

40TH PARLIAMENT



Joint Standing Committee on the
Corruption and Crime Commission

Report 16

ANNUAL REPORT 2019–2020

Presented by
Ms M.M. Quirk, MLA and Hon J.E. Chown, MLC
November 2020

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and Crime Commission**

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Presented by

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Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council on
12 November 2020

Chair's Foreword

The 2019-20 reporting period was yet another demanding and eventful year for the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission (Committee).

During the reporting period the Committee continued its oversight of the work of the Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC) and the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, while also finalising one ongoing inquiry and substantially progressing another.

On 14 May 2020 the Committee tabled a report on its inquiry into corruption risk in public procurement. This report to the Parliament provided commentary on, and recommendations by which, corruption prevention and detection practices should be enhanced within the Western Australian public sector. These observations and recommendations, whilst primarily in relation to matters of public procurement, also extended to wider issues such as governance and organisational culture within the public sector.

The report tabled in May 2020 concluded two and half years of wide-ranging and often complex investigations, which coincided with the discovery of what were arguably some of the most shocking cases of corruption in public sector procurement in the state of Western Australia.

The Committee also progressed an inquiry into the CCC's oversight of investigations into excessive use of force by police officers. The Committee began scoping this inquiry in the previous reporting period and formally advised the Parliament of its commencement on 24 October 2019. The inquiry was instigated as a result of concerns held by the Committee about the way in which the CCC was using its powers and discretion to oversight complaints of excessive use of force by members of the WA Police Force. The Committee aimed to determine whether the CCC was providing consistent, accountable and effective oversight of the WA Police Force.

While the Committee had initially planned to table a report in June 2020, due to a heavy workload and restrictions imposed by the developing situation around COVID-19, it was resolved that a report be tabled when Parliament re-convene for its spring sittings in the months following the July 2020 winter recess.

Other matters considered by the Committee during the reporting period include the re-appointment of the Corruption and Crime Commissioner and the need for legislative review of the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*.

I thank the members for their hard work during 2019-20. As this is the final annual report for this Committee in the 40th Parliament, I wish members all the best in their future endeavours.

I also extend my thanks to the committee secretariat. During the reporting period the Committee was supported in its work by Vanessa Beckingham, Lucy Roberts and Sylvia Wolf.

In the final section of this report I outline several matters which were ongoing at the end of the reporting period and which may be of interest to the new Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission in the 41st Parliament.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.M. Quirk', with a small dot above the 'i'.

MS M.M. QUIRK, MLA
CHAIR

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Chapter 1

Committee Activities

Introduction

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

- conducted two inquiries
- tabled three reports
- held 18 deliberative meetings
- took evidence from/was briefed by 27 persons.¹

Table 1.1: Summary of the activities of the Committee, 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

Description	Activity
Briefings	4
Deliberative meetings	18
Formal evidence hearings	6
Witnesses appearing	20
Reports tabled	3
Report findings tabled	62
Report recommendations tabled	12

Public Hearings

Pursuant to Assembly Standing Order 264, the Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records.

During the period 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020, the Committee conducted three public hearings, taking evidence from 16 witnesses to assist with its investigations and carry out its oversight role (Table 1.2).

In addition to hearings which were held publicly, the Committee also conducted several closed hearings. The details of those hearings are not included in Table 1.2.

¹ This includes formal hearings (public and closed) and informal briefings.

Table 1.2: Public Hearings of the Committee, 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

Date	Witness	Position	Organisation
16 October 2019	Hon John McKechnie QC	Commissioner	Corruption and Crime Commission
	Mr Ray Warnes	Chief Executive	Corruption and Crime Commission
	Ms Wendy Endebrock-Brown	Director Legal Services	Corruption and Crime Commission
	Mr David Robinson	Director Operations	Corruption and Crime Commission
	Mr Ian Norcock	Director Assessment and Strategy Development	Corruption and Crime Commission
	Ms Emma Milne	Director Corporate Services	Corruption and Crime Commission
23 October 2019	Ms Cassie Ahearne	STRC Deputy Chair, Senior Manager Business Services, Lotterywest	State Tender Review Committee
	Ms Beata Bialozor-Kurtis	STRC Member, Director Agency Support, Department of Finance	State Tender Review Committee
	Mr Liam Carren	STRC Member, Executive Director, Finance and Business Services, Department of Communities	State Tender Review Committee
	Ms Angela Corbett	STRC Member, Department of Finance	State Tender Review Committee
	Ms Susanne Harris	STRC Member, Director Common Use Arrangements, Department of Finance	State Tender Review Committee
	Mr Mark Thompson	STRC Member, Chief Procurement Officer, Health Support Services	State Tender Review Committee
	Mr Kieth Van Dongen	STRC Member, Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	State Tender Review Committee
	Ms Kathryn Abbott	STRC Executive Support, Policy and Practice Advisor, Department of Finance	State Tender Review Committee
20 November 2019	Hon Michael Murray AM QC	Parliamentary Inspector	Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission
	Mr Malcolm Bradshaw	Assistant to the Parliamentary Inspector	Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission

