



Education and Health Standing Committee

Annual Report 2011-2012

Report No. 17
September 2012

Legislative Assembly
Parliament of Western Australia

Committee Members

Chair	Dr Janet Woollard, MLA Member for Alfred Cove
Deputy Chair	Mr Peter Watson, MLA Member for Albany
Members	Dr Graham Jacobs, MLA Member for Eyre
	Ms Lisa Baker, MLA Member for Maylands
	Mr Peter Abetz, MLA Member for Southern River

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**Published by the Parliament of Western Australia, Perth.
September 2012.**

ISBN: 978-1-921865-60-2

(Series: Western Australia. Parliament. Legislative Assembly. Committees.
Education and Health Standing Committee. Report 17)

328.365

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Report No. 17

Presented by

Dr Janet Woollard MLA

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly on 27 September 2012

Chair's Foreword

The Legislative Assembly's Education and Health Standing Committee of the 38th Parliament was formed on 13th November 2008. We would like to thank the Speaker, and through him the Clerk of the Assembly, for their overall guidance, advice and support to Committee Staff and Committee Members.

The Education and Health Standing Committee currently comprises Mr Peter Abetz, Ms Lisa Baker, Dr Graham Jacobs and Mr Peter Watson. During the reporting period, the Deputy Chair position was held by Mr Peter Abetz until 17 August 2011 when Mr Peter Watson was appointed to the position.

During the 2011-2012 year, the Committee commenced an *Inquiry into improving educational outcomes for Western Australians of all ages*. This inquiry produced three reports during this period, as outlined herein, which were tabled in the Legislative Assembly. There are a further three to be completed relative to this Inquiry during the financial year 2012-2013.

Earlier this year, this Committee's report to the government ('Child Health - Child Development: the first 3 years') identified that the Department of Health needed an additional 151 child health nurses. In the 2012 budget, the government promised \$58.5 million over the next four years to fund an additional 100 child health nurses. This means that in three years, based on current birth notifications there will still be a shortfall of 51 child health nurses.

Through the Health Department of Western Australia (HDWA) a child health nurse is meant to conduct child health development checks on babies and infants up to 3 years of age. These checks are meant to occur at birth, 6-8 weeks, 3-4 months, 8 months, 18 months, and at 3 years. Another child health check is carried out by the school health nurse on school entry.

Unfortunately, just as there was a significant shortage of child health nurses, there is a parallel shortage of school health nurses. In 2007, the government was notified that the HDWA required an additional 135 school health nurses. To date the Department of Health has not been successful in gaining funds to employ additional school health nurses.

The role of school health nurses includes supporting children and their families in addition to checking and referring children who have a developmental delay to the appropriate health professional.

In the Committee's Report on key learnings from the Committee research trip to the North West on 11-17 March 2012 it was found that up to 80% of Aboriginal children in some regions are affected by hearing loss. In one school it was reported that 94% of children in grades 1 to 3 had some form of hearing loss. Hearing loss affects children's learning and engagement at school and out of school.

The Committee proposed an expansion of the school health nurse role to address hearing problems. Part of the rationale for this is because the Committee was told that even when middle ear infections are diagnosed there may be a lack of compliance by families in treating their children.

The Report recommended that following community and professional consultation a protocol be established to allow school health nurses to screen school children for middle ear infections and administer antibiotics at school. In addition, when a child has been treated by the school health nurse on successive occasions the child is referred to an ENT specialist.

It has been identified that funding a mobile surgical unit (bus) would allow the ENT specialists to undertake earlier, effective treatment. This would reduce the large number of children suffering from hearing loss in regional areas.

I and the Committee would like to thank all those who appeared as witnesses or who provided a briefing during the year. Without their involvement our work would not have been as comprehensive.

In addition, on behalf of the Committee, I acknowledge and thank our Principal Research Officer, Dr Brian Gordon, and Research Officer, Lucy Roberts, for their dedication, commitment and professional support throughout the year.

Janet Woollard

DR J.M. WOOLLARD, MLA
CHAIR

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Chapter 1

Committee's Functions and Powers

The Education and Health Standing Committee's Functions and Powers

The functions of the Committee are to review and report to the Assembly on:

- (a) the outcomes and administration of the departments within the Committee's portfolio responsibilities;
- (b) annual reports of government departments laid on the Table of the House;
- (c) the adequacy of legislation and regulations within its jurisdiction; and
- (d) any matters referred to it by the Assembly including a bill, motion, petition, vote or expenditure, other financial matter, report or paper.

