



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Report No. 2

in the 38th Parliament

2009

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Community Development and Justice Standing Committee

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Report No. 2

Presented by:

Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan, MLA

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly
on Thursday 24 September 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair	Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan, MLA Member for Armadale
Deputy Chair	Mr A.P. Jacob, MLA Member for Ocean Reef
Members	Mr I.M. Britza, MLA Member for Morley
	Mr A.P. O’Gorman, MLA Member for Joondalup
	Hon T.G. Stephens, MLA Member for Pilbara

COMMITTEE STAFF

Principal Research Officer	Dr Brian Gordon,
Research Officer	Ms Jovita Hogan, BA (Hons)

COMMITTEE ADDRESS

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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 1 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

1.1 Portfolios

The eighteen portfolio areas of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee as determined by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly are:

- Indigenous Affairs
- Electoral Affairs
- Women's Interests
- Disability Services
- Police
- Emergency Services
- Road Safety
- Sport and Recreation
- Culture and the Arts
- Attorney General
- Corrective Services
- Child Protection
- Community Services
- Seniors and Volunteering
- Local Government
- Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
- Environment
- Youth

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I present the first annual report for the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee of the 38th Parliament. The report gives a synopsis of the work of the Committee during the reporting period 13 November 2008 – 30 June 2009.

In this period, our Committee has focused on its report in the Adequacy of Services to meet the developmental needs of WA children – This report has been subsequently tabled in Parliament.

The work of Parliamentary committees is an important component of our democratic process and allows a unique opportunity for members to work across parties to improve policy and governance for our community. I thank my fellow committee members for their dedication and goodwill.

On behalf of the Committee, I acknowledge and thank the Principal Research Officer, Dr Brian Gordon and Research Officer, Jovita Hogan for their invaluable work in support of the Committee.

HON A.J.G. MACTIERNAN, MLA
CHAIR

1.2 Committee Activity

During the course of this reporting period (Table 1.1), the Committee:

- Conducted 1 inquiries;
- Held 13 deliberative meetings;
- Has taken evidence from/or was briefed on 22 occasions;
- Undertook investigative travel to South Australia, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, and the Pilbara and Kimberley in Western Australia; and
- Attended 1 conference.

Table 1.1

Summary of activities of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, 13 November 2008 - 30 June 2009

Description	Activity
Briefings	14
Deliberative meetings	13
Formal evidence hearings	8

1.3 Public Hearings

Pursuant to Assembly Standing Order 264, the Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records. During the period 13 November 2008 - 30 June 2009, the Committee conducted 8 public hearings, taking evidence from 26 witnesses to assist with its investigations (Table 1.2).

Table 1.2

Public Hearings of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, 13 November 2008 - 30 June 2009

Date	Witness	Position	Organisation
11 March 2009	Ms Susan Barrera	Director General	Department for Communities
	Ms Helen Creed	A/Exec Director, Children and Family Services	Department for Communities
	Mr Terry Murphy	Director General	Department for Child Protection

Date	Witness	Position	Organisation
25 March 2009	Mrs Margaret Abernethy	Senior Policy Officer	Child and Adolescent Community Health; Department of Health
	Mr David Ansell	Executive Director	Department of Education and Training
	Ms Susan Barrera	Director General	Department for Communities
	Mr Mark Crake	Director	Child and Adolescent Community Health; Department of Health
	Ms Helen Creed	Acting Executive Director	Children and Family Service; Department for Communities
	Mrs Kate Gatti	Director	WA Country Health Service
	Ms Erin Gauntlett	Senior Portfolio and Policy Officer	Department of Health
	Dr Janet Hornbuckle	Consultant Maternal Foetal Medicine & Co-Lead Womens and Newborns Health Network	King Edward Memorial Hospital
	Ms Fiona Lander	Executive Director	Department for Child Protection
	Mr Mark Morrissey	Executive Director	Child and Adolescent Community Health; Department of Health
25 March 2009	Professor Trevor Parry	Chairman	National Investment for the Early Years (WA)
25 March 2009	Dr John Wray	Doctor/Paediatrician	
25 March 2009	Ms Raelene Walter	Chief Executive Officer	Ngala
	Ms Elaine Bennett	Director	Early Parenting Service; Ngala
	Miss Helen Beaton	Paediatric Physiotherapist	Touch Move Play Physiotherapy Services
6 April 2009	Dr Martha Burns	Professor	Northwestern University Chicago
20 May 2009	Dr Steve Heath	Research and Clinical Psychologist	University of WA

