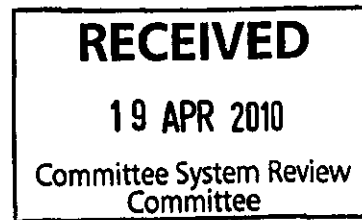


Research Director  
Committee System Review Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000.



Dear Sir / Madam

### **Review of the Parliamentary Committee System**

I wish to make a submission to the Review of the Parliamentary Committee System.

By way of background I have had 31 years of employment with the Queensland public sector and five years recent experience as a private consultant. A copy of my cv (executive summary) is attached.

In particular my experience as an Executive Officer, Inter-Governmental Relations with the Department of Premier and Cabinet ( 1987-1991) and as Auditor – General of Queensland (1997-2004) involved considerable interaction with Commonwealth Parliamentary Committees and the Queensland Public Accounts Committee.

The benefits of Parliamentary Committees are fundamental to the Westminster System of Government. The Committees serve to provide Parliament with a means of inquiry into specific matters on behalf of Parliament and reinforcing the accountability of the Executive (principally public sector entities) to Parliament. Parliamentary Committees also provide an avenue for developing the knowledge and expertise of Members of Parliament by enhancing their knowledge of the public sector structures, policies and operations and public issues. In my view the committee system generally serves these needs.

From my perspective however there is scope for increased effectiveness of Committees.

Members of Parliament as elected representatives of the community come from many diverse backgrounds. Such backgrounds do not necessarily provide the necessary expertise to deal effectively with issues. For example financial and audit expertise is invaluable in dealing with matters before the Public Accounts and Public Works Committee.

It is recognised that Committees have limited resources available to undertake the necessary research. Engagement of suitably qualified professionals to assist the Committee in dealing with its own inquiries, reviewing Reports of the Auditor-General and Public Sector Entity Annual Reports and conducting public hearings would enhance the effectiveness of the Committee by enabling Members to probe into all areas. The presence of such external professionals at Committee meetings and

hearings would add to the Committee's credibility and strengthen the Committee's capacity to enhance accountability.

This proposal is consistent with the practices in place at a number of local governments where Councillors and independent external representatives participate together as members of Audit Committees. From my observation this model works well and in practice Councillors and independent members compliment each other in terms of their respective knowledge of public sector issues and financial, accounting and audit matters thereby ensuring the effectiveness of local governments' audit committees.

In some instances these committees are chaired by Councillors while increasingly the committees are being chaired by independent external members who are not Councillors. The appointment of an independent external chair is considered to be best practice.

The involvement of suitably qualified external persons could be considered for other Parliamentary Committees such as Estimates or Select Committees and could extend to other professional groups such as architects and engineers in the case of infrastructure and capital works projects.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Len J Scanlan  
Principal  
Scanlan Consulting Solutions  
PO Box 6104  
MITCHELTON QLD 4053.

18 April 2010.

## **CURRICULUM VITAE – (An Executive Overview)**

### **LEONARD JOHN SCANLAN**

#### **Public Sector Career**

Len Scanlan held the position of Auditor-General of Queensland from December 1997 until December 2004. In this role he was also the chief executive officer of the Queensland Audit Office.

As the Queensland Parliament's external auditor Len Scanlan was responsible for the audits of all local governments and State public sector entities (more than 800 reporting entities) including government departments, statutory bodies, government owned corporations, government companies and controlled entities of these organizations and communicating the audit results in Reports to Parliament.

He was a career Queensland public servant (31 years) where his previous public sector experience included service with the former Department of the Auditor-General. Here he was employed in external audit, policy and planning and audit services development. He also served with the Premier's Department (4.5 years) working in inter-governmental relations, Transport Department (policy and planning) and the Queensland Treasury (financial management policy). Prior to his appointment as Auditor-General he held the position of Assistant Auditor-General (4 years) with the Queensland Audit Office.

#### **Education and Qualifications**

Len is a graduate of the Queensland Institute (now University) of Technology with a Bachelor of Business (Accountancy). He also holds degrees from The University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Arts with majors in Government/Asian studies and Public Administration and a Master of Public Administration which he completed in 2000. In 2006 he completed the Company Directors Diploma with the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

#### **Professional Memberships**

He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, CPA Australia, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the Institute of Internal Auditors (Australia), the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and the Institute of Public Administration Australia.

Len has been an active member of CPA Australia where he served on numerous committees for 30 years at local, State and national levels and where he was Queensland President for 1992.

#### **Honours and Awards**

In 1993 he received a Royal Institute of Public Administration Prize for outstanding academic achievement in public administration studies.

In 1994 he was awarded a Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his contribution to CPA Australia and in 1999 he received a National President's Award for his contribution to CPA Australia and the accounting profession.

In 1998 he received the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Faculty of Business Outstanding Alumni Award in recognition of his professional achievements and contribution to the community and in 2006 was awarded the QUT Alumni Service Award in recognition of his service to the QUT Alumni Program and the University.

2003 he was awarded a Centenary Medal Award for distinguished service to the public sector.

In November 2009 he was appointed as a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the practice of public administration and contribution to the Institute of Public Administration Australia.

### **Current Business Career**

After the completion of his term as Auditor-General in December 2004 Len commenced a portfolio career as an independent private consultant. This has encompassed various activities in the public and private sectors, including audit committees, as a Non-Executive Director, other committees (finance, risk management and compliance), governance and probity reviews and advice, university lecturing, executive recruitment and coaching and other reviews e.g. interstate Audit Offices in Victoria and Tasmania.

Len has been requested to make presentations on audit committees and related topics to conferences of the professional bodies. He is an Adjunct Professor at The University of Queensland and also at Bond University. He has been a course co-ordinator and lecturer in auditing to undergraduate and postgraduate students at these universities and has also lectured at Griffith University.

### **Community Activities**

Len is involved in community activities and mentoring former university students. He is a Non-Executive Director of the Medical Benevolent Association of Queensland Ltd. He is also a Vice Patron of the (QAO) Audit Office Social Club.

He has previously been an active committee member of the Australia Japan Society - Queensland and the Queensland Youth Exchange Association. For the past five years he has been the Parish Auditor for St William's Parish, Grovely.

Len is also a returned volunteer of Australian Business Volunteers (formerly Australian Expert Overseas Program), having assisted the Audit Department in the Republic of Kiribati in 1987.

Len and his wife Kerry have two sons.

### **Contact Details:**

#### **Telephone:**

Home office – 07 3851 1394

Home private- 07 3351 2383

Mobile - 0416 234 670.

**Email:**

[Scanlanx4@bigpond.com](mailto:Scanlanx4@bigpond.com)

**Mail Address:**

Principal,  
Scanlan Consulting Solutions  
PO Box 6104,  
Mitchelton Qld 4053.