



## ***EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE***

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# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**From:** Hon Dr Kim Hames, MLA  
Acting Chairman

**To:** Media

**Date:** 4 May 2007

### **INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE AND EXTENT OF LEAD POLLUTION IN THE ESPERANCE AREA**

“I want to congratulate the Esperance community on their extremely valuable contribution to this Inquiry”, said the acting Chairman of the Education and Health Standing Committee on the conclusion of the preliminary public hearings in Esperance yesterday (3 May 2007).

Hon Dr Kim Hames MLA, said the breadth of perspectives presented by Esperance community members at the public hearings had greatly impressed the Committee. The time and effort that presenters had put into preparing their evidence was matched only by the power of their personal accounts. These included moving evidence of the impact that lead pollution was having on their children, their livelihoods and lifestyles, and indeed their whole community.

The Committee would now proceed to carefully consider all of the currently available submissions, the evidence from public hearings, and the substantial amount of other relevant documentation that has been provided to it. It will then determine which individuals and agencies will be required to give further evidence before the Committee.

Dr Hames reminded interested members of the public that the deadline had now been extended until Friday, 25 May 2007, and that written submissions, including supplementary submissions, would be welcome.

The acting Chairman also announced that the Member for Central Kimberley-Pilbara, Hon Tom Stephens, MLA had contacted him earlier today to advise of his withdrawal from any further role in the Inquiry. The acting Chairman said that Hon Tom Stephens was ceasing his involvement in the Inquiry into Lead Pollution in the Esperance Area before the Committee entered into any deliberations

on the submissions received, but would continue his role as Chairman with respect to the other functions of the Education and Health Standing Committee.