

41ST PARLIAMENT



Community Development and Justice Standing Committee

Report 4

ANNUAL REPORT 2022–23

Presented by
Dr D.J. Honey, MLA

October 2023

Committee Members

Chair	Dr D.J. Honey, MLA Member for Cottesloe (From 22 February 2023)	Ms L. Mettam, MLA Member for Vasse (Until 21 February 2023)
Deputy Chair	Mr M.J. Folkard, MLA Member for Burns Beach	
Members	Hon D.J. Kelly MLA Member for Bassendean (From 22 February 2023)	Ms J. Hanns, MLA Member for Collie-Preston (Until 21 February 2023)
	Dr K. Stratton, MLA Member for Nedlands (From 22 February 2023)	Ms K. Giddens, MLA Member for Bateman (Until 21 February 2023)
	Ms Christine Tonkin, MLA Member for Churchlands (From 9 August 2023)	Ms D. D'Anna, MLA Member for Kimberley (Until 20 June 2023)

Committee Staff

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Annual Report 2022-23

Report No. 4

Presented by

Dr D.J. Honey, MLA

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly on 19 October 2023

Chair's Foreword

The Community Development and Justice Standing Committee resolved during 2022-23 to commence an inquiry titled 'An inquiry into the options available to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse in Western Australia who are seeking justice'. This inquiry has dominated our work in the second half of the financial year.

We are very fortunate that there is extensive collective experience on the Committee related to the topic of the inquiry, and this has greatly facilitated our ability to focus on key issues and identify appropriate witnesses. I am particularly grateful for the input of Committee member the Hon Dave Kelly, who has gained considerable knowledge on the inquiry topic through a long period of advocacy for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was a 5-year inquiry and submitted its final report on 15 December 2017. Western Australia was one of the first States to implement a response to the Royal Commission's recommendations to provide justice for abuse survivors. One of the key measures was the removal of the Statute of Limitations that prevented many survivors from undertaking civil legal action to seek compensation from offenders and/or their institutions.

The Committee formed the view that it was timely to review our State's response to the Royal Commission's recommendations and whether improvements could be made to better deliver justice for abuse survivors. The inquiry report is scheduled to be tabled in June 2024. While there is still much work to do, it is already clear that there are reasonable changes that can be made to further improve outcomes for abuse survivors.

On behalf of the Committee, I thank our secretariat, Dr Alan Charlton and Dr Sam Hutchinson, for their excellent guidance, research and facilitation of the inquiry. I also thank my fellow Committee members for their good company and good work during the year.



DR D.J. HONEY, MLA
CHAIR

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Chapter 1

Committee Activities

Introduction

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

- initiated 1 inquiry
- tabled 1 report
- held 16 deliberative meetings
- was briefed by 12 people.

This year was a transitional year for the Committee. Having tabled a major inquiry report in June 2022, the Committee investigated and researched many possible inquiry topics in the latter half of 2022, with an eye to launching an inquiry in the first part of 2023. This aim was stalled when three new members, including a new Chair, came onto the Committee at the beginning of the new Parliamentary year. This fundamentally new Committee launched its current inquiry – into the opportunities for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse seeking justice in Western Australia – on 22 June 2023.

Table 1.1: Summary of the activities of the Committee, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Description	Activity
Briefings	4
Deliberative meetings	16
Witnesses appearing	12
Reports tabled	1

Portfolios

- Aboriginal Affairs
- Attorney General
- Child Protection
- Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
- Climate Action
- Community Services
- Corrective Services
- Culture and the Arts
- Disability Services
- Electoral Affairs
- Emergency Services
- Environment
- Local Government
- Police
- Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence
- Road Safety

- Seniors and Ageing
- Sport and Recreation
- Veterans Issues
- Volunteering
- Women’s Interests
- Youth

Public hearings and private briefings

The Committee did not hold any public hearings in the reporting period.

The Committee held three briefings. The briefings were used to gain information about inquiry options as well as other matters of interest (Table 1.2).

Table 1.2: Briefings provided to the Committees, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
19 October 2022	Ms Elizabeth Carr AM	Chair	WA Waste Authority
	Ms Michelle Andrews	Director General	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
	Ms Sarah McEvoy	Executive Director, Strategic Policy	
26 October 2022	Mr Nick Sloan	CEO	WA Local Government Association
	Ms Nicole Matthews	Executive Manager, Policy	
	Ms Rebecca Brown	Policy Manager, Waste and Environment	
29 March 2023	Ms Kati Kraszlan	Commissioner	WA Commissioner for Victims of Crime
	Mr Michael Martin	Coordinator, Redress Coordination Unit	Department of Justice
	Ms Charlotte Hastings	Coordination Unit	
10 May 2023	Mr Craig Bydder SC	Deputy State Solicitor	State Solicitor’s Office
	Ms Ilse Petersen	A/Deputy State Solicitor	
	Ms Giselle Di San Marzano	Senior Assistant State Solicitor	

Reports Tabled

The Committee tabled 1 reports during the period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 – The Committee’s Annual Report of 2021-22 (Report No. 3).

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 2022 – 30 June 2023 (in accordance with Standing Order 276) is detailed below:

Table 2.1: Expenditure items of the Committee, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Expenditure Item	Amount (\$)
Miscellaneous	38.00
TOTAL	38.00

Notes:

- Salaries of committee staff are not included.
- Costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for committee accommodation, not included.



DR D.J. HONEY, MLA
CHAIR



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