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ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUEENSLAND

**Department of Education
Department of Health
Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training
and Industrial Relations**

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C

CHAIRPERSON:

Mrs Wendy Edmond MLA
(Member for Mt Coot-tha)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:

Mr Darryl Briskey MLA
(Member for Cleveland)

MEMBERS:

Mr Michael Horan MLA
(Member for Toowoomba South)

Mr Bob Quinn MLA
(Member for Merrimac)

Mr Santo Santoro MLA
(Member for Clayfield)

Ms Judy Spence MLA
(Member for Mount Gravatt)

Mr Jon Sullivan MLA
(Member for Caboolture)

RESEARCH DIRECTOR:

Mr Rob Downey

SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER:

Ms Sussan Jacobs

LAI'D UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT



ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUEENSLAND

23 June 1994

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RESERVATIONS REPORT

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

Estimates Committees, along with other Parliamentary Committees have regularly been proposed by commentators on parliamentary reform as a method of providing accountability of Government, especially in a unicameral system.

As part of a continuing steady process of reform, this year, for the first time, six estimates committees were established with Committee C accepting the responsibility of examination of estimates for the Departments of Education, Health, and Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations.

While accepting that this first year has involved a learning process for all concerned; Ministers, Departmental Officers and, no less, Committee Members; the system is fundamentally important to winning back public support for the institution of Parliament.

Clearly, these hearings have significantly increased the ability of Members of Parliament to scrutinise departmental budgetary processes, thereby increasing public accountability of each department.

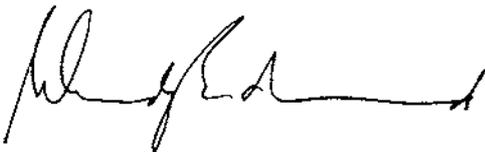
Clearly, also, this process will improve each year as all involved gain experience in the system.

The success of such public hearings relies as much on the ability of individual committee members to understand the workings of each department and the proposed budget, as it does on the departmental officers in providing information regarding those processes.

The Committees play an important part in increasing the involvement of backbenchers in the role of scrutiny of Government and, at the same time, increasing their knowledge and understanding of parliamentary procedure.

Real success will be measured by incremental improvements in the reporting of the Department as a result of increased awareness of the need for public accountability.

I commend the report to the Parliament.



Mrs Wendy Edmond
Chairperson

INTRODUCTION

- 1 On 28 April 1994, the Legislative Assembly appointed Estimates Committee C to examine and report upon proposed expenditures stated in the *Appropriation Bill 1994* for the organisational units within the portfolios of the following Ministers:
 - . Minister for Education
 - . Minister for Health
 - . Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations
- 2 The Committee conducted public hearings on 14 June 1994 to receive evidence from the Minister for Education, the Honourable Pat Comben MLA, the Minister for Health, the Honourable Ken Hayward MLA, and the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, the Honourable Matt Foley MLA, and officers of the departments concerned. Answers to Questions on Notice and additional information received as a result of questions asked during the public hearing are presented separately in an additional volume of information.
- 3 The Committee draws the attention of the Legislative Assembly to the following matters which arose during consideration of the proposed expenditures.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- 4 The Appropriation Bill 1994 shows that the proposed 1994/95 expenditure for the department to be \$2,435,012,000 from the Consolidated Fund and \$273,848,000 from the Trust and Special Funds for a total of \$2,708,860,000. This represents a 3.15% increase on the 1993/94 Estimated Actual Expenditure of \$2,626,205,000.

Non-Government Schools

- 5 Given the rising enrolment of children with special needs in non-Government schools, the Committee asked what funding has been provided in the budget to meet the demand created by these increased enrolments. The Committee was informed that a committee of representatives from non-Government schools is expected to report to the Minister on this matter within three months. A sum of \$4.5M has been allocated to provide for students with special needs who attend Government and non-Government schools.
- 6 The Minister also indicated that a clear percentile link had been established between Government and non-Government Schools to maintain funding ratios when introducing new initiatives.

