



***EDUCATION AND HEALTH
STANDING COMMITTEE***

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

Report No. 9

in the 37th Parliament

2007

Published by the Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia, Perth, September 2007.

Printed by the Government Printer, State Law Publisher, Western Australia.



Education and Health Standing Committee

Annual Report 2006-2007

ISBN: 978 1 921355 23 3

(Series: Western Australia. Parliament. Legislative Assembly. Committees.
Education and Health Standing Committee. Report 9)

328.365

Copies available from:

State Law Publisher
10 William Street
PERTH WA 6000

Telephone:

(08) 9321 7688

Facsimile:

(08) 9321 7536

Email:

sales@dpc.wa.gov.au

Copies available on-line:

www.parliament.wa.gov.au



***EDUCATION AND HEALTH
STANDING COMMITTEE***

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

Report No. 9

Presented by:

Hon T.G. Stephens, MLA

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly
on 27 September 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman

Hon T.G. Stephens, MLA
Member for Central Kimberley-Pilbara

Hon Dr K.D. Hames, MLA
Member for Dawesville
(acting from 5.4.2007 until 30.6.2007
for the Inquiry into the Cause and
Extent of Lead Pollution in the
Esperance Area)

Deputy Chairman

Hon Dr K.D. Hames, MLA
Member for Dawesville

Members

Mrs D.J. Guise, MLA
Member for Wanneroo

Mr T.K. Waldron, MLA
Member for Wagin

Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA
Member for Bassendean

Dr G.G. Jacobs, MLA
Member for Roe
(from 4.4.2007)

Mr P. Papalia, MLA
Member for Peel
(from 4.4.2007)

COMMITTEE STAFF

Principal Research Officer

Dr Jeannine Purdy, BA, B Juris
(Hons), LLB, PhD (Law and Legal
Studies)

Research Officer

Mr Peter Frantom BA
(until 9.2.2007)

Ms Nicole Burgess, BA
(from 4.12.2007)

Research Consultant

Ms Jo Molin, MComm, BEc, Grad Dip
Ed (from 30.4.2007)

COMMITTEE ADDRESS

Education and Health Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Tel: (08) 9222 7494
Fax: (08) 9222 7804
Email: laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au
Website: www.parliament.wa.gov.au

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	i
COMMITTEE STAFF.....	ii
COMMITTEE ADDRESS	ii
COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS AND POWERTABLE OF CONTENTSS	v
CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD.....	vii
CHAPTER 1 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES.....	1
1.1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 PUBLIC HEARINGS.....	2
1.3 BRIEFINGS	6
1.4 INVESTIGATIVE TRAVEL	10
1.5 CONFERENCES.....	10
1.6 REPORTS TABLED.....	10
1.7 WORK IN PROGRESS.....	11
CHAPTER 2 FINANCIAL STATEMENT.....	13

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 ninth report of the Education and Health Standing Committee. This report provides an overview of the Committee's activities from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

Over this time, the Committee commenced two inquiries. On 23 August 2006 the Committee resolved to examine, report and make recommendations on '*Successful Initiatives in Remote Aboriginal Communities*'. The intention was to highlight those initiatives which are bringing positive outcomes to remote Aboriginal communities. It was hoped this would not only provide models for consideration and adaptation by remote communities throughout Western Australia, but highlight successes at a time when there is much focus on the negative and dysfunctional aspects of some communities. The Committee intended to publish a series of reports on this inquiry and to provide its final report to the Legislative Assembly by 29 November 2007.

In order to appreciate the measure for successful initiatives in remote Aboriginal communities, the Committee wanted to first gain an understanding of the broader context in which they operate. To this end, the Committee sought background briefings from a number of relevant agencies. As a preliminary stage of its inquiry, the Committee also travelled to Cape York in November 2006 to meet with Mr Noel Pearson and to visit a number of communities to gain an insight, first-hand, into what was occurring there. In addition, the Committee took the opportunity to travel to the Torres Strait Islands. The continuing role of an Indigenous representative authority, the Torres Strait Regional Authority, was of particular interest given that this model of Indigenous administration was abolished on mainland Australia with the abolition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Council (ATSIC) in 2005.

