver (for October)**
- **Ms Wendy Au, Manager, Special Projects  
Office of the City Manager, City of Vancouver**
- **Professor Ralph Matthews and research group, Departments of  
Anthropology and Sociology, University of British Columbia**
- **Mr Dennis Pavlich, Vice President, External & Legal Affairs  
University of British Columbia**
- **Ms Cheeying Ho, Executive Director, SmartGrowth BC**

#### **New York**

- **Mr Adil Khan, Chief Socio-Economic & Management Branch  
Division for Public Administration & Development Management  
Department of Economic & Social Affairs (UN-DESA)  
United Nations**
- **Mr Alexei Tikhomirov, Chief, Transition Economies Unit  
Socio-economic Governance & Management Branch  
Division for Public Administration & Development Management  
Department of Economic & Social Affairs (UN-DESA)  
United Nations**
- **Mr Bob Huber, Chief, Generational Issues & Integration Section  
Division for Social Policy & Integration  
Department of Economic & Social Affairs (UN-DESA)  
United Nations**
- **Mr Thomas Schindlmayr, Division for Social Policy & Development,  
Department of Economic & Social Affairs (UN-DESA)  
United Nations**
- **Mr Kadmiel Wekwete, Director, Local Governance Unit  
United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)**
- **Mr Peter H. Kostmayer, President, Citizens for NYC**
- **Ms Deborah Boatright, Assistant Commissioner and project team, State  
of New York, Division of Housing & Community Renewal**
- **Ms Pauline Morgan, Regional Field Supervisor, State of New York,  
Division of Housing & Community Renewal**
- **Mr Earnest Langhorne, Director of Development, State of New York,  
Division of Housing & Community Renewal**

#### **London**

- **Ms Val Woodward, Co-ordinator Active Learning for Active Citizenship  
Project (ALAC), Civil Renewal Unit, Home Office**
- **Mr Charles Woodd, Head of Implementation Team, Civil Renewal Unit,  
Home Office**
- **Mr Vic McLaren, Head of Volunteering, Civil Renewal Unit, Home Office**
- **Mr Atul Patel, Deputy Head, Cohesion and Faiths Unit, Home Office**

- Mr Kevin Harris, Consultant, Local Level
- Mr David Wilcox, Partnerships Online
- Ms Bev Carter, Partners in Change
- Mr Ben Lee, Shared Intelligence
- Dr. Justin Davis-Smith, Deputy Chief Executive, Volunteering England & Director of the Institute for Volunteering Research
- Mr David Buckingham, Victorian Agent-General
- Ms. Brenda Pearson, Director, Neighbourhood Renewal & Communities Team, Government Office for London (GOL)
- Mr Mike Desborough, Head, Neighbourhood Renewal & Community Participation, GOL
- Ms Lisa Greensill, Head, Voluntary & Community Sector Team, GOL
- Ms Lucy Hargreaves, Thames Gateway Division, GOL
- Mr Tom Levitt, MP, Chair, Community Development Foundation (CDF)
- Ms Alison Seabrooke, Acting Chief Executive, CDF
- Mr Gabriel Chanan, Director of Policy and Research, CDF
- Mr Mark Blake, Project Manager, Compact Secretariat, and project staff, National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)
- Mr Hugh Joseph, Compact Advocacy Programme, NCVO
- Lord Richard Best, Director, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, (JRF)
- Mr David Utting, Associate Director (Public Affairs), JRF
- Mr Andrew Barnett, Director Policy Development and Communications, JRF
- Mr John Low, Neighbourhood Programme Coordinator, JRF
- Professor Rosalind Edwards, Professor in Social Policy, Director of the Families & Social Capital Research Group and research team, London South Bank University
- Mr Tony Wilson, Economy and Labour Market Division, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Ms Anna Stephens, Economy and Labour Market Division, DWP
- Ms Lyn Cooper, Economy and Labour Market Division, DWP
- Mr Ian Johnson, Head of Democratic Engagement Branch, Department for Constitutional Affairs
- Mr David Higgins, CEO, English Partnerships
- Mr Peter Ramsden, Standards and Qualifications Officer, Lifelong Learning UK
- Ms Stephanie Woods, Lifelong Learning UK

#### **Rome**

- Mr Franco Caparelli, former Director-General of Transport
- Mr Graziano Botelli, Community Services Worker
- Professor Attilio Celant, Dean of the Faculty of Economics, University of Rome *La Sapienza*
- Dr Claudio Ceechi, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Economics, University of Rome *La Sapienza*
- Prof. Lucia Caravale, Vice President, Societa' Dante Alighieri (Society for the diffusion of Italian language and culture)

#### ***Future Activity:***

The Committee is currently working on drafting both the overseas report and the final report. In addition, up to two further public hearings are to be scheduled from February 2006.



