



Community Development and Justice Standing Committee

Annual Report 2012-13

Report No. 1
September 2013

Legislative Assembly
Parliament of Western Australia

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Standing Committee**

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Presented by

Ms M.M. Quirk, MLA

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly on 26 September 2013

Chair's Foreword

It is my pleasure to table the first annual report of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee in the 39th Parliament. This report represents an abridged reporting period from the establishment of the Committee on 9 May 2013 up to 30 June 2013. Nonetheless it serves to highlight the commencement of important work, specifically the Committee's *Inquiry into Custodial Arrangements in Police Lock-ups*. This will investigate whether current arrangements fully comply with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, a pivotal report when it was released in 1991 with far-ranging and significant lessons that continue to resonate.

I look forward to working with my fellow Committee members in this Parliament. On behalf of the Committee I would also like to acknowledge the important contribution made by Committee staff both past and present.



MS M.M. QUIRK, MLA
CHAIR

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Chapter 1

Committee's activities

A report on the activities of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, established in May 2013 for the 39th Parliament.

Portfolios

The 19 portfolio areas of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee as determined by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly are:

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

Activities

During the course of this reporting period – 9 May 2013 to 30 June 2013 – the Committee:

- commenced a new inquiry into Custodial Arrangements in Police Lock-ups;
- held four deliberative meetings; and
- held three hearings.

Committee's activities

Table 1.1 - Activities of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, 9 May 2013 – 30 June 2013

Activity	Number
Deliberative meetings	4
Hearings	2

Although the activities of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee of the 38th Parliament are not detailed in this report, as explained in Chapter 2 these have some bearing on the financial statement. Some mention should therefore be made of two significant inquiries which concluded in the 38th Parliament during 2012-13, namely *The Toll of Trauma on Western Australian Emergency Staff and Volunteers* (tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 27 September 2012) and *Higher Risk, Better Prepared? WA's Preparedness for the 2012-13 Bushfire Season* (tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 26 November 2012).

Public hearings

Pursuant to Standing Order 264, the Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records. During the period 9 May 2013 to 30 June 2013, the Committee conducted three hearings and took evidence from five witnesses. Hearings were primarily related to the Committee's inquiry however the Committee was also briefed by representatives of the WA Electoral Commission on its management of the March 2013 State election.

Table 1.2 –Witnesses who provided evidence at hearings of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, 9 May 2013 – 30 June 2013

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
22 May 2013	Mr Chris Avent	Acting Electoral Commissioner	WA Electoral Commission
	Mr David Payne	Project Manager – State Elections	
12 June 2013	Mr Marc Newhouse	Chair	Deaths in Custody Watch Committee WA
	Ms Natasha Moore	Board member	
19 June 2013	Ms Tammy Solonec	Director	National Congress of Australia's First Peoples

Work in progress

On 12 June 2013 the Committee resolved to commence an *Inquiry into Custodial Arrangements in Police Lock-ups*. Submissions have been called for the inquiry with a deadline of 19 July 2013. Two hearings to gather evidence for the inquiry have already

Committee's activities

been held and another seven are scheduled during August and September. Also in August and September, the Committee will travel to Narrogin, Boddington, Katanning, Kununurra, and Halls Creek to visit police lock-ups and meet with representatives of the Aboriginal community. The Committee has also organised to visit the Perth Watchhouse late on a Friday night in August. The inquiry report is due to be tabled in November 2013.

Chapter 2

Financial statement

Expenditure of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee during the financial year.

Committee expenditure

The Community Development and Justice Standing Committee does not have its own formal budget and is funded out of the budget of the Legislative Assembly. Approval for major expenditure is required 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 2012 – 30 June 2013. The Legislative Assembly dissolved on 31 January 2013 prior to the state election therefore two Committees operated during the 2012-13 financial year. The figures tendered below cover the full reporting period and therefore also include expenditure by the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee of the 38th Parliament.

Table 2.1 – Expenditure items of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013

Expenditure item	Total (\$)
Travel	38,130
Printing	2,300
Advertising	2,190
Miscellaneous	940
TOTAL	43,560

Notes:

- Figures rounded to nearest \$10
- Salaries of Committee staff are not included
- Costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for Committee accommodation, is not included
- Travel costs may include expenditure incurred in 2012-13 for travel to be undertaken in 2013-14.



Ms M.M. Quirk, MLA
CHAIR

Appendix One

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.