Voluntary Early Retirement

- 7 The Minister confirmed that an early retirement incentives package would not be offered to teachers this year as it is not required. Retiring numbers have dropped from about 2,500 a year to less than 1,000, but are expected to rise over the next 12-18 months. The budget implications of more teachers staying in the system longer than previously means that the \$17,000 difference between graduate pay and a teacher on full increment could cost up to an extra \$25M a year.

Unspent Capital Works

- 8 The Committee asked why listed capital works projects of about \$4M were not completed within the 1993/94 financial year. A list was later provided to the Committee indicating the status of the 10 projects in question. Extensive consultation among the school, region, and central office was cited as a reason for delay in three cases. Other reasons for delay included unforeseen site drainage problems, cost increases, extensive design review, and unforeseen delays in the documentation process.

Guidance Officers

- 9 The problem of attracting guidance officers to remote areas, and difficulties associated with training guidance officers, were identified by the Committee. The Minister confirmed that training is now available through distance education, allowing people who already live in remote areas to train as guidance officers, instead of having to train in Brisbane. Other strategies such as flying officers in for short periods, advertising interstate, and taking advice from people in Low Incidence Support Centres, have recently been suggested to overcome the shortage of guidance officers.

School Security

- 10 The Committee was informed that about \$1M will be spent on school security this financial year, and that several programs have been designed to improve school security, including the distribution of a school security handbook. Although vandalism cost the Department about \$6M last year, insuring assets of \$6B is not a cost-effective alternative to spending funds on damage repairs.

Staffing Numbers

- 11 Historically, staffing information was derived from the budget allocation as an estimate of full time equivalent employees over the year. The Committee notes that the department has initiated the process of identifying real staffing levels with the 1994/95 budget papers reflecting actual staffing commitments.

Pre-School Education

- 12 The Committee sought information as to why the department is expanding the pre-school program when enrolments are likely to decrease in the future; and if there is a commitment to persevere with the provision of pre-school facilities within the state school system.

- 13 In response, the Minister stated that the number of pre-school enrolments is slightly increasing but the department is facing a challenge from private providers of day care facilities. These private facilities are more parent-friendly resulting in more government pre-schools seeking to provide full-day services. Falling enrolment numbers in some regions has been attributed to this increased competition.
- 14 The Minister could not give a categorical commitment to providing pre-school facilities as we currently know them. Modifications to the existing system in response to consumer demand and the introduction of the Commonwealth Child Care cash rebate, should be the subject of a robust public debate.

Overseas Education Unit

- 15 In response to questions about the Overseas Education Unit, the Minister indicated the unit is expected to become self funding before the end of 1995. The unit generates income by selling education materials overseas and to other states. Furthermore, the unit has produced a surplus of some \$197,000 over the last three months by reducing costs, reducing overseas travel, increasing the number of students, and increasing sales; without increasing staff numbers.

The Wiltshire Report

- 16 The Committee asked how the \$20M on the curriculum review implementation of the Wiltshire Report will be spent. In reply the Minister said that money has been allocated, but as the department is still consulting with the public, specific allocations are not yet available.
- 17 However, in response to a later question, the Minister indicated that a large part of the \$20M allocated for implementing the Wiltshire Report is expected to be devoted to literacy and numeracy.

Allied Specialists

- 18 Concern was raised regarding shortages of Allied Specialists such as Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Physiotherapists, particularly in regional areas. The Minister indicated that there is a planned increase of four state funded positions. As part of a change in the program management, any extra growth would see an increase in extra positions. However, there is a recognised shortage of qualified staff.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- 19 The Appropriation Bill 1994 shows that the proposed 1994/95 expenditure for the department to be \$2,427,736,000 from the Consolidated Fund and \$11,000,000 from the Trust and Special Funds for a total of \$2,438,736,000. This represents a 6.9% increase on the 1993/94 Estimated Actual Expenditure of \$2,281,208,000. The Committee notes that \$4.487M of the total budget was identified as a productivity dividend retained by Treasury.