Briefings

In addition to formal hearings, the Committee held a number of briefings. The briefings were used to gain information in relation to the Committee's inquiries as well as other matters of interest (Table 1.3).

Table 1.3: Briefings provided to the Committees, 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
11 March 2020	Ms Caroline Spencer	Auditor General	Office of the Auditor General
	Mr Don Cunninghame	Assistant Auditor General, Financial Audit	Office of the Auditor General
	Mr Mikey Fiorucci	Assistant Director, Financial Audit	Office of the Auditor General
	Mr Glen Lewis	Assistant Auditor General, Forensic	Office of the Auditor General
25 March 2020	Three private briefings	N/A	

Investigative Travel

The Committee did not undertake any investigative travel during the 2019-20 year.

Conferences

During 2019-20, the only travel undertaken in relation to the Committee's work was the Chair's attendance at the Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference (APSACC), held in Melbourne from 29-31 Oct 2019.

Table 1.4: Summary of Committee conference travel, 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

Description	Attendees	Cost
Travel to APSACC, Melbourne 29-31 October 2019	1	\$2,662

Reports Tabled

The Committee tabled three reports during the period 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020.

Report 12 – *An unreasonable suspicion – Parliamentary Inspector's Report*, tabled 24 October 2019.

Report 13 – *Annual report 2018-19*, tabled 28 November 2019.

Report 14 – *Red flags...red faces: Corruption risk in public procurement in Western Australia*, tabled 14 May 2020.

Other Activities

Oversight function

The Committee continued to perform its oversight function, closely monitoring the activities of the Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC) and the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission (Parliamentary Inspector). It also, to the extent relevant to its portfolio, monitored the activities of the Public Sector Commission (PSC).

Part of this oversight function includes reviewing the annual reports of the CCC, the Office of the Parliamentary Inspector and, where relevant, the PSC.

During the reporting period, annual report hearings were held with the CCC (16 October 2019) and the Parliamentary Inspector (20 November 2019).

Legislative reform

Another aspect of the Committee's oversight function has been an ongoing assessment of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the legislative framework within which the CCC and the Parliamentary Inspector operate.

During the reporting period the Committee continued to advocate for a comprehensive review of the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003* (the CCM Act). This advocacy was a result of concerns raised in regard to the legislation by the CCC and the Parliamentary Inspector, who at times have had differing interpretations of key provisions within the CCM Act.

In order to assist the Attorney General in carrying out a review, the Committee undertook to collate information from a range of sources about the function of the CCM Act, and will table a report on this matter before the end of the 40th Parliament.

Inquiry into corruption in public procurement in Western Australia

On 14 May 2020 the Committee tabled the report on its inquiry into corruption in public procurement, titled *Red flags...red faces: Corruption risk in public procurement in Western Australia*.²

In November 2017 under 2(b) of the Committee's powers and functions, the Committee resolved to inquire into public sector procurement, which is an area of government that is vulnerable to corruption. This report represented work that was done in addition to the usual monitoring and oversight role of the Committee.

It was only as the inquiry progressed that the magnitude of this undertaking became apparent. However, the effort was not misplaced as the inquiry was ultimately timely.

2 Read the report at:
[https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/\(Report+Lookup+by+Com+ID\)/E0FDD014E31B257D482585680005ADE7/\\$file/20200512%20-%20Report%20for%20printer%20-%20FINAL%20-%20FOR%20WEBSITE%20PDF.pdf](https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/(Report+Lookup+by+Com+ID)/E0FDD014E31B257D482585680005ADE7/$file/20200512%20-%20Report%20for%20printer%20-%20FINAL%20-%20FOR%20WEBSITE%20PDF.pdf)

The Committee began this inquiry in late 2017 with the premise that corruption is not widespread in the Western Australian public sector. This may be the case. Certainly, early evidence received by the Committee supported this hypothesis.