The Committee tabled "*Where from? Where To? A Discussion Paper on Remote Aboriginal Communities*" on 5 April 2007. The purpose of this Report was to provide both a history of remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia and an outline of the major changes currently taking place in the arrangements at all levels of government concerning Indigenous Affairs. As a discussion paper, the Committee hoped that it would contribute to an informed debate on these issues. The Committee called for submissions by 18 May 2007, welcoming the views, corrections and insights of interested members of the community, before finalising its findings and recommendations. Due to a second inquiry being referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly in April 2007 the closing date for submissions was extended until 17 August 2007.

The Committee tabled its second report in the series with "*Initiatives in the Remote Indigenous Communities of Cape York*" on 21 June 2007. This Report is essentially a descriptive account based on extracts from publications by Mr Pearson, related Cape York agency websites, and information presented at the inaugural Cape York Indigenous Organisations Regional Conference. This material was supplemented by the Committee's observations and informal discussions during its trip to Cape York and related research materials. The Committee made no findings in this Report, nor did it make recommendations for action by the Western Australian government.

Further reports in this series were delayed by the Legislative Assembly's referral of a second inquiry to the Committee, the "*Inquiry into the Cause and Extent of Lead Pollution in the Esperance Area*". This inquiry was referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 April 2007 with two additional members seconded for its duration: the Member for Roe, Dr G.G. Jacobs, MLA, and the Member for Peel, Mr P. Papalia, MLA. The Committee called for submissions, conducted site visits, held hearings in Perth and Esperance, and carried out an extensive evidence-gathering program. The Committee was requested by the Assembly to report by 16 August 2007.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their individual and collective contributions over this time. I would also like to thank the Principal Research Officer, Dr Jeannine Purdy, the Research Officers, Mr Peter Frantom and Ms Nicole Burgess, and Ms Jo Molin (seconded from the Department of Agriculture for the duration of the Inquiry into the Cause and Extent of Lead Pollution in the Esperance Area), for their professionalism and dedication to the work of this Committee.

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:

- commenced two inquiries, one into *Successful Initiatives in Remote Aboriginal Communities* and the other was the *Inquiry into the Cause and Extent of Lead Pollution in the Esperance Area*;
- held 38 deliberative meetings;
- has taken evidence from 54 persons;
- was briefed by 47 persons;
- attended one conference; and
- undertook investigative travel to Cairns, Mossman Gorge, Coen, Badu, Thursday Island, Wiluna, Leonora and Esperance.

Table 1.1

Summary of activities of the Education and Health Standing Committee, 1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007

Description	Activity
Briefings	20
Deliberative meetings	38
Formal evidence hearings	30
Witnesses appearing	54 ¹
Reports tabled	4
Report findings tabled	2
Report recommendations tabled	Nil

¹ A number of witnesses appeared before the Committee on more than one occasion.

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 2006 - 30 June 2007, the Committee conducted 30 public hearings, taking evidence from 54 witnesses to assist with its investigations (Table 1.2). Three days of public hearings were held in Esperance.

Table 1.2

Public Hearings of the Education and Health Standing Committee, 1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
21.03.2007	Ms Noela Taylor	Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment	Office of Equal Employment Opportunity
	Mr Alan Barrett	Director, Diversity	Office of Equal Employment Opportunity
30.04.2007	Mr James C. Dodds	Director, Environmental Health	Department of Health
	Dr Peter T. Flett	Acting Director General	Department of Health
	Dr Andrew G. Robertson	Chief Health Officer	Department of Health
	Dr Martin P. Matisons	Principal Toxicologist	Department of Health
	Mr Peter Skitmore	A/Manager Environmental Regulation	Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr Robert P. Atkins	Director Environmental Management	Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr Kimberley J. Taylor	A/Deputy Director General, Environment	Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr Kieran J. McNamara	Director General	Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr David Mell	Manager Nature Protection Branch	Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr Gregory S. Martin	Director General	Department for Planning and Infrastructure
02.05.2007	Mr Trevor Watters	General Manager, Strategic Development	Magellan Metals Pty Ltd