Unspent Capital Works

- 20 The Committee sought information on the level of unspent funds allocated for capital works projects. The Minister was questioned as to why only \$2.8M of \$18.8M allocated to nine hospital projects was spent during 1993/94. Of these nine projects, two are shown as not having expended any funds.
- 21 In response, the Minister advised that the department was on target to spend all of the \$150M allocated to capital works projects in 1993/94. A detailed breakdown of spending on capital works projects for 1993/94 was provided later to the Committee.
- 22 Some of the reasons given for delays to expenditure on projects were wet weather (particularly in North Queensland), delays in finalising site acquisition, project architects going into receivership, difficulties in obtaining sub-contractors (in remote areas), difficulties in developing a design for proposed services within cost, and difficulties associated with decanting of patients to ensure minimum patient and service delivery inconvenience.
- 23 In response to questions, departmental officers outlined the process for planning and approval of projects, and subsequent supervision and project management. They also commented on the extensive use of Q-Build for this purpose. At a later date, the department provided detailed costings of Q-Build charges for preparatory and on site involvement as well as details for private consultants fees.

Budget Increases

- 24 The Committee noted that the Health budget has been progressively increased since 1989/90 in order to provide services to a growing and ageing Queensland population. Most of these increases have been spent on additional services and staff, with major components being costly technological advances and increased remuneration for nursing and medical staff.
- 25 The Committee also heard that there had been significant increases in patient treatment numbers. In some places of high growth (e.g. Sunshine Coast) patients numbers had increased by 50% over 5 years.

Funds for Elective Surgery

- 26 Details were sought on how \$11M allocated by the Commonwealth over three years to reduce waiting lists for elective surgery, has been spent. The Committee was informed that to date, none of this money has been spent.
- 27 The department has written to every private hospital in Queensland advising the availability of this money. However, the response has been disappointing with only the John Flynn Hospital on the Gold Coast expressing interest in using some of these funds to assist cardiac and cancer patients. The terms under which the money is provided by the Commonwealth do not allow these funds to be diverted to reducing waiting lists at public hospitals.

Shortages of Specialists

- 28 The Committee was concerned at the shortage of specialists across the state and sought information on how the department was responding to this important issue. One general reason for shortages is the difference in public and private sector remuneration levels. Another reason stated for specialist shortages and vacancies is the small number of specialists being trained by the respective colleges.
- 29 However, as pointed out at the hearing, many of the shortages occur in a few specialist areas with anaesthetics used as an example because of its obvious impact on limiting throughput of surgical procedures. The department believes the current requirement that most anaesthetists be required to perform ten full-time sessions per week in the operating theatre, is an important reason for many of the vacancies in this specialist area. Such a requirement does not allow these particular specialists any time to conduct research, teach or pursue other profession-related activities.

Appointment of Director-General

- 30 Some concern was expressed about the delay in appointing a new Director-General for the department. With the position vacant for nearly six months, the Committee was concerned about the impact of this delay on the strategic direction and leadership of the department. However, the Committee noted that a Senior Officer has been acting in the position of Director-General since the position became vacant. (the Committee also notes the announcement of an appointment in the days after the public hearing)

Nurses Career Structure

- 31 The Committee received evidence that an amount of \$9.5M has been provided to allow the implementation of the 38 hour week for nurses. On a related matter, the Committee sought information about the outcome of a review of nurses career structure, with particular regard to the impact of a pending Industrial Relation Commission decision on where and how many nursing positions will be eliminated. Full details are not yet available as reviews of each facility are being conducted in conjunction with the Queensland Nurses Union. The review process includes negotiation and consultation about issues present at an individual facility.

Resource Allocation Formula

- 32 The application of the Resource Allocation Formula (RAF) in providing equitable funding across each of the Department of Health regions was of interest to the Committee.
- 33 In simple terms, the RAF determines a target share of funds for each program in each region based on the population of each region. Other factors, with different weightings, such as in the age-sex composition of the region; the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the region; the rural nature of the region; the level of tertiary hospital services provided in the region; and the flow of people across regional boundaries to seek services, are also considered.

Hotel Services

- 34 In response to questions relating to the lack of details regarding reduced funding for Hotel Services, the Minister confirmed funding cuts of \$30M in the three years from 1993/94. The Minister also indicated that he was determined to ensure that Hotel Services in Queensland should be run efficiently with any savings coming back to Queensland Health. The Committee believes that significant budget changes such as these could be usefully indicated in the Departmental Estimates Statement (DES).