However, throughout 2018 and 2019 the CCC released a number of reports which collectively involved corruption and manipulation of procurement practices involving millions of dollars of public money. These allegations shocked the public sector and the wider public and suddenly brought public procurement into sharp focus.

The Committee's report found that overall, the WA public sector is generally reactive, rather than proactive, in its approach to corruption. When fraud or corruption is identified in the public sector, governance reviews and other investigations are often commenced to find out what went wrong. Reforms are often swiftly enacted which aim to ensure that weaknesses in governance and oversight are addressed. However sometimes reforms create more rules and regulation without addressing core issues.

The Committee came to the conclusion that there is a cost to acting after the fact and that it was time for agencies, and the public sector as a whole, to be on the front foot.

It found that integrity strategies are part of the new best practice approach to corruption. This type of approach is increasingly being seen as more effective than reactive responses which include generating more rules and regulations.

In late 2019 the PSC released an integrity strategy for public authorities which aims to embed integrity into organisational systems, controls, culture, and in also in individuals' actions. The Committee will continue to follow the implementation of this strategy.

Inquiry into the Corruption and Crime Commission's oversight of police misconduct investigations, particularly allegations of excessive use of force

This inquiry was commenced on 24 October 2019, and was underway for the remainder of the reporting period.

The inquiry was commenced as a result of concerns held by the Committee about the way in which the CCC was using its powers and discretion to oversight complaints of excessive use of force by members of the WA Police Force.

Over the course of the inquiry the Committee found that the approach of the CCC had changed significantly over time in relation to the way in which it was undertaking investigations or other actions in relation to these types of allegations. The Committee noted that in some cases, allegations of excessive use of force by police were mismanaged by the CCC, while other cases were subject to rigorous oversight.

In addition, the overall approach taken by the CCC to oversight has changed since 2015, when the CCC began to take a more targeted and strategic approach to carrying out its oversight functions across the public sector, including the WA Police Force.

As a result, the Committee was interested to examine whether the CCC was providing consistent, accountable and effective oversight of the WA Police Force, as envisioned by the

Kennedy Royal Commission. Key questions for the Committee included how many allegations were closely looked at by the CCC, and which allegations were deemed worthy of independent investigation.

Essentially, in commencing the inquiry the Committee posed the following questions:

'How is the CCC overseeing WA Police Force investigations into allegations of excessive use of force, and is this oversight adequate?'

'Is the CCC fulfilling the mandate in relation to police oversight as conferred upon it at its establishment?'

As at 30 June 2020, the Committee was preparing to take evidence from key stakeholders, notably, the WA Police Force, the CCC and the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia.

While the Committee had initially planned to table a report in June 2020, due to a heavy workload and restrictions imposed by the developing situation around COVID-19, it was resolved that a report be tabled when Parliament re-convene for its spring sittings in the months following the July 2020 winter recess.

Re-appointment process for the CCC Commissioner

The five-year term of the CCC Commissioner, Hon John McKechnie QC, expired on 28 April 2020. He was appointed to the position in April 2015. The position was advertised in late 2019 so as to fill the role of Commissioner when this term ended.

The CCM Act sets out the process for the appointment of a Commissioner, in which the Committee has a role. This role is set out in sections 9 and 14 of the CCM Act. Under section 9(3a)(a) of the CCM Act, a nominating committee, chaired by the Chief Justice, submits to the Premier a list of three people eligible for appointment as CCC Commissioner.

The CCM Act requires the Premier to recommend to the Governor the appointment of a person from this list of three nominees. This person must have the support of the majority of the Committee and bipartisan support. Under the CCM Act 'bipartisan support' means the support of –

- (a) members of the Standing Committee who are members of the party of which the Premier is a member; and
- (b) members of the Standing Committee who are members of the party of which the Leader of the Opposition is a member.

In accordance with the provisions of the CCM Act, on 23 February 2020 the nominating committee wrote to the Premier providing the names of three persons eligible for appointment to the position of Commissioner.

On 10 March 2020 the Committee received a letter from the Premier nominating Hon John McKechnie QC as the preferred candidate.

On 25 March 2020 the Committee interviewed (via teleconference due to restrictions imposed by the emerging threat of COVID-19) the three candidates put forward by the

nominating committee. Following this meeting, the Chair wrote to the Premier advising that the Committee did not achieve bipartisan and majority support for his recommendation that Mr McKechnie be re-appointed as Commissioner.

