

Extract from Hansard

[LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES A AND B SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION — Thursday,
24 May 2018]

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Mr Zak Kirkup; Dr Mike Nahan

Division 1: Parliament —

[Supplementary Information No A1.]

Question: Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup asked for a breakdown of the total cost of hours and any other incidental costs related to the Procedure and Privileges Committee inquiry into the member for Darling Range.

Answer: The following table is an estimate of the cost of the Inquiry of the Procedure and Privileges Committee into the Member for Darling Range.

Estimate of the cost of the Inquiry of the Procedure and Privileges Committee into the Member for Darling Range	
cost of Clerk's time ¹ (estimate)	\$21,000
cost of Deputy Clerk's time ² (estimate)	\$25,000
cost of Principal Research Officer's time ³ (estimate)	\$60,000
phone calls (estimate)	\$100
search fees	\$305
legal fees	\$14,344
amenities (estimate)	\$300
printing costs	\$3,326
TOTAL	\$124,375

¹ Cost of the Clerk's time was calculated on the following basis. The Clerk estimated she spent 20% of her time working on this Inquiry during the period of the Inquiry (30 November 2017 – 8 May 2018). 20% of her salary for the period of the Inquiry is approximately \$21,000.

² Cost of the Deputy Clerk's time was calculated on the following basis. The Deputy Clerk estimated he spent 30% of his time working on this Inquiry during the period of the Inquiry. 30% of his salary for the period of the Inquiry is approximately \$25,000.

³ Cost of Principal Research Officer's time was calculated as follows. She spent approximately 724 hours working on this Inquiry, of which 429 were standard working hours, and 294.75 were overtime hours. Her normal hourly rate was applied to the 429 standard working hours, and overtime hourly rates were applied to the overtime hours.

[Supplementary Information No A2.]

Question: Dr M.D. Nahan asked for the total amount allocated out of the Legislative Assembly's operating budget to committees, and the portion of that dedicated to the special inquiries by the Procedure and Privileges Committee and the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

Answer: In the financial year 2017–18 the Legislative Assembly had a budget of \$6.134 million to deliver services (see Budget Paper No. 2, page 37, Delivery of Services Item 2).

With this amount, the Assembly has to maintain its Chamber Operations, the Office of the Speaker and the Committees.

At the beginning of the 2017–18 financial year, in the internal Legislative Assembly budget, an amount of \$3.409 million was allocated to maintaining and operating Committees, including staffing costs and lease accommodation expenses.

With respect to Committees, there are expenses over and above regular operating costs that vary considerably depending upon the demands of parliamentary committees, for example, the need for Committees to undertake investigative travel, engage consultants, seek legal advice and advertise terms of reference.

In addition, if the House directs a Committee to undertake an urgent inquiry, this may necessitate additional expenses being incurred over and above normal budgeted operating expenses.

Furthermore, if a new Committee is established, such as the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices, this will necessitate the Legislative Assembly incurring costs that have not been budgeted for.

Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

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The Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices was established on 23 August 2017. The Legislative Assembly assumed the administrative, and funding, responsibility for the Committee. The Legislative Assembly did not receive any external funding for the establishment of the Committee, and has had to absorb the cost out of its budget. The estimated duration of the Committee is 12 months, as the Houses have directed that the Committee report to the Houses no later than 12 months after the Committee has been established.

The estimated cost of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices for the financial year 2017–18 is **\$376,600**.

Estimate of costs of Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices from date of inception (23 August 2017) to 30 June 2018	
Staffing costs (Principal Research Officer and two Research Officers)	\$310,000
Travel	\$50,000
Consultant	\$6,000
Advertising	\$6,600
Other	\$4,000
TOTAL	\$376,600

In this estimate the costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for Committee accommodation, is not included.

Inquiry of the Procedure and Privileges Committee into the Member for Darling Range

The estimated cost of the Inquiry of the Procedure and Privileges Committee into the Member for Darling Range is **\$124,375** (see Supplementary Information No. A1). The Inquiry took place between 30 November 2017 and 8 May 2018, thus falling entirely within the financial year 2017–18.

Estimate of the cost of the Inquiry of the Procedure and Privileges Committee into the Member for Darling Range	
cost of Clerk's time ¹ (estimate)	\$21,000
cost of Deputy Clerk's time ² (estimate)	\$25,000
cost of Principal Research Officer's time ³ (estimate)	\$60,000
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search fees	\$305
legal fees	\$14,344
amenities (estimate)	\$300
printing costs	\$3,326
TOTAL	\$124,375

¹ Cost of the Clerk's time was calculated on the following basis. The Clerk estimated she spent 20% of her time working on this Inquiry during the period of the Inquiry (30 November 2017 – 8 May 2018). 20% of her salary for the period of the Inquiry is approximately \$21,000.

² Cost of the Deputy Clerk's time was calculated on the following basis. The Deputy Clerk estimated he spent 30% of his time working on this Inquiry during the period of the Inquiry. 30% of his salary for the period of the Inquiry is approximately \$25,000.

³ Cost of Principal Research Officer's time was calculated as follows. She spent approximately 724 hours working on this Inquiry, of which 429 were standard working hours, and 294.75 were overtime hours. Her normal hourly rate was applied to the 429 standard working hours, and overtime hourly rates were applied to the overtime hours.