Date	Witness	Position	Organisation
	Ms Mandy Nayton	Chief Executive Officer	DSF Literacy & Clinical Services
10 June 2009	Ms Maureen Mears	Associate Dean	University of Notre Dame Australia
	Dr Yvonne Carnellor	ECE Coordinator	Curtin University of Technology
	Dr Libby Lee-Hammond	Senior Lecturer	Murdoch University
	Mr David Axworthy	Executive Director School Support Program	Department of Education and Training
	Dr Jenny Jay	University Lecturer	Edith Cowan University

1.4 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 1.3)

Table 1.3

Briefings provided to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, 13 November 2008 - 30 June 2009

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
9 December 2008	Ms Sally Brinkman	Epidemiologist	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
	Ms Julie Dixon	Principal Policy Officer	Commissioner for Children and Young People
	Mrs Lee Musumeci	Principal	Challis Early Childhood Education Centre
	Ms Michele Scott	Commissioner for Children and Young People	Commissioner for Children and Young People WA
	Professor Sven Silburn	Clinical Psychologist	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
23 February 2009	Ms Sue Davies	Director Education and Care	Ocean View College Children's Centre

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
	Hon Jay Weatherill	Minister for Early Childhood Development	
24 February 2009	Ms Kathy Melsom	Indigenous Affairs and Early years Learning	ACT
	Pam Cahir	C.E.O.	Early Childhood Australia Inc
	Alyson Wessex	Branch Manager	FaHCSIA
25 February 2009	Professor Frank Oberklaid	Director of the Centre for Community Child Health	Centre for Community Child Health Royal Children's Hospital
	Dr Sharon Goldfeld	Paediatrician and senior fellow at the Centre for Community Child Health	Centre for Community Child Health
	Ms Sally Brinkman	Epidemiologist	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
	Professor Steve Zubrick	Head of Population Sciences	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
25 February 2009	Professor Collette Tayler	Chair of Early Childhood Education and Care	University of Melbourne
25 February 2009	Mr Robert Griew	Deputy Secretary	The Office for Children and Early Childhood Development
25 February 2009	Professor Hayes	Director	Australian Institute of Family Studies
26 February 2009	Ms Joan Gilbert	Director	Education and Care
	Ms Andrea McGuffog	Manager	Early Childhood Strategy
	Jan Andrews	Deputy Chief Executive	Schools and Children's Services
	Ms Patricia Winter	Executive Director	Early Childhood Services (DECS)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

CHAPTER 1

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
	Ms Naomi Arnold	Director	Early Childhood Development Strategy (DECS)
	Ms Liz Wilson	Director	Early Childhood Development (DECS)
	Ms Sue Barr	A/Director	Business Affairs (DFC)
	Ms Trish Strachan	Executive Director	Child, Youth & Women's Health Service (SA Health)
4 June 2009	Kim Crawford,	Principal	Karratha Educational Support Centre
	Colleen Longmore		Communities for Children
	Madge Mohi		Disability Services Commission
	Anne-Marie McLaughlin		Department for Child Protection
4 June 2009	Elaine Clifton	Indigenous Strategies Branch,	DEEWR
Pilbara Early Learning Alliance:	Kathryn Moelands	Senior Project Officer	Social Development, Pilbara Development Commission Department for Communities
	Marline Grogan	Children's Services Officer	Pilbara, Child Australia
	Carol Warren	Manager	Pilbara Family Day Care Scheme
	Maureen Allert	Coordinator	Indigenous Coordination Centre
	Cath O' Connor	Agreements Manager,	RIO TINTO Iron Ore Pilbara Development Commission
	Janette Tuttle	Supervisor Towns Coastal	
	Carolyn Biar	Principal Project Officer	
4 June 2009	Yaandina Family Centre		