- At the commencement of each Parliament and as often thereafter as the Speaker considers necessary, the Speaker will determine and table a schedule showing the portfolio responsibilities for each committee. Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the Assembly will stand referred to the relevant committee for any inquiry the committee may make.

- Whenever a committee receives or determines for itself fresh or amended terms of reference, the committee will forward them to each standing and select committee of the Assembly and Joint Committee of the Assembly and Council. The Speaker will announce them to the Assembly at the next opportunity and arrange for them to be placed on the notice boards of the Assembly.

Chapter 2

Committee Activities

The activities of the Education and Health Standing Committee in 2011-2012

2.1 Introduction

The Education and Health Standing Committee (the Committee) tabled four reports in the 2011-2012 year. Apart from the Committee's annual report, it tabled three reports in relation to its current Inquiry into improving educational outcomes for Western Australians of all ages. The reports were:

- Report on key learnings from the Committee research trip 14 October 2011;
- Child Health - Child Development: the first 3 years;
- Report on key learnings from the Committee research trip 11-17 March 2012; and
- Annual report 2010 – 2011.

The current Inquiry commenced on 7 September 2011 and the Committee is due to complete its Reports on the Inquiry to Parliament by 30 November 2012. In particular the Committee is still to report on:

- Current and future resourcing of new methods and activities to improve educational outcomes such as e-learning and school partnerships;
- Facilitating greater opportunities to engage all students in year 11 and 12;
- Foetal Alcohol Syndrome: prevalence, prevention, identification, funding and treatment to improve education, social and economic outcomes.

During the course of this reporting period (Table 2.1), the Committee:

- Conducted 1 inquiry;
- Held 22 deliberative meetings;
- Has taken evidence from 52 persons in public hearings, and was briefed by 92 persons;
- Undertook investigative travel to Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne, Karratha, Roebourne, Broome, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, and Canada.

Chapter 2 Committee Activities

- Attended 2 conferences.

Table 2.1: Summary of activities of the Committee, 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012

Description	Activity
Briefings	29
Deliberative meetings	22
Formal evidence hearings	26
Witnesses appearing at hearings	52
Witnesses appearing at briefings	92
Reports tabled	4
Report findings tabled	24
Report recommendations tabled	6

2.2 Public Hearings

Pursuant to Assembly Standing Order 264, the Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records. During the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, the Committee conducted 26 public hearings, taking evidence from 52 witnesses to assist with its investigations (Table 2.2).

Table 2.2: Public Hearings of the Committee, 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012

Date	Witness	Position	Organisation
10 Aug 2011	Professor Steve Allsop	Director	National Drug Research Institute
31 Aug 2011	Dr Allan Quigley	Director Clinical Services	Next Step, Drug and Alcohol Office
21 Sept 2011	Ms Rae Walter	CEO	Ngala
	Ms Elaine Bennett	Director	Ngala
	Ms Kim Wedge	Clinical Services	Ngala
21 Sept 2011	Ms Susan Kiely	Representative for AEDI, A/Senior Coordinator Service Development	Child and Adolescent Health Service, Department of Health

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	Ms Robyn Kinkade	Manager Special Projects	Department of Education
	Ms Gail Clark	AEDI Coordinator	Department of Education
28 Sept 2011	Dr Caroline Goossens	Child Psychiatrist	Faculty of Child Psychiatry
19 Oct 2011	Mr Kevin Brahim	State Director	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
	Ms Anne Russell-Brown	Group Director Social Outreach and Advocacy	St John of God Healthcare
	Ms Anna Roberts	Group Manager Early Years	St John of God Healthcare
	Mrs Cecilia Cox	Group Coordinator, Strong Family Strong Culture Program	St John of God Healthcare
2 Nov 2011	Mrs Angela Poole	Media Spokesperson	Community Health Nurses WA
9 Nov 2011	Mrs Amanda Gillett	Community Services Manager	Association of Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors
	Mr Joel Richards	Youth Programs Coordinator	Association of Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors
	Mr Gerard Neesham	Chief Executive Officer	Clontarf Foundation
	Ms Stephanie Syme	Chief Financial Officer	Clontarf Foundation
23 Nov 2011	Mr Terry Murphy	Director General	Department for Child Protection
	Mr Dawson Ruhl	Chief Executive Officer	Child Australia