# **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

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Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec/default.htm>

## **Members:**

**(Council)** *The Hons B Baxter, B Forwood (Deputy Chair), G K Rich-Phillips, Ms G D Romanes and Mr A Somyurek.*

**(Assembly)** *Ms C Campbell, Mr R W Clark, Ms D Green and Mr J Merlino.*

**Chair:** Hon C. Campbell, MP

**Executive Officer:** Ms M Cornwell

## **2004-05 BUDGET OUTCOMES**

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

### ***Activities during November 2005***

**The Committee met on 14, 21 and 28 November to consider the 2004-05 budget outcomes questionnaire.**

**Questionnaires amended and adopted by the Committee.**

**On 30 November 2005, the questionnaires were forwarded to lead Ministers, departmental secretaries and the Presiding Officers of the Parliament.**

**Questionnaires distributed to departments.**

### ***Future Activities***

**Responses due by 20 December 2005.**

**Draft report to be prepared.**

**Draft report to be considered by the Committee in February 2006.**

## **2005-06 BUDGET ESTIMATES**

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Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 1968*, section 4F (1) (b).

### ***Activities during November 2005***

**On 3, 7, 9 and 21 November 2005 the Committee considered and amended the draft report on the 2005-06 Budget Estimates.**

**Report revised and adopted by the Committee on 21 November 2005.**

**On 30 November 2005 report no. 66 was tabled out of session.**

### ***Future Activities***

**Report to be distributed to all departments and interested stakeholders.**

**Await the government's response to the Committee's recommendations.**

## **REVIEW OF AUDITOR–GENERAL’S REPORTS**

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

### ***Activity during November 2005***

**Background research undertaken on potential follow-up reviews of the Auditor-General’s reports.**

### ***Future Activity***

**The Auditor-General to brief the Committee on a number of VAGO reports.**

## **PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

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

### ***Activity during November 2005***

**Further research undertaken.**

### ***Future Activities***

**Draft report to be updated and reviewed.**

**Draft report to be considered by the Committee.**

## **STATUTORY INDEPENDENT OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT LEGISLATION**

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

### ***Activity during November 2005***

**Draft report further revised.**

### ***Future Activities***

**On 14 December 2005, revised report to be considered by the Committee and adopted**

**Report to be tabled out of session.**

## **AUDITOR–GENERAL’S OFFICE**

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

### ***Activities during November 2005***

**On 14 November 2005, the Committee met with the Auditor-General to discuss his response to the Independent Performance Auditor’s report**

**On 28 November 2005, the Committee considered proposed changes to the protocols between the PAEC and the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office.**

### ***Future Activities***

**On 14 December 2005, a Sub-Committee to meet with the Auditor-General and officials from the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office to discuss the draft specifications for the proposed performance audits on:**

- Contract and tendering practices in selected departments
- Road safety: strategies to address speed and speeding
- State investment in major events
- Giving Victorian children the best start in life

Draft report on the review of the performance audit of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office to be further considered by the Committee on 6 February 2006

Report to be tabled in Parliament.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

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### ***Activities during November 2005***

On 14 November 2005, the Committee adopted the PAEC annual report for 2004-05. Report no. 65 tabled in the Legislative Council on 23 November 2005

On 28 November 2005, the Committee considered a draft submission to the Australian Accounting Standards Board on issues raised in exposure draft 142 on financial reporting of general government sectors by governments.

### ***Future Activities***

On 14 December 2005, the Committee to be briefed on the responses from the Department of Treasury and Finance and the Heads of Treasuries Accounting and Reporting Advisory Committee in relation to ED142. PAEC to further consider its draft submission to the Australian Accounting Standards Board

The Committee to consider a draft submission to CPA Australia in relation to the grant administration and accountability manual for not-for-profit organisations

Report no. 65 to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES**

Report on Corporate Governance in the Victorian Public Sector – Government response tabled on 21 November 2005

Report on parliamentary control and management of appropriations – Response due March 2006.

Report on the 2005-06 Budget Estimates – Response due 30 May 2006.



# ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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## Members:

**(Council)** *The Hon Barry Bishop, The Hon John Eren and The Hon Graeme Stoney, MLC.*

**(Assembly)** *Mr Alistair Harkness, Mr Craig Langdon, Mr Terry Mulder and Mr Ian Trezise, MP.*

**Chair:** Mr Ian Trezise, MP

**Executive Officer:** Ms A Douglas

## REVIEW OF THE INQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENCE AND PREVENTION OF PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS

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On 7 March 2005, the Road Safety Committee resolved pursuant to Section 33 (3) of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, to review the recommendations made on pedestrian safety and report to Parliament on:

- (1) The Road Safety Committee's report on *Walking Safety, Inquiry into the Incidence and Prevention of Pedestrian Accidents*, tabled in Parliament, June 1999; and
- (2) The Government Response to the report tabled in Parliament, May 2000.

In particular the Committee shall examine:

- (a) The implementation of the recommendations accepted and supported by Government;
- (b) The recommendation not supported by Government and whether this recommendation needs to be re-presented in original or modified form;
- (c) New countermeasures to reduce pedestrian trauma, and
- (d) Any other issues relevant to this Inquiry.

### ***Activity during November 2005***

The Committee advertised for a research officer to be appointed for six months to undertake research and prepare a draft report. Advertisements were placed in *The Age*, Careers online and on University websites 26 November. Applications close 9 December 2005.

### ***Future Activity***

Interviews for the position of Research Officer will be conducted on 20 December 2005.

## **INQUIRY INTO DRIVER DISTRACTION**

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The Governor in Council, under section 33 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, has referred an Inquiry into Driver Distraction to the Road Safety Committee.

The Committee is required to inquire, consider and make recommendations on the role of driver distraction in causing crashes and, in particular to report on to Parliament on:

1. the prevalence of mobile telephone use by drivers and its impact on crash causes;
2. the prevalence of in-car video devices, their effect on drivers and impact on crash causes;
3. the types of other devices and activities, both inside and outside the vehicle, that may distract a driver's attention from the driving task and lead to unsafe driving;
4. the suitability and enforceability of existing laws concerning the use of mobile telephones and other electronic devices by drivers; and
5. the possible need for change to legislation or statutory requirements to implement any recommendations made as a result of the inquiry.

In conducting its inquiry, the Committee is requested to seek information from the manufacturers and distributors of mobile telephones and other electronic devices with in-car applications, research organisations, Government and non-government agencies, motoring organisations and the community.

In particular, the measures adopted to address the issue of driver distraction in other jurisdictions and countries should be examined.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 June 2006.

### ***Activities during November 2005***

**Briefings were held on 5 – 6 December 2005. Representatives from Victoria Police, VicRoads, Transport Accident Commission and the Accident Research Centre, Monash University appeared before the Committee.**

### ***Future Activity***

**Further briefings and public hearings are being organised for 30 January 2006. Those appearing before the Committee will be: Holden Ltd, ITS – Australia, Ford Motor Company, Royal Automobile Club of Victoria Ltd and the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association.**

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

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### **COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Report on the Country Road Toll – Response tabled 17 November 2005.**

# **RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**Members:-**

**(Council)** *The Honourables J M McQuilten and R G Mitchell*

**(Assembly)** *Mr M Crutchfield, Mr B P Hardman, Mr C Ingram,  
Hon Dr D N Naphthine and Mr P L Walsh*

**Chair:** Mr Ben Hardman MP

**Executive Officer:** Ms Lilian Topic

## **INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE OF FATALITY AND INJURY ON VICTORIAN FARMS**

Referred by Order of the Governor-in-Council on 6 May 2003 (amended 3 June 2003, further amended 16 December 2003 and 31 August 2004), for inquiry, consideration and report to Parliament on:

1. The main causes of fatality and injury on Victorian farms compared to other jurisdictions.
2. The matter and type of injuries on Victorian farms compared to other industries and jurisdictions.
3. Current programs and initiatives designed to improve occupational health and safety on Victorian farms.
4. Any impediments to sustaining improvements in farm safety.
5. The financial and social cost of death and injury on Victorian farms.
6. The need for further strategies to reduce the incidence of injury and fatality on Victorian farms, what form the strategy should take and whether they are best developed by government agencies, industry bodies, worker representatives or a combination of these. In particular the committee should consider the creation of further codes of practice or education and training programs.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 June 2005.