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
	Mr Patrick Scott	Managing Director	Magellan Metals Pty Ltd
02.05.2007 (cont.)	Mr Colin Stewart	Chief Executive Officer	Esperance Port Authority
	Mr James Matijasevik	Civil Engineer/ Chairman	Esperance Port Authority Board
	Mr Ian Mickel	Shire President	Shire of Esperance
	Mrs Beverley Stewart	Deputy Shire President	Shire of Esperance
	Mr Richard Brookes	Executive Manager, Development Services	Shire of Esperance
	Mr Shayne Flanagan	Executive Project Officer	Shire of Esperance
	Mr Brian Pearce	Councillor / Representative	Recherche Advisory Group Inc
	Mr Ronald (Doc) Reynolds		
03.05.2007	Mrs Maxine Woodhouse		
	Mr Jack Woodhouse		
	Ms Natasha Woodhouse		
	Mr Ben Curtis	Member	Locals for Esperance Development (LED)
	Ms Michelle Crisp	Member	Locals for Esperance Development (LED)
	Mrs Pam Norris	Member	Locals for Esperance Development (LED)
	Mrs Pam Norris		
	Mrs Lisa Helenius		
	Dr Donald Howarth	Medical Practitioner	
	Ms Lisa Teague- Robertson		
	Mr Paul Robertson		

EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

CHAPTER 1

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
03.05.2007 (cont.)	Mrs Cheryl Bradley	Member	Local Environmental Action Forum (LEAF)
	Mr Keith Archer	Member	Local Environmental Action Forum (LEAF)
05.06.2007	Mr Kieran J. McNamara	Director General	Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr Kimberley J. Taylor	Deputy Director General, Environment	Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr Robert P. Atkins	Director Environmental Management	Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr Peter Skitmore	Manager Industry Regulation Branch	Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr David Mell	Manager Nature Protection Branch	Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr Brian Bradley	Director General	Department of Consumer and Employment Protection
	Mr Mike Rowe	Director, Health Management, Resources Safety	Department of Consumer and Employment Protection
	Mr Peter Drygala	Acting Director, Dangerous Goods Safety, Resources Safety	Department of Consumer and Employment Protection
	Dr Neale Fong	Director General	Department of Health
	Mr Jim Dodds	Director - Environmental Health	Department of Health
	Dr Martin Matisons	Toxicologist	Department of Health
	Dr Andy Robertson	Divisional Director - Health Protection Group	Department of Health
	Hon David Templeman MLA	Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel	
	Mr Kieran J. McNamara	Director General	Department of Environment and Conservation

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
05.06.2007 (cont.)	Mr Kimberley J. Taylor	Deputy Director General, Environment	Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr Ian Lynass	Regional Director	BIS Industrial Logistics
06.06.2007	Mr Colin Stewart	Chief Executive Officer	Esperance Port Authority
	Mr James Matijasevik	Civil Engineer/ Chairman	Esperance Port Authority Board
	Ms Catherine MacCallum	Senior Environmental Officer	Department of Environment and Conservation
07.06.2007	Mr Patrick Scott	Managing Director	Magellan Metals Pty Ltd
	Mr Trevor Watters	Consultant	Magellan Metals Pty Ltd
	Hon Alannah MacTiernan BA LLB BJuris JP MLA	Minister for Planning and Infrastructure	
	Mr Michael Jackson	Esperance Response Coordinator	
	Mr Colin Murray	Acting Director Environmental Impact Assessment	Environmental Protection Authority
	Dr Andrea Hinwood	EPA Deputy Chairman	Environmental Protection Authority
28.06.2007	Mr Dave Jamieson	Shipping Support Officer	Esperance Port Authority
	Mr Edward WierobieJ		Esperance Port Authority
	Mr Robert Stewart	Port Worker	Esperance Port Authority
	Mr Anthony (Tony) Willoughby	Boilermaker	Esperance Port Authority
	Mr Mark Baker	Electrician	Esperance Port Authority
	Mr Richard (Dick) Nulsen	Ex-Chairman	Esperance Port Authority Board
	Mrs Shelley Grasty	Environmental Consultant	Esperance Environmental
	Mr Keith McCorrison	Dep Branch Sec (WA)	Maritime Union of Australia