Chapter 2 Committee Activities

30 Nov 2011	Mrs Kate Gatti	Area Director, Population Health	WA Country Health Service
	Mr Ian Smith	Chief Executive Officer	WA Country Health Service
	Mr Philip Aylward	Chief Executive, Child and Adolescent Health Services	Department of Health
	Mr Mark Morrissey	Executive Director, Community Child Health	Department of Health
22 Feb 2012	Mrs Ruth Griffiths	Child Health Nurse	Child and Adolescent Community Health, Department of Health
	Miss Elise McLernon	Child Health Nurse	Child and Adolescent Community Health, Department of Health
	Mrs Lynette Sprigg	Community Clinical Nurse Manager	Child and Adolescent Community Health, Department of Health
21 Mar 2012	Mr Lindsay Hale	A/Executive Director, Statewide Planning and Delivery	Department of Education
	Ms Deborah Bevan	Manager, E- schooling	Department of Education
	Mr Bevan Doyle	Chief Information Officer, ICT Information and Communication Technologies	Department of Education

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29 Mar 2012	Mrs Kate Gatti	Clinical Lead, Child and Youth Health Network and Population Health	WA Country Health Service
	Ms Sarah McKerracher	A/Development Officer supporting Child and Youth Health Network	Department of Health
	Dr Colleen O'Leary	Epidemiologist, Alcohol and Pregnancy Researcher	Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute
2 May 2012	Mr Ron Gorman	Deputy Director	Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia
	Ms Kylie Bice	Senior Inclusive Education Consultant	Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia
	Ms Michelle Bishop	Inclusive Education Consultant	Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia
9 May 2012	Ms Sharyn O'Neill	Director General	Department of Education
	Mr David Axworthy	Deputy Director General, Schools	Department of Education
	Ms Juanita Healy	Executive Director, Statewide Services	Department of Education
	Mr Martin Clery	Assistant Executive Director, Statewide Services	Department of Education
	Mr Bevan Doyle	Chief Information Officer	Department of Education
	Ms Debra Sayce	Director of Religious Education/Assistant Director of Learning and Teaching	Catholic Education Office

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	Ms Stephanie Jackiewicz	Team Leader, Early Years Learning and Care	Catholic Education Office
	Dr Ruth Shean	Director General	Department of Training and Workforce Development
	Ms Brenda Micale	Director, Policy Planning and Research	Department of Training and Workforce Development
	Dr James Fitzpatrick	Paediatric Senior Registrar, Chief Investigator	Marulu – the Lililwan Project The George Institute for Global Health
16 May 2012	Professor Carol Bower	Senior Principal Research Fellow, Division of Population Sciences	Telethon Institute of Child Health Research
	Dr Rochelle Watkins	Postdoctoral Research Fellow	Telethon Institute of Child Health Research
13 Jun 2012	Mr Dave Stevens	Principal	Alta-1
	Mr Gary Robinson	Aboriginal Independent Community Schools Advisor (Perth)	Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia
20 Jun 2012	The Hon Wayne Martin	Chief Justice of Western Australia	Supreme Court of Western Australia
	Mr Neill Guard	Executive Director	Drug and Alcohol Office

2.3 Briefings

In addition to gathering evidence during the formal hearings, the Committee received a number of informal briefings. The briefings were used to gain information in relation to the Committee's inquiries as well as other matters (Table 2.3)

Table 2.3: Briefings provided to the Committee, 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
10 Oct 2011 Adelaide	Dr Tom Karmel	Managing Director	National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)
	Ms Moira Breda	Standards Manager	National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)
	Mr Graham Jaeschke	General Manager South Australia	The Smith Family
	Mr Brenton Wright	Previous advisor to the Government of Western Australia	
	Ms Phillipa Duigan	Director Youth Engagement and Inclusion	Department of Education and Children's Services
11 Oct 2011 Adelaide	Mr Daniel Cox	Director Service Modernisation	South Australian Health
	Mr Adam Kilvert	Manager, Service Modernisation	South Australian Health
	Ms Sue Miers	Director	NOFASARD
12 Oct 2011 Canberra	Dr Evan Arthur	Canberra Office	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
	Ms Karel Williams	Canberra Office	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
	Mr James Hart	Canberra Office	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