### ***Activities during November 2005***

- **The Committee wrote to the Minister for Education regarding programs developed by the Work Safe Kids organisation**
- **The Committee wrote to Work Safe Kids supporting their Ripper 2 programme developed to deal with rural safety issues for children.**

## **INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BUSINESS**

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Referred by Order of the Governor-in-Council on 3 June 2003, for inquiry, consideration and report to Parliament on:

The potential benefits to Victorian regional businesses from improved access to telecommunications infrastructure and services, in particular broadband infrastructure and services, and highlight any impediments that may stop businesses realising this potential. To this end, the Committee should consider the core issues of the:

1. current availability of telecommunication services at affordable prices for businesses in Victorian regional areas;
2. current availability of adequate telecommunications infrastructure for businesses in Victorian regional areas;
3. current level of competition in both the retail and wholesale telecommunications markets in Victorian regional areas;
4. current level of utilisation of available telecommunication infrastructure in regional Victoria;
5. effect that competition, in both the retail and wholesale telecommunications markets, has on the provision of telecommunication services to businesses in Victorian regional areas; and
6. effect that the current regulatory environment has on competition, in both the retail and wholesale telecommunications markets, in Victorian regional areas;

To make recommendations on any necessary or desirable actions that could be taken to assist Victorian regional businesses to be able to take advantage of any benefits from improved access to telecommunications infrastructure and services that may be identified.

The Committee should have regard to other reports that examine this matter in Victoria and other jurisdictions as well as on a national level and in particular:

1. The Telecommunications Services Inquiry 2000 (Besley);
2. The Regional Telecommunications Inquiry 2002 (Estens); and
3. "Australia's Broadband Connectivity" 2003 (Broadband Advisory Group).

This Inquiry has been proposed to examine the above matters with a focus on identifying growth opportunities for Victorian regional businesses through improving access to telecommunication services and infrastructure by improving the Victorian regional telecommunication market environment.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 September 2004.

### ***Activities during November 2005***

- **Draft recommendations for the report into Regional Telecommunications were circulated for the Committee's consideration**
- **The position of Research Officer for the Committee was advertised**

- Regional hearings were held on 8 and 9 November in Torquay and Warrnambool. The following witnesses appeared:

**Mr Geoff Crowl, Managing Director, Be Communications**

**Mr Andrew Sheridan, Regional Sales Manager, Victoria, Telstra Country Wide**

**Mr Neil McQuinn, IT Manager, Surf Coast Shire, representing Geelong Regional Alliance (G21)**

**Mr Geoff Morgan, Managing Director, WORK iT SERVICES**

**Mr Dane Hansen, Regional Manager, Neighbourhood Cable**

**Mr Patrick Greene, Managing Director, WestVic Broadband**

**Mr Ian Watson, Director, WestVic Broadband**

**Ms Val Maynard, South Western Group President, Country Women's Association**

**Ms Lynette Harris, State Vice-President, Country Women's Association**

**Mrs Wendy Habel, Vice-President, Hawkesdale Branch, Country Women's Association of Victoria**

**Mr Craig Midgley, Project Officer, Great South Coast Council Group, representing South Coast Development Group**

**Ms Tanya Egan, Senior Development Officer, Great South Coast Council Group**

**Mr Darrell Morrison, Group Marketing Manager, Portland Observer & Guardian**

**Cr Frank Ziegler, Chairman, Glenelg Community Technology Inc**

- A public hearing was held on 28th November in Melbourne. The following witnesses appeared:

**Mr David Lindsay, Senior Lecturer, Law Faculty of Monash University**

**Professor Andrew Parfitt, Director, Institute for Telecommunications Research, University of South Australia**

**Mr Jeff Kasparian, Business Manager, Institute for Telecommunications Research, University of South Australia**

**Mr David Blanks, Telecommunications Consultant**

**Dr Trevor Bird, Chief Research Scientist, ICT Centre, CSIRO**

**Dr Stephen O'Kane, Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of Victoria**

**Mr Charles Gentner, Director, Parliamentary Library, Hansard, Communications and Information Technology, Parliament of Victoria**

**Mr John Lovell, Manager, Information Technology, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of Victoria**

**Mr Stuart Price, Spokesman, Macedon Ranges BroadCom Group**

**Mr Niall Milton, Managing Director, CalibreNet**

**Mr Gavin Priestley, Communications Industry Specialist**

**Mr Wayne Herrick, General Manager, Business Development Communications, Boulderstone Hornibrook**

### ***Future activities***

- A literature and submission review to be completed
- Regional hearings are being organised for Bendigo, Shepparton and Broadford for 7 and 8 December