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
28.06.2007 (cont.)	Mr Ron Padgurskis	Projects Manager/Consultant	

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 2006 - 30 June 2007

Date	Name	Position	Organisation	Location
13.09.2006	Ms Anne Hill	Director, Industry and Community	Office of Energy	Perth
	Mr Graeme Eley	Manager, Strategic Programs	Horizon Power	Perth
	Mr David Martin	General Manager, Public Affairs	Horizon Power	Perth
20.09.2006	Mr Daniel Ford	Executive Director, Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure	Department of Housing & Works	Perth
	Mr Robert Thomas	General Manager, Housing Development Services	Department of Housing & Works	Perth
	Mr David Carpenter	Manager, Capital Works and Maintenance Programs	Department of Housing & Works	Perth
	Mr David Kelly	Principal Policy Officer	Department of Housing & Works	Perth
	Ms Teleah McCulloch	A/g Manager, Essential Services	Department of Housing & Works	Perth
18.10.2006	Dr Jim Gill	Chief Executive Officer	Water Corporation	Perth
	Mr Peter Moore	Chief Operating Officer	Water Corporation	Perth

Date	Name	Position	Organisation	Location
18.10.2006 (cont.)	Mr Kevin Bradley	Manager, Service Delivery	Water Corporation	Perth
22.11.2006	Ms Amanda Cattermole	A/Director General	Department of Indigenous Affairs	Perth
	Mr Trevor Tann	Assistant Director, Policy and Innovation	Department of Indigenous Affairs	Perth
13.11. 2006	Mr Jason O'Brien	Member for Cook		Cairns
	Mr Tim Jaffer	Chief Executive Officer	Cape York Partnerships	Cairns
	Ms Catherine McWatters	Implementation Manager		Cairns
	Mr Milton James	Director, Work Placement Scheme		Cairns
	Mr Mathew Gibson	Chairperson	Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku	Mossman Gorge
	Mr Gerald Nandy	Vice-Chairperson	Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku	Mossman gorge
	Ms Emma Burchill	Member	Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku	Mossman Gorge
	Ms Roberta Henning	Family Income Management		Mossman Gorge
	Mr Wayne Beale	Family Income Management		Mossman Gorge
	Ms Donna Henning	Individual/Family Engagement		Mossman Gorge
	Mr Roger Pugh	Leadership Engagement		Mossman Gorge
	Mr Tim Jaffer	Chief Executive Officer	Cape York Partnerships	Mossman Gorge
15.11. 2006	Ms Megan Irving	Family Income Management Resource Worker	Coen Regional Aboriginal Corporation	Coen

EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

CHAPTER 1

Date	Name	Position	Organisation	Location
15.11.2006 (cont.)	Mr Gavin Bassani	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Coen Regional Aboriginal Corporation	Coen
	Mr Alan Creek	Community Development	Coen District Welfare Reform Project	Coen
	Mr Bruce McPherson	Leadership Development	Coen District Welfare Reform Project	Coen
16.11.2006	Mr Richard Bowie	Deputy Chairman	Badu Island Council	Badu
	Ms Kay Ahmat	Deputy Principal	Badu State School	Badu
	Mr Toshie Kris	Chairperson	Torres Strait Regional Authority	Thursday Island
	Mr Wayne See Kee	General Manager	Torres Strait Regional Authority	Thursday Island
	Mr Damien Miley	Manager, Land and Sea Management Unit	Torres Strait Regional Authority	Thursday Island
	Mr Bob Welsh	Policy Officer, Housing and Infrastructure	Torres Strait Regional Authority	Thursday Island
	Mr David Curtis	Manager, Special Projects	Torres Strait Regional Authority	Thursday Island
17.11.2006	Mr Pedro Stephen	Mayor	Torres Shire Council	Thursday Island
	Mr Ned David	Councillor	Torres Shire Council	Thursday Island
	Mr Roydon Robertson	Chief Executive Officer	Torres Shire Council	Thursday Island
01.05.2007	Mr Patrick Scott	Managing Director	Magellan Metals Pty Ltd	Wiluna

