



EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

Report No. 5

in the 37th Parliament

2006

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Education and Health Standing Committee

Annual Report 2005-2006

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***EDUCATION AND HEALTH
STANDING COMMITTEE***

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

Report No. 5

Presented by:
Hon T.G. Stephens, MLA
Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly
on 31 August 2006

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman

Hon T.G. Stephens, MLA

Members

Dr E. Constable, MLA
Mrs D.J. Guise, MLA
Hon Dr K.D. Hames, MLA
Mr J.N. Hyde, MLA
Mr T.K. Waldron, MLA
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA

COMMITTEE STAFF

Principal Research Officer

Mr Michael Baker BA (Hons)
(until 2 June 2006)
Dr Jeannine Purdy, BA, B Juris
(Hons), LLB, PhD (Law & Legal
Studies) (from 19 June 2006)

Research Officer

Mr Peter Frantom BA

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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.

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

This is the fifth report of the Education and Health Standing Committee, which was re-activated on 7 April 2005. This report provides an overview of the Committee's activities from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006.

Over this time, the Committee completed two inquiries that it had adopted in the previous reporting period. The first of these inquiries was into '*Changes to the Post Compulsory Curriculum in Western Australia*'. The Committee called for submissions in May 2005 and heard evidence from individuals and/or organisations identified as being of importance to the inquiry over the year from June 2005. The Committee tabled an interim report on this matter on 22 December 2005 and its final report on 29 June 2006.

The Committee's second inquiry was into the '*Swimming Pool Program for Remote Communities*'. The Committee called for submissions and conducted an extensive evidence-gathering program before tabling its final report in the Legislative Assembly on 22 June 2006.

During the reporting period, the Committee also met with senior personnel representing several departments from within the Committee's various portfolio responsibilities. These meetings provided an informative and interactive forum that allowed the Committee to keep abreast of current issues and departmental policy directives.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their individual and collective contributions over this time and commend the former Principal Research Officer, Mr Michael Baker, for his diligence. I would also like to thank the current Principal Research Officer, Dr Jeannine Purdy and the Research Officer, Mr Peter Frantom, for their professionalism and dedication to the work of this Committee. I also take this opportunity to thank the Legislative Assembly Committee Office secretariat, in particular Ms Renae Jewell, Ms Carolyna Murry, Mr Peter D'Cress and Mr Glen Whitting, for their valued assistance and support.

HON T.G. STEPHENS, MLA
CHAIRMAN

CHAPTER 1 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

1.1 Introduction

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

- completed two inquiries commenced in 2004/05, one into *Changes to the Post Compulsory Curriculum in Western Australia* and another into the *Swimming Pool Program in Remote Communities*;
- held 23 deliberative meetings;
- has taken evidence from/or was briefed by 108 persons;
- undertook investigative travel to Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory, Kimberley and the Pilbara; and
- attended one conference.

Table 1.1

Summary of activities of the Education and Health Standing Committee, 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006

Description	Activity
Briefings	27
Deliberative meetings	23
Formal evidence hearings	26
Witnesses appearing	38
Reports tabled	3
Report findings tabled	37
Report recommendations tabled	23

1.2 Public Hearings

Pursuant to Assembly Standing Order 264, the Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records. During the period 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006, the Committee conducted 26 public hearings, taking evidence from 38 witnesses to assist with its investigations (Table 1.2).

Table 1.2**Public Hearings of the Education and Health Standing Committee, 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006**

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
17 August 2005	Mr Gregory Williams	School Teacher	Mercedes College
17 August 2005	Rev. Andrew Syme	Headmaster	Scotch College
17 August 2005	Prof. Max Angus	Professor of Education	Edith Cowan University
24 August 2005	Mr Michael McGarry	Head of Science Department	Morley Senior High School
24 August 2005	Mr Richard Rennie	Educator/Science Communicator	
24 August 2005	Mrs Heather Downing	Retired Teacher	
31 August 2005	Dr Glenda Parkin Mrs Audrey Jackson Mrs Valerie Gould	Principal Executive Director Deputy Executive Director	Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia
31 August 2005	Mrs Caroline Payne	Principal	Kolbe Catholic College
14 September 2005	Mr Ron Dullard Mr Michael Ciccarelli Mrs Sheena Barber Mr John Nelson	Director Assistant Director Education Consultant Post-Compulsory Education Consultant	Catholic Education Office
14 September 2005	Prof. David Andrich	Professor of Education	Murdoch University