On 16 April 2020 the Chair received a letter from the Premier re-confirming his nomination of Mr McKechnie for reappointment as the Commissioner for a five-year term. He requested that the Committee reconsider its decision at its earliest opportunity. The Committee agreed to do this and met on 22 April 2020 accordingly.

On 23 April 2020 the Chair wrote to the Premier advising that the Committee remained unable to reach either a bipartisan or a majority decision in support of his recommendation.

At the end of the 2019-20 reporting period the position of the CCC Commissioner remained vacant. The Acting Commissioner, Mr Scott Ellis, is undertaking the required functions in the meantime.

Resourcing of the Office of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission

Over time the Committee has formed some concerns about the resourcing of the Office of the Parliamentary Inspector. The issue of resourcing is one that has been raised for some years. In his 2015-16 Annual Report, the former Parliamentary Inspector, Hon Michael Murray AM QC, reported that:

The number of matters undertaken by my Office during the previous reporting period was 13% higher than in the 2013/14 period, which in turn was 90% higher than the 2012/13 reporting period.

The sustained high level of matters undertaken by my Office in the current reporting period is despite the Commission having its jurisdiction confined to serious misconduct, including Police misconduct, at the commencement of the period (a jurisdictional change which I presumed would reduce the number of matters undertaken by my Office).

During the reporting period I applied to the government for an additional 0.5 full-time position to assist with the sustained workload and to provide some workforce flexibility, however, authority for the position was not given.³

It is not clear to the Committee that the Office of the Parliamentary Inspector is adequately resourced to handle its function in anything other than a reactive manner. A recent letter to the Committee from the two Acting Parliamentary Inspectors stated that Mr Murray, the former Parliamentary Inspector, had observed that 'his office was not sufficiently resourced to undertake proactive investigation of claims of police harassment or excessive use of force.'⁴ In addition, Mr Murray concluded that it was:

3 Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, *Annual Report 2015-16*, Western Australia, September 2016, p. 3.

4 Matthew Howard SC, Hon John Chaney SC, Acting Parliamentary Inspectors, Office of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, Letter, 20 July 2020, p. 2.

Impossible ... to say more than that this is an area where there are, on occasions, little worrying signs that a problem might exist during any situation in which I have an incapacity to more aggressively investigate or audit the process.⁵

The Committee has repeatedly raised its concerns regarding the resourcing of the Parliamentary Inspector's Office with the Attorney General, and remains concerned that the Office is gravely under-resourced. As correspondence from the Acting Parliamentary Inspectors makes clear,

The *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003* gives the Parliamentary Inspector wide powers in carrying out their statutory functions. How this Office performs these functions is significantly a product of the Office's size and resourcing.⁶

Currently, the position of the Parliamentary Inspector is vacant, and being filled by two Acting Parliamentary Inspectors. At the end of the 2019-20 reporting period the recruitment process for a new Parliamentary Inspector was underway.⁷

Historically, the Parliamentary Inspector has had a full time assistant to provide legal, managerial and administrative support. However, for much of the last two years, this role has been filled on a part-time basis via a secondment from the Department of Justice. While the Committee is aware of the various reasons for this situation, the Committee suggests that the addition of another staff member would augment the ability of the Parliamentary Inspector to fulfil the statutory role, as well as stabilise staffing arrangements.

Aside from the instability of the current arrangement, it is clear that increasing the level of resourcing to the Office would enable the Parliamentary Inspector to carry out a more proactive oversight role. As the Acting Parliamentary Inspectors have stated, the current level of resourcing:

... would not allow it to handle a significant increase in complaints as to the Commission's handling of allegations of police misconduct, (as would be imagined if the Commission dealt with more matters of that kind). Nor would its current resources be sufficient to allow it to proactively audit how the Commission deals with allegations of police misconduct.⁸

Given the existence of two Acting Parliamentary Inspectors, one possible way to augment the Office would be for the Acting Parliamentary Inspectors to provide workload assistance during the ordinary course of the work. However, the current legislative framework limits the ability of the Acting Parliamentary Inspectors to provide assistance to the Office unless the Parliamentary Inspector is unavailable.

5 Matthew Howard SC, Hon John Chaney SC, Acting Parliamentary Inspectors, Office of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, Letter, 20 July 2020, p. 2.