Date	Name	Position	Organisation	Location
01.05.2007 (cont.)	Mr Alan D'eath		Magellan Metals Pty Ltd	Wiluna
	Mr Trevor Watters	General Manager, Strategic Development	Magellan Metals Pty Ltd	Wiluna
	Mr Paul Cullen	General Manager	Magellan Metals Pty Ltd	Wiluna
	Mr Richard Adrian	Consultant Metallurgist	Magellan Metals Pty Ltd	Wiluna
	Mr David Swain		Magellan Metals Pty Ltd	Wiluna
	Ms Eva Smith	Health Advisor OHS & E Dept	Magellan Metals Pty Ltd	Wiluna
	Mr Lawrence Ruwoko		Magellan Metals Pty Ltd	Wiluna
	Mr Alan Jones		Magellan Metals Pty Ltd	Wiluna
	Mr Aarie Schaap		Magellan Metals Pty Ltd	Wiluna
	Mr Joe Cesare		Magellan Metals Pty Ltd	Wiluna
	Mr Bob Wallis		Australian Railways Group	Leonora
	Ms Angela Stabrianou	Personal Assistant	Australian Railways Group	Leonora
	Mr Neil David	General Manager	BIS Industrial Logistics	Leonora
	Mr Colin Stewart	Chief Executive Officer	Esperance Port Authority	Esperance
	Mr James Matijasevik	Civil Engineer/ Chairman	Esperance Port Authority Board	Esperance
	Mr Andreas Maier		Esperance Port Authority	Esperance

Date	Name	Position	Organisation	Location
06.06.2007	Professor Alison Jones	Toxicologist	Hunter Medical Research Institute at the University of Newcastle	Perth

1.4 Investigative Travel

As part of the inquiry into the *Successful Initiatives in Remote Aboriginal Communities*, the Committee undertook investigative travel to Cairns, Mossman Gorge, Coen, Badu, and Thursday Island.

The *Inquiry into the Cause and Extent of Lead Pollution in the Esperance Area* required the Committee to undertake investigative travel to Wiluna, Leonora and Esperance.

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

1.5 Conferences

The Committee was invited to attend the inaugural Cape York Indigenous Organisations Regional Conference while meeting with Mr Noel Pearson in Cairns. The Conference was convened by the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership and aimed to provide an opportunity for a number of Indigenous agencies associated with the “*Cape York Agenda*” to share information on the various agencies’ major projects, programs and the linkages between them. Presentations were made by representatives of the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership, Balkanu, Cape York Partnerships, Apunipima Cape York Health Council and Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships. Conference sessions also included presentations on programs including Welfare Reform, Family Income Management, “*Every Child is Special*”, and Health Reform.

The Principal Research Officer of the Committee attended one conference in Western Australia. The Sustainability of Indigenous Communities National Conference at Murdoch University addressed a number of key issues including employment opportunities for remote and regional communities, infrastructure and service delivery innovations, and an examination of the yardstick for “*viability*” and recent government policy directions, in relation to remote communities.

1.6 Reports Tabled

The Committee tabled four reports during the period 1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007, they were as follows:

- Report No. 4 - *Annual Report 2004-2005*;
- Report No. 5 - *Annual Report 2005-2006*;

- Report No. 6 - *Where from? Where To? A Discussion Paper on Remote Aboriginal Communities*; and
- Report No. 7 - *Initiatives in the Remote Indigenous Communities of Cape York*.

1.7 Work in Progress

On 4 April 2007 the Legislative Assembly referred the “*Inquiry into the Cause and Extent of Lead Pollution in the Esperance Area*” to the Committee. The Committee called for submissions, conducted site visits, held hearings in Perth and Esperance, and carried out an extensive evidence-gathering program. The Committee was requested by the Legislative Assembly to report by 16 August 2007.

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 2006 - 30 June 2007 (in accordance with Standing Order 276) is detailed below:

Table 2.1

Expenditure Items of the Education and Health Standing Committee, 1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007

Expenditure Item	\$
Advertising	19 100
Travel	68 000
Protocol	600
Printing	5 400
TOTAL	93 100

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.