



Education and Health Standing Committee
Inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities

Information for individuals who were involved with the Esther Foundation

8 April 2022

Inquiry terms of reference

The Legislative Assembly has requested that the Education and Health Standing Committee inquire into and report by 1 December 2022 on:

1. Complaints and allegations concerning the Esther Foundation including from former residents, staff and volunteers
2. Adequacy of actions taken by the organisation to address the above concerns
3. Current regulatory and legislative provisions, and those proposed provisions currently before the Parliament, to address the above concerns, including;
 - a. Options for regulating facilities not covered by the definition of 'Health Service' or 'Hospital' in the *Private Hospitals and Health Services Act 1927*.

We understand that you may have questions about the inquiry process and how to proceed. Please see if your query is answered below. You are also welcome to contact the Education and Health Standing Committee's office on 9222 7480 or laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au

I have already written to Minister McGurk about my experience with the Esther Foundation. Do I need to make another submission?

If you have already written to Minister McGurk about your experience with the Esther Foundation, her office will seek your permission to forward your correspondence directly to us. If we receive your correspondence from Minister McGurk, we will not do anything further with it until we have contacted you to:

- confirm we have received it
- confirm that you would like it to be received as a submission to the inquiry, and
- give you options about how we will treat your submission.

You do not need to make another submission to the inquiry unless you want to add more information to your previous correspondence.



Can I give evidence without my personal details being made public?

Yes. We understand that people might be worried about their privacy and making public things that are distressing, or have other reasons for wanting to keep their evidence confidential. If you are an individual giving evidence to the inquiry (not on behalf of an organisation), you will be given options about how we use your evidence, including:

- full publication of your name and evidence
- publication of your evidence anonymously, or
- non-publication of your name and evidence.

We will not publish your name or your evidence on the inquiry website without your consent. Similarly, when reporting its findings to Parliament, the Committee will not use identifying information without seeking permission.

Can the Committee investigate my complaint further?

No, we are not able to investigate individual complaints. The Committee wants to hear from people who were involved with the Esther Foundation to get an idea of the behaviour and practices that took place. But we can't take over the role of police or courts. If you have been the victim of any criminal action, then you should report this to the police.

Your submission

Submissions are due by Friday, 3 June 2022 and can be sent by:

- submitting via the portal on the inquiry [webpage](#)
- Click the "Lodge your submission online" button on the right hand side
- emailing to laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au
- posting to:

Education and Health Standing Committee
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

For more information on making a submission and how the Committee may use the information you provide, please see the Legislative Assembly's guidelines on [Giving written evidence to a Legislative Assembly committee](#).

If you have a question about the terms of reference or the inquiry process, including preparing a submission, please contact the Principal Research Officer, Catie Parsons, on 9222 7480 or laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au.