14 September 2005	Mr Gregory Robson	Acting Chief Executive Officer	Curriculum Council of WA
21 September 2005	Ass. Prof. Marnie O'Neill	Dean, Graduate School of Education	University of Western Australia
21 September 2005	Mrs Susan Thomson Mr Gabe Szota Mr Paul D'Rozario	Secondary Teacher Head of Department, Society and Environment Secondary Teacher	Kelmscott Senior High School
12 October 2005	Mr Gregory Robson	Acting Chief Executive Officer	Curriculum Council of WA
12 October 2005	Mr Paul Albert Ms Lois Joll Mr David George	Director General Acting Director, Post-Compulsory Academic Standards and Support Executive Director, Curriculum Standards	Department of Education and Training
19 October 2005	Mr David Wood	Principal	Sevenoaks Senior College
19 October 2005	Mr Allan Blagaich	Principal	Melville Senior High School
19 October 2005	Ms Alison Woodman	Principal	Merredin Senior High School
16 November 2005	Ms Noemi Reynolds	President	Mathematical Association of WA
16 November 2005	Mrs Barbara Marshall	Teacher	St Stephen's School
23 November 2005	Ms Kelly Klymiuk	President	English Teachers Association of WA

23 November 2005	Mrs Julie Weber	President	Science Teachers Association of WA
23 November 2005	Mr Rodney Slater Mr Kevin Bennett Mr Nigel Bednall	Teacher, Head of Department Teacher Teacher (Aviation)	Narrogin Senior High School Department of Education and Training
23 November 2005	Mr Michael Keely	President	State School Teachers' Union of WA
12 June 2006	Mr Paul Albert Ms Christine Cook Mr Warren Grellier Ms Lois Joll	Director General Executive Director, Curriculum Standards Principal Consultant Director, Senior Schooling Academic Standards and Support	Department of Education and Training
12 June 2006	Mrs Therese Temby Mr David Axworthy	Chair Acting Chief Executive Officer	Curriculum Council of WA

1.3 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 1.3).

Table 1.3

Briefings provided to the Education and Health Standing Committee, 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
9 September 2005	Mr Glenn Grey	Administrator	Karalundi Aboriginal Corporation

9 September 2005	Mr Cedric Wyatt Dr Randolph Spargo	Chief Executive Officer Community Doctor	Jigalong Community Inc.
10 September 2005	Mr Sai Lim	Chief Executive Officer	Yandeyarra Community
10 September 2005	Mr Paul Barron Mr Rob Taylor Mr Donald Kelly Mr Mervyn Lewis Mr Lester Ball	Chief Executive Officer Acting Administrator Sport and Recreation Chairperson Swimming Pool Manager	Burringurrah Community Aboriginal Corporation
31 October 2005	Mr Gerry McCue	Senior Project Officer	NT Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development
31 October 2005	Mr Michael Dillon	Chief Executive Officer	NT Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport
1 November 2005	Ms Mandy Leggett	COAG Trial Coordinator	Thamurrur Regional Council (Wadeye)
1 November 2005	Mr Jeff Gooding	Chief Executive Officer	Kimberley Development Commission
2 November 2005	Mr Andrew McGaw Mr Max Thomas Ms Yvonne Martin Mr John Mosquito Mr Barry Farley Mr Peter Bridge Sister Theresa Morrilini	Chief Executive Officer Chairman Councillor-Health Councillor-School Sport and Recreation Bridge Program Community Services Supervisor	Warmun Community Inc.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

CHAPTER 1

2 November 2005	Senior Constable Bill Malasits	Officer in Charge, Argyle Police Station	Western Australian Police Service
	Ms Megan Buckley	Curator	Warmun Art Centre
	Mr Eamon Scott	Curator	Warmun Art Centre
2 November 2005	Mr Peter McConnell	Chief Executive Officer	Halls Creek Shire Council
	Mr Colin Keen	Executive Manager	
	Sister Maura O'Connell	Principal	Warlawarru Catholic School
3 November 2005	Mr Noel Mason	Chief Executive Officer	Balgo Community Inc.
	Mr David Heathwood	Youth Worker	
	Ms Sandra Spatanuda	Youth Worker	
	Mr Chris Cresp	Chief Executive Officer	Palyatju
	Father Matt Digges	Parish Priest	Katjungka Catholic Parish
	Brother Bernard Cooper	Principal	Luurnpa Catholic School
	Mr Bruce Smythe	Health Clinician	WA Department of Health
3 November 2005	Mr Geoff Davis	Vice Chairman	Fitzroy Valley Future's Forum Swimming Pool Committee
	Ms Jodie Bell	Member	
	Mr Peter Scharf	Member	
	Mr Lawrence Rowland	Member	
	Mr Joe Ross	Member	
	Mr John Pearson	Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Derby/West Kimberley
	Ms Suzanne Rigney	Executive Manager, Community Development	
4 November 2005	Mr Gus Tampalini	Acting Chief Executive Officer	Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community La Grange Inc.
	Mr James Yanawana	Chairperson	
	Mr Geoffrey Blythe	Principal	La Grange School
	Ms Janice Cutler	Health Clinician	WA Department of Health

