

Media Release



Committee System Review Committee

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SECRETARIAT

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Editor's notes:

- Hon Judy Spence will be available for interview.
- Further information is available from: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/csrc
- For further information about the inquiry please contact the committee's Research Director, Stephen Finnimore, on (07) 3406 7363.

Views sought on the Parliamentary committee system

A parliamentary committee wants to hear from Queenslanders as to how the parliamentary committees system can be improved.

The current committee system had its genesis in a recommendation of the Fitzgerald inquiry in 1989, and committee chair, Hon. Judy Spence MP, said the time is ripe for a review.

In announcing the committee's call for public submissions, Hon. Judy Spence said that Parliamentary committees have an important role to play in enhancing the accountability of government and can also be involved in the development and scrutiny of legislation and policy.

The committee will consider the effectiveness of various changes introduced in early 2009, which include the establishment of a number of portfolio-based committees with an increased policy role.

"We want to hear from anyone who can provide the committee with relevant information to ensure that our recommendations will lead to an improved committee system" said Hon. Judy Spence.

The Committee System Review Committee is conducting an inquiry into how Parliamentary oversight of legislation could be enhanced and how the committee system could be strengthened to enhance accountability.

Submissions close on **Friday, 21 May 2010**.

The Committee is to report to the Parliament by **31 December 2010**.

For further information about the Committee and its work contact the secretariat on **(07) 3406 7174**, or visit the Committee's website: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/csrc

or write to:

**The Research Director
Committee System Review Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee was established by the Queensland Parliament on 25 February 2010. It is conducting an inquiry and will report on how the Parliamentary oversight of legislation could be enhanced and how the existing Parliamentary Committee system could be strengthened to enhance accountability. The resolution establishing the Committee goes on to provide that:

In undertaking this inquiry, the Committee should consider –

- *the role of Parliamentary committees in both Australian and international jurisdictions in examining legislative proposals, particularly those with unicameral parliaments;*
- *timely and cost effective ways by which Queensland Parliamentary Committees can more effectively evaluate and examine legislative proposals; and*
- *the effectiveness of the operation of the committee structure of the 53rd Parliament following the restructure of the committee system on 23 April 2009.*

The committee should include in its report options on models for structuring the Queensland Parliamentary Committee system.