

What are committee inquiries?

Cloze Passage

Read through the following passage and select the word or phrase from the table that best fits in each space. You can use each word or phrase only once.

Parliamentary Committees are small groups of Members of Parliament who assist the Parliament by looking at issues in detail, and conducting (1). One of the main benefits of committees is that they enhance the (2) process. Parliamentary committees keep the Government (3).

An inquiry is when a committee investigates an issue by gathering information or (4) by listening to community members and experts.

After gathering evidence, the committee makes recommendations to the Parliament to (5) legislation or policy in a document called a report.

Whether a committee is looking at a new law or a policy area, a typical inquiry process involves three main stages:

1. planning and (6)
2. gathering (7)
3. (8)

Committees prepare reports for Parliament that may make recommendations for changes to bills or government plans. If the committee is looking at a proposed law (a (9)), they will recommend whether they think it should become a new law or not.

Members of Parliament have the chance a debate committee reports after they are (10) in Parliament. Ministers respond to committee reports, by saying whether the government will follow the committee's recommendations, and the reasons why or why not.

Public hearings are (11) to the public and are (12) online and transcribed.