

41ST PARLIAMENT



Report 61

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*Terms of reference: Inquiry into past forced adoptive policies
and practices*

Presented by
Hon Peter Foster MLC (Chair)
February 2023

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Members as at the time of this inquiry:

Hon Peter Foster MLC (Chair)

Hon Sophia Moermond MLC

Hon Stephen Pratt MLC

Hon Tjorn Sibma MLC (Deputy Chair)

Hon Shelley Payne MLC

Staff as at the time of this inquiry:

Stephen Brockway (Advisory Officer)

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ISBN 978-1-925580-75-4



1 Reference and procedure

Inquiry pursuant to Standing Order 179

- 1.1 On 22 February 2023, the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs resolved as follows:

To inquire into the past adoptive policies and practices of the twentieth century, notably the years between 1939 and 1980.

In particular, the Committee will seek to:

1. understand the lived experiences of those affected by historical forced adoption practices
2. examine the role of the State Government, health services and private institutions in these practices
3. identify what measures are currently available to assist persons experiencing distress, their effectiveness, and how those persons may be supported further
4. consider any other matter that arises during the course of the inquiry deemed to be relevant by the Committee.



Hon Peter Foster MLC
Chair

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Date first appointed:

23 May 2017

Terms of Reference:

The following is an extract from Schedule 1 of the Legislative Council Standing Orders:

'2. Environment and Public Affairs Committee

- 2.1 *An Environment and Public Affairs Committee is established.*
- 2.2 The Committee consists of 5 Members.
- 2.3 The functions of the Committee are to inquire into and report on –
 - (a) any public or private policy, practice, scheme, arrangement, or project whose implementation, or intended implementation, within the limits of the State is affecting, or may affect, the environment;
 - (b) any Bill referred by the Council; and
 - (c) petitions.
- 2.4 The Committee, where relevant and appropriate, is to assess the merit of matters or issues arising from an inquiry in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the minimisation of harm to the environment.
- 2.5 The Committee may refer a petition to another Committee where the subject matter of the petition is within the competence of that Committee.
- 2.6 In this order "environment" has the meaning assigned to it under section 3 (1) and (2) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.'



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