6 Matthew Howard SC, Hon John Chaney SC, Acting Parliamentary Inspectors, Office of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, Letter, 20 July 2020, p. 2.

7 The appointment of Mr Matthew Zilko SC as Parliamentary Inspector was announced on 21 October 2020. It is anticipated that Mr Zilko will commence as Parliamentary Inspector on 23 November 2020.

8 Matthew Howard SC, Hon John Chaney SC, Acting Parliamentary Inspectors, Office of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, Letter, 20 July 2020, pp. 2-3.

The view has previously been taken that the terms of section 193(1) of the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003* have the effect that the Parliamentary Inspector's statutory functions can only be performed by an Acting Parliamentary Inspector where the Parliamentary Inspector's role is vacant or when he or she is absent, incapacitated, or has a conflict. This necessarily limits the possibility of a division of, or collaboration on, work between the persons appointed to the Office.⁹

Resignation of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission

The former Parliamentary Inspector, the Hon Michael Murray AM QC retired on 31 March 2020. He succumbed to ill health shortly thereafter.

The Committee recognises Mr Murray's contribution to the role and acknowledges his passing with sadness. The Committee found him to be diligent in his duty in keeping the Parliament informed on matters falling within his responsibility pursuant to the CCM Act.

The position of Parliamentary Inspector remained vacant as at 30 June 2020, with the two Acting Parliamentary Inspectors, Mr Matthew Howard SC and the Hon John Chaney SC, undertaking the necessary functions as required.

Ongoing matters before the Committee as at 30 June 2020

This annual report is the final one for this Committee in the 40th Parliament. For the sake of posterity, the Committee outlines in this section several pertinent and ongoing issues which were currently before it as at 30 June 2020.

In December 2020, the Chair will write to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly with more detailed information on outstanding matters. This will then be able to be provided to the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission (Joint Standing Committee) of the 41st Parliament, once it is established.

Actions in relation to the Committee's Report No. 2

Report No. 33 of the Joint Standing Committee in the 39th Parliament was tabled on 17 November 2016. Titled *The ability of the Corruption and Crime Commission to charge and prosecute*, it contained 48 findings and two recommendations.

Due to the prorogation of the 39th Parliament and the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly on 30 January 2017, the previous Attorney General did not have the opportunity to respond to the recommendations of the 39th Joint Standing Committee.

Given the importance of the recommendations made by the 39th Joint Standing Committee, this Committee resolved to bring them to attention of the current government by tabling

⁹ Matthew Howard SC, Hon John Chaney SC, Acting Parliamentary Inspectors, Office of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, Letter, 20 July 2020, p. 2.

them in the 40th Parliament. The Committee did this by tabling its Report No. 2 on 14 September 2017.¹⁰

Relevant here is Recommendation 2 of this report, the intent of which was to have the Attorney General undertake a review of, and table a report on, the efficiency and effectiveness of the commencement and conduct of prosecutions arising from CCC investigations.

The Committee was advised by the Attorney General in September 2019 that the Department of Justice was assisting him in carrying out the review, which involved consulting key officeholders. However, he also advised that it was taking some time to complete. As at end June 2020, this recommendation remained outstanding.

The Committee has received evidence that the current arrangements between the CCC, State Solicitor's Office and the Department of Public Prosecutions to charge and prosecute based on CCC investigations were not working as well as they could be. Thus, the Committee considers this issue to be of continuing importance.

Actions in relation to the Committee's Report No. 14

The government response to the Committee's Report No. 14, *Red flags...red faces*, was required by 14 August 2020, three months from the date of tabling of the report.¹¹

To date, the Committee has been pleased with the steps taken by the Government to address corruption risk in public procurement in this state. It acknowledges the work done by the Department of Finance and others in progressing the Enhance Public Sector Procurement Reform (Procurement Reform) project, which aims to consolidate and simplify WA's procurement framework. The reform program so far does appear to include a focus on corruption prevention and detection, which was a key recommendation of the Committee.