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	Mr David Hardy	Canberra Office	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
	Mr Daniel Owen	Canberra Office	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
	Ms Jo Calwell	Canberra Office	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
	Ms Joy Petch	Canberra Office	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
	Robin Shannon	Canberra Office	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
	The Hon Dr Sharman Stone	Parliamentary Liaison Group for the Prevention of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)/Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)	Federal Parliament
	Ms Lisa Carroll et al	Deputy Secretary	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)
13 Oct 2011 Melbourne	Ms Sarah Cavanagh	Kidsmatter	The Australian Psychological Society

	Ms Jo Lawrence	Kidsmatter	The Australian Psychological Society
	Ms Lynette O'Grady	Kidsmatter	The Australian Psychological Society
	Dr Sharon Goldfeld	Senior Fellow Child Health Advisor	Centre for Community Child Health Victoria Office for Children
	Dr Daryl Higgins	Deputy Director (Research)	Australian Institute of Family Studies
	Dr Ben Edwards	Senior Research Fellow	Australian Institute of Family Studies
	Dr Jenny Proimos	Paediatrician and Adolescent Health Consultant Principal Medical Advisor	Centre for Adolescent Health Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
	Professor Collette Taylor	Chair of Early Childhood Education and Care	Melbourne Graduate School of Education
14 Oct 2012 Melbourne	Mr John Fleming	Head of Precinct	Berwick Campus, Haileybury College
12 Mar 2012 Karratha	Ms Sue Cuneo	Regional Executive Director	Pilbara Regional Education Office Forum
	Ms Nicole Davey	School Psychologist	
	Ms Jane Gartland	Senior School Psychologist	
	Mr Bruce McCauley	Mentor Principal	

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	Ms Valerie McPherson	Coordinator Regional Operations	
	Ms Felicity Watt	School Psychologist	
	Ms Amelia Hulin	Coordinator Regional Services	
	Mr Ray McMillan	Principal, Roebourne District High School	
	Ms Lauren Nardone	Participation Coordinator, Karratha	
	Ms Hayley Sture	A/Engagement and Transitions Manager, Participation Team	
	Ms Tracy Cowie	Deputy Principal, Peg's Creek Primary School	
	Mr Niel Smith	Principal Tambrey Primary School	
Karratha, Community Forum	Ms Diane Pentz	CEO Regional Development Australia Pilbara	Regional Development Australia Pilbara
	Ms Kathy Holt	Children's Services Officer	Department for Communities
	Ms Joanne Abbott		Department for Communities
	Ms Lynsey Wellings	Co-ordinator	Karratha Family Centre
	Ms Susan Shirtliff	CEO	Ngarliyarndu Bindirri Aboriginal Corporation
	Mr Michael Nikakis		PCYC
	Ms Lisa Taylor	Manager Community Projects and Engagement	Pilbara Cities Office

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	Ms Kelly Strange	Workforce Development Co-ordinator	Pilbara Joblink
	Ms Bo Keo	Youth Broker	Pilbara Joblink
	Mr Peter Gaiter	Manager	Pindan College
	Ms Sharon Vertigan	Councillor	Shire of Roebourne
	Ms Fiona White-Hartig	Shire President	Shire of Roebourne
	Ms Daphne Trevurza		The Smith Family
	Ms Leanne Gaiter	Project Manager	West Pilbara Communities for Children
	Ms Shannon McCarthy	EYG Coordinator	West Pilbara Communities for Children
	Ms Bianca Crake	Indigenous Affairs Advisor	Woodside Energy Ltd
	Ms Julie Pope	Co-ordinator, Karratha Education Initiative	Woodside Energy Ltd
	Ms Jackie Bickendorf	Manager Youth Services Newman	YMCA Early Learning Centre
	Ms Kaye Van Niewkuyk		YMCA Early Learning Centre
	Ms Jennie Burns	Executive Manager, Family and Children's Services	YMCA Perth
	Ms Louise Giolotto	Executive Manager, Family and Community Services	YMCA Perth
Roebourne	Mr Daniel Brown	CEO	Mawarnkarra Health Service Aboriginal Corporation