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
4 June 2009	Violet Samson, Marion Cheedy, Jane Cheedy Pansy Hicks Beth Smith		Roebourne Strong Women's Group
4 June 2009	Vicki Jack	Director	District Education Office
5 June 2009	Emma White	District Director	DCP East Kimberly
	Jamie Malloch	A/Team Leader	Department for Child Protection
	Denise Cottrell	Field worker	Department for Child Protection
	Marietta Deegan	Responsible Parenting	Department for Child Protection
5 June 2009	Joanne Wraith		CAMHS-WACHS
	Julia Boyd		Fitzroy Valley Early Learning Centre
	Helen Fitzgerald		Marninwartikura Womens Resource Centre
	Bridget Miller		MWRC Family violence prevention and legal unit
	Tracy Wilkinson		Marninwartikura Womens Resource Centre
	Melissa Williams		Kimberley Population Unit
	James Brown		Kurnangki Community
	Patrick Green		Jungawa Community and Leedal P/L
	Helen Thomas		SJOG Health Care Junpuwa Community
	Marmigee Hand	Teacher	Community Education Centre
	Paul Jefferes		Fitzroy Valley DHS

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
	Ian Gibson		WAPOL
	Carol Erlauk		WACHS
	Rachel Hinkley	Curtin OT Student	Derby Health Services
	Lizzie Bayley	OT	Derby Health Services
	Ana Mairata		DHS (WACHS)
	Meredith Kefford		Nindilingarri ICV Volunteer
	James Fitzpatrick		WA Health Dept
	Dawn Reelor		WACHS
	Kevin Oscar		Duniba Inc
	Trish Muir		Nindilingarri CHS
	Maureen Carter	CEO	Nidilingarra CHS
5 June 2009	Megan Roseworn	Team Leader	Halls Creek Hostels Project
	Claire Weygers	Senior Case Support Worker Parent Support Service	DCP
	Sgt Tim Norrish	WA Police Officer in Charge	
	Dr David Shepherd	Senior Medical Officer	Halls Creek Hospital
	Carla Priest	Team Leader	DCP Halls Creek Office
5 June 2009	Gavin Stevens	Principal	HC District High School

Investigative Travel

The Committee travelled to South Australia, Australian Capitol Territory, Victoria and the Pilbara and Kimberley in Western Australia in relation to the *Inquiry into the Adequacy of Services to Meet the Developmental Needs of Western Australia's Children*. The people the Committee spoke to are listed above in Table 1.3.

1.5 Conferences

Members of the Committee attended the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) conference in Perth in March 2009, "Why investment in Early Childhood Education Makes Economic Sense". Attendance at this conference was in relation to the Committee's *Inquiry into the Adequacy of Services to Meet the Developmental Needs of Western Australia's Children*.

1.6 Work in Progress

The Community Development and Justice Standing Committee is conducting an Inquiry into the Adequacy of Services to Meet the Developmental Needs of Western Australia's Children. This inquiry seeks to examine whether existing government programs are adequately addressing the developmental needs of children; with particular reference to the pre-natal to 3 year age group. The Committee has held a number of hearings in relation to the inquiry and briefings have been held both locally and interstate. The Committee has also gathered evidence in the Pilbara and the Kimberley in Western Australia. Significant interest has been generated by this Inquiry with thirty seven submissions being received by the Committee.

CHAPTER 2 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Community Development and Justice Standing Committee has a nominal administrative budget of \$19,200 which is funded out of the budget of the Legislative Assembly. Approval for major expenditure occurs on a case-by-case basis and is subject to the approval of the Speaker.

The Committee is required in accordance with Standing Order 276 to detail expenditure for the financial year 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009. The Legislative Assembly dissolved on 7 August 2008, therefore, two Community Development and Justice Standing Committee Committees operated during this financial year. Whilst the current Committee of the 38th Parliament tenders the financial figures below, the Legislative Assembly has provided those pertaining to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee of the 37th Parliament.

The Committee's expenditure for the financial year 1 July 2004 - 30 June 20059 (in accordance with Standing Order 276) is detailed below:

Table 2.1

Expenditure Items of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee of the 37th Parliament for the period 1 July 2008 – 7 August 2008 and of the 38th Parliament for the period 13 November 2008 – 30 June 2009

Expenditure Item	37 th Parliament	38 th Parliament
Advertising	1,800	5,600
Travel	20,700	46,200
Protocol		400
Miscellaneous		300
TOTAL	22,500	52,500

Notes:

- The total figure for the financial year 1 July 2008 - 30 June 2009 is \$75,000.
- Figures rounded off to nearest \$100.
- Salaries of committee staff are not included.
- Costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for committee accommodation, not included.