- **The recruitment process is to be undertaken for appointment of a Research Officer and an Office Manager**
- **Planning for the final report.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Inquiry into the Cause of Fatality and Injury on Victorian Farms - Response due February 2006.**

# SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

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Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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## Members:

**(Council)** *The Hons. L. Argondizzo, A. Brideson*  
**(Assembly)** *Ms L. D'Ambrosio (Chair), Mr K. S. Jasper, Mr M. A. Leighton, Mr P. J. Lockwood, Mr A. J. McIntosh, Mr J. Perera and Mr M. H. Thompson (Deputy Chair).*

**Chair:** Ms Lily D'Ambrosio MP

**Executive Officer:** Andrew Homer

## FULL COMMITTEE

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### *Activity during November 2005*

- The Committee met on 14 November 2005, where it considered and adopted Alert Digest No. 13 of 2005 concerning the following Bills:

#### Alert Digest No. 13

Commissioner for Law Enforcement Data Security Bill  
Crimes (Family Violence)(Holding Powers) Bill  
Crimes (Homicide) Bill  
Duties and Land Tax Acts (Amendment) Bill  
Firearms (Further Amendment) Bill  
Gambling Regulation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill  
Health Professions Registration Bill  
Investigative, Enforcement and Police Powers Acts (Amendment) Bill  
Pahran Mechanics' Institute (Amendment) Bill  
Road Safety and Other Acts (Vehicle Impoundment and Other Amendments) Bill  
Superannuation Legislation (Governance Reform) Bill  
Transport Legislation (Further Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill  
Veterans Bill  
Workplace Rights Advocate Bill

- The Committee made a formal submission in late October to the Human Rights Consultation Committee concerning the question of whether Victoria should have a Charter of Human Rights.

## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

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### **Redundant Legislation**

**Mr Murray Thompson MP (Chair)**  
**Hon. Lidia Argondizzo MLC**  
**Ms Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
**Mr Michael Leighton MP**  
**Mr Andrew McIntosh MP**

#### ***Activity during November 2005***

- **The Subcommittee has completed its references and currently has no inquiry before it.**

### **Regulation Review**

**Mr Peter Lockwood MP (Chair)**  
**Ms Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
**Mr Ken Jasper MP**  
**Hon. Andrew Brideson MLC**  
**Mr Jude Perera MP**

#### ***Activity during November 2005***

- **The Subcommittee met on 9 November, where it considered and approved the following Regulations –**

### **Statutory Rules 2005**

**SR No. 97 – Teaching Service (Appeals) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 99 – Magistrates' Court General (Penalty Units) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 100 – Children's Services (Fees) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 101 – Corrections (Police Gaols) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 102 – Forests (Timber Promotion Council)(Revocation) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 103 – Fisheries (Recreational Abalone) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 104 – Magistrates' Court (Fees, Costs and Charges)(Amendment) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 105 – Intellectually Disabled Persons' Services (Fees) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 106 – Victims of Crime Assistance (Procedure) Rules 2005**

**SR No. 107 – County Court (Chapter 1 Amendment No.16) Rules 2005**

**SR No. 108 – Estate Agents (General, Accounts and Audit)(Amendment) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 109 – Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 110 – Victorian Institute of Teaching (Elections)(Amendment) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 111 – Mental Health (Fees) Regulations 2005**

**SR No. 112 – Health Services (Supported Residential Services) (Fees) Regulations 2005**

- SR No. 113 – Health Services (Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres)(Fees) Regulations 2005**
- SR No. 114 – Health (Medical Radiation Technologists)(Fees) Regulations 2005**
- SR No. 115 – Health (Pest Control)(Fees) Regulations 2005**
- SR No. 116 – Health (Radiation Safety)(Fees) Regulations 2005**
- SR No. 117 – Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Fees) Regulations 2005**
- SR No. 118 – Tobacco (Grands Prix Events) Regulations 2005**
- SR No. 119 – Road Safety (Vehicles)(Mass, Dimension and Load Restraint) Regulations 2005**
- SR No. 120 – Road Safety (General)(Speed Measuring Devices) Regulations 2005**
- SR No. 121 – Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Rodeos) Regulations 2005**
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