It will be important to maintain the current level of commitment to procurement reform and integrity matters in the public sector. Key areas to watch are identified following:

- The debarment regime being developed by the Department of Finance.
- The ongoing adequacy of training courses on how to detect and manage corruption in procurement to the public sector; and, training courses on integrity matters more generally – these are currently delivered by the Department of Finance and the PSC respectively.
- The implementation of PSC's Integrity Strategy for WA Public Authorities 2020-2023 which is supported by an Integrity Snapshot Tool.
- The measurement of public procurement processes in Western Australia against the principles of the Open Contracting Data Standard; in particular, the publication of data

10 Read the report at:
[https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/\(Report+Lookup+by+Com+ID\)/D2FA6677C9A2AB454825819A00343DE1/\\$file/93220057.pdf](https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/(Report+Lookup+by+Com+ID)/D2FA6677C9A2AB454825819A00343DE1/$file/93220057.pdf)

11 The government response was tabled on 11 August 2020. Read it here:
[https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/\(ReportsAndEvidence\)/E0FDD014E31B257D482585680005ADE7?opendocument](https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/(ReportsAndEvidence)/E0FDD014E31B257D482585680005ADE7?opendocument)

on Tenders WA, which the Committee has identified as requiring improvement in several aspects.

- Reforms in relation to the management of conflicts of interest by public authorities, which is currently mandated by Commissioner’s Instruction 8.
- The strengthening of the functions of internal audit within public authorities, in light of new requirements mandated by Treasurer’s Instruction 1201.
- Whether directors general and other agency heads will be held to account for the effectiveness of internal controls, the internal audit function and the overall financial management of their agency, as per the Committee’s Recommendation 10.

Actions in relation to the Committee’s Report No. 15

As at end June 2020 the Committee was preparing a report for tabling in relation to its Inquiry into Western Australian Corruption and Crime Commission’s oversight of police misconduct investigations, particularly allegations of excessive use of force.¹²

Given the government response to the report’s recommendations will not fall due until 24 December 2020, it is possible that any ministerial response, or lack thereof, will be a matter for consideration by the Joint Standing Committee in the 41st Parliament.

The future Joint Standing Committee may also wish to follow up with the CCC with respect to the actions being taken in relation to the report’s findings and recommendations.

Corruption and Crime Commission report: *Review of recommendations made to the Department of Justice arising from six reports*

In June 2020, the Commission tabled its report ‘Review of recommendations made to the Department of Justice arising from six reports.’ This report provided a review of the progress made against the 51 recommendations from six reports released since 2018.¹³ The Commission is able to review the actions taken by an agency in response to its recommendations, and in April 2019, the Commission commenced a 12-month review of the Department of Justice’s response to all 51 recommendations.

The Commission’s review found that ‘the measured and extensive response to [the 51] recommendations, not only by DoJ but also by Corrective Services, demonstrates impressive commitment to the broad and sweeping changes needed to sufficiently address these risks.’¹⁴ The Commission found that appropriate steps have been taken to address 37 of the

12 The report was tabled on 24 September 2020.

13 The 6 reports were: *Report into inadequate supervision of prisoners whilst in the community*, 11 May 2018; *Report on corrupt custodial officers and the risks of contraband entering prisons*, 26 June 2018; *Report into inadequate use of force reporting at Hakea Prison on 21 March 2016*, 27 June 2018; *Report into inadequate use of force reporting at Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison on 27 March 2017 and Bunbury Regional Prison on 14 November 2016*, 27 June 2018; *Report into inadequate use of force reporting at Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison in May 2017*, 27 June 2018; and *Report into misconduct risks in WA Prisons*, 26 October 2018.

14 Corruption and Crime Commission, *Review of recommendations made to the Department of Justice arising from six reports*, Western Australia, 25 June 2020, p. 33.

51 recommendations. The Commission 'considers that 14 recommendations require further work and will review DoJ's progress again in 12 months'.¹⁵

The Committee has kept a watching brief on the CCC's oversight of matters involving the Department of Justice, Corrective Services and prisons in Western Australia. The Joint Standing Committee of the 41st Parliament may wish to consider doing the same.

¹⁵ Corruption and Crime Commission, *Review of recommendations made to the Department of Justice arising from six reports*, Western Australia, 25 June 2020, p. 33.

Chapter 2

Financial Statement

The 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 2019 – 30 June 2020 (in accordance with Standing Order 276) is detailed below:

Table 2.1: Expenditure items of the Committee, 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

Expenditure Item	Amount (\$)
Advertising	\$1,959.00
Couriers	\$1,467.00
Travel	\$2,662.00
TOTAL	\$6,088.00

Notes:

Figures rounded off to nearest dollar.

Salaries of committee staff and the costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for committee accommodation, are excluded.



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CHAIR



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