29 November 2005	Mr George Mclean	Director, Accreditation and Moderation	Department of Education and Training, Victoria
29 November 2005	Ms Rosalie Jones Mr Peter Devereay	Manager Secondary Services Team Leader, Post-Compulsory Pathways	Catholic Education Office of Victoria
29 November 2005	Mr John Firth Mr Stuart Hamilton	Chief Executive Officer Chairman	Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority
29 November 2005	Dr Dennis Gunning	Chief Executive Officer	Victorian Qualifications Authority
30 November 2005	Professor Tim Brown	Dean Of Science	Australian National University
30 November 2005	Professor Garth Gaudry Ms Jan Thomas Dr Michael Evans Dr Frank Barrington	Director Executive Officer Retired Schools Project Manager	Australian Maths Sciences Institute
1 December 2005	Dr Geoff Newcombe Ms Estelle Lewis Ms Robyn Yates	Executive Director Education Consultant Director, Professional Services	Association of Independent Schools, NSW
1 December 2005	Mr Robert Randall	Director Curriculum	Department of Education and Training NSW
1 December 2005	Brother Kelvin Canavan Mr Tim McMullen Mr Paul Brooks Ms Christine Shakya Ms Colleen Catford Mr Peter Ireland		Catholic Education NSW
2 December 2005	Professor George Cooney		Macquarie University

2 December 2005	Professor Jim Tognolini	Research Director, System and School Testing	Australian Council for Educational Research
2 December 2005	Professor Gordon Stanley	President	NSW Board of Studies
8 December 2005	Mr Paul Herschell Mr Aaron Johns on		Queensland Studies Authority

1.4 Investigative Travel

As part of the inquiry into the *Swimming Pool Program in Remote Communities*, the Committee undertook investigative travel to Darwin and Wadeye (Port Keats) in the Northern Territory, Kununurra, Warmun, Halls Creek, Balgo, Fitzroy Crossing and Bidyadanga in the Kimberley and Burringurrah, Jigalong, Karalundi and Yandeyarra in the Pilbara.

The inquiry into *Changes to the Post Compulsory Curriculum in Western Australia* required the Committee to undertake investigative travel to Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

The people the Committee spoke to are listed above in Tables 1.2 and 1.3.

1.5 Conferences

Representatives of the Committee attended one conference in Queensland as part of the inquiry into *Changes to the Post Compulsory Curriculum in Western Australia*. The 13th Annual International Conference on Post-Compulsory Education and Training addressed a number of key issues including government policy, the blurring of sectoral boundaries, the influence of learning technologies and calls for new pedagogies for learning.

1.6 Reports Tabled

The Committee tabled three reports during the period 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006, they were as follows:

- Report No. 1 - *Interim Report on Changes to the Post Compulsory Curriculum in Western Australia*;
- Report No. 2 - *Swimming Pool Program in Remote Communities*; and
- Report No. 3 - *Changes to Post Compulsory Curriculum in Western Australia*.

1.7 Work in Progress

At the completion of the *Swimming Pool Program in Remote Communities* and *Changes to Post Compulsory Curriculum in Western Australia* reports in late June 2006, the Committee decided that it would not immediately initiate any new inquiries. The Committee did agree, however, that background investigative research would commence into a number of issues pertaining to the education and health portfolios.

CHAPTER 2 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 2005 - 30 June 2006 (in accordance with Standing Order 276) is detailed below:

Table 2.1

Expenditure Items of the Education and Health Standing Committee, 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006

Expenditure Item	\$
Conference Fees	\$1, 800.00
Travel	\$55, 800.00
Protocol	\$1, 200.00
Printing	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$400.00
TOTAL	\$59, 700.00

Notes:

- 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.