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	Ms Sharon Deshow	Smoking Cessation	Mawarnkarra Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
	Ms Elaine Laraia	Prison Health	Mawarnkarra Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
	Ms Joy Fordham	Child and Maternal Health Nurse	Mawarnkarra Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
	Ms Anne Flynn	Child and Maternal Health Manager	Mawarnkarra Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
13 Mar 2012 Roebourne	Ms Veronica Rodenburg	CEO	Yaandina Family Centre
Karratha	Mr Greg Kelly	Principal	Karratha Senior High School
14 March Broome	Mr John Collins	Coordinator Regional Services, Kimberley Education Regional Office	Department of Education
	Ms Edie Wright	Manager Aboriginal Education, Kimberley Education Regional Office	Department of Education
	Ms Maureen Carter	CEO	Nindilingarri Cultural Health Services, Fitzroy Crossing
	Dr John Boulton	Senior Paediatrician	WA Country Health Service
	Mr Tim O'Brien	Director, Kimberley Population Health	WA Country Health Service
	Professor Lyn Henderson-Yates	Deputy Vice Chancellor (Broome)	Notre Dame University
	Professor Neil Drew	Deputy Head of Campus	Notre Dame University

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	Associate Dean Jenny Connell	Associate Dean	Notre Dame University
15 March Halls Creek	Ms Tracey Gillett	District Director, East Kimberley	Department for Child Protection
	Ms Karen Withers		Department for Child Protection
	Ms Wendy Burns		Department for Child Protection
	Mr Richard Smit	Team Leader	Youth Services Halls Creek
	Ms Clare Gray		Catholic Education Office
	Mr Clifton Fong	Principal	Halls Creek District High School
	Mr Dean Savoia	Principal	Red Hill Catholic Primary School
	Ms Jodie Bedford	Aboriginal Education Officer	Halls Creek TAFE
Fitzroy Crossing	Ms Sarah Mist	Youth Project Worker	Fitzroy Crossing
	Ms Carol Erlank	Director of Nursing	Fitzroy Valley Health Service
16 Mar 2012 Fitzroy Crossing	Ms Carolyn Davey	Principal	Karrayilli Adult Education Centre Aboriginal Corporation
16 April 2012 Canada	Dr Jocelynn Cook	Executive Director	The Canada FASD Research Network
	Valerie Flynn	Manager	FASD Strategic Programming Unit, First Nations and Inuit Health. Branch, Health Canada

Chapter 2 Committee Activities

	Anne-Marie Bédard	A/Manager	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Division of Childhood and Adolescence Division de l'enfance et de l'adolescence Public Health Agency of Canada
17 April 2012 Canada	Dr. David Butler-Jones,	Chief Public Health Officer	Canada
11 May 2012 Bunbury	Mr Paul Matthews	Principal	Manea Senior College
	Mr Rod Rykers	Associate Principal	Manea Senior College

2.4 Investigative Travel

During 2011 – 2012, the Committee carried out the following investigative travel:

- 9-14 October 2011: travel to Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne;
- 11-16 March 2012: travel to Karratha, Roebourne, Broome, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing;
- 15-21 April 2012: travel to Canada.

The people the Committee spoke to during investigative travel are listed above in Table 2.3.

2.5 Conferences

The Committee attended two conferences in the course of its current Inquiry, as follows;

1. 'Daring Adventures in E-Learning'. The conference was focussed on innovative methods of using technology to improve student learning, including through mobile content delivery, multimedia, and emerging tools, practices and models.

Chapter 2

2. 'It's a Matter of Justice: 5th National Biennial Conference on Adolescents and Adults with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.' This conference was convened in collaboration with the Canada FASD Research Network.

Chapter 3

Financial Statement

The Education and Health Standing Committee Financial Statement for 2011-2012

Committee Financial Statement

The Education and Health Standing Committee does not have its own formal budget and is funded out of the budget of the Legislative Assembly. Approval for major expenditures is required on a case-by-case basis and is entirely at the discretion of the Speaker.

The Committee's expenditure for the financial year 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (in accordance with Standing Order 276) is detailed below:

Table 3.1: Expenditure Items of the Committee, 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012

Expenditure Item	\$
Advertising	\$5,800
Conference Fees	\$200
Travel & Projects	\$99,500
Printing	\$5,900
Miscellaneous	\$3,400
Total	\$114,800

Notes:

- Figures rounded to nearest \$100.
- Salaries of committee staff are not included.
- Costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for committee accommodation, not included.