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

- 35 The Appropriation Bill 1994 shows that the proposed 1994/95 expenditure for the department to be \$530,964,000 from the Consolidated Fund and \$646,562,000 from the Trust and Special Funds for a total of \$1,177,526,000. This represents a 5.3% increase on the 1993/94 Estimated Actual Expenditure of \$1,118,358,000.

Enterprise Bargaining

- 36 Allocations for enterprise bargaining were outlined by the Minister, including \$521,000 to continue implementation within the public sector in order to enhance labour flexibility and productivity. The Committee was informed that Queensland has performed substantially better than other States with respect to the number of workers covered by enterprise agreements.
- 37 The Minister advised that some 266 enterprise agreements had been approved under State Legislation covering in excess of 55,000 Queensland workers. By way of comparison, NSW enterprise bargaining agreements cover only 45,000 workers; Victoria has 231 collective agreements; and Tasmania only 48 agreements.

Vocational Training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

- 38 The Committee commented on the list of ATSI initiatives for employment training and asked whether it might lead to duplication or wastage of resources. The role of Aboriginals themselves in this regard was provided. For example, the Nagi Binanga council advise VETEC regarding the prioritising of vocational education and training needs, and the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Consultative Committee advises the Education Minister in the educational and training area.

Child Care Centres

- 39 In reference to the capital works program in the TAFE sector, the Committee asked how decisions are made on the placement of child-care centres at TAFE colleges at the Gold Coast, Cairns and South Brisbane. The Committee was informed that child-care centres are planned in cooperation with the relevant State and Commonwealth bodies. An example is the State Office of Child Care which

ensures that there is no duplication of facilities and that child-care in TAFE is part of an overall child-care strategy for the Government.

The Decline in Funding for Human Resource Management System

- 40 Given the ongoing problems with the Human Resource Management System (HRMS), the Committee asked why there is no development funding for the program in 1994/95. The Minister stated that detailed responses are being made to past criticisms of the system by the Auditor-General. Further, a freeze on development for several months is necessary to ascertain questions of ownership, and to catch up on the backlog of requests from users of the system. Should DEVETIR retain ownership of HRMS, a submission for additional funding to implement system enhancements may be necessary.

The Apprenticeship and Traineeship System

- 41 The Committee wished to know how the \$18.9M allocated to the administration of the apprenticeship and traineeship system is to be spent. The Committee were informed that \$3.1M is provided for accommodation and travel subsidies, \$8.3M in subsidies to training providers, \$3.4M to develop and implement the Australian Vocational Certificate system and \$3.7M for group training schemes. Other money is allocated for various plans such as the Tradeswomen on the Move Program and the Youth Jobs Plan Government Construction Contracts Initiative.

Quality Assurance Accreditation

- 42 It was noted by the Committee that within this financial year TAFE Colleges will be required to obtain third party Quality Assurance Accreditation. However, in answer to a question about funds allocated to cover the costs involved in obtaining such accreditation, the Committee was advised that additional funding to cover these costs will not be provided. The Director-General advised that these costs would be absorbed internally. Colleges will be expected to collaborate in order to minimise costs associated with this process.

The High Court Challenge

- 43 The Minister was asked how much the impending High Court case of *McJanet v White* is likely to cost. Costs of \$105,000 in legal expenses, \$16,000 for travel expenses and \$65,000 for air fares have been estimated for other cases involving the Industrial Commission and the High Court, but it seems unlikely that the *McJanet v White* case will be heard prior to the end of this financial year. The Minister stated that litigation costs are difficult to predict as the outcome of issues in *McJanet v White* may be clarified or resolved by cases currently being heard.

GENERAL

- 44 The Committee noted that there appeared to be significant differences in the level of preparedness between departments, which effected the quality of the answer and the time taken in responding to questions.

- 45 In the Committee's view, it would be useful if information on grants and subsidies was provided in the Departmental Estimates Statement (DES). Substantial sums are given out, but at present no information on the major recipients is contained in the DES. While the Committee does not consider it necessary to name every recipient of a grant or subsidy, details of the total number of recipients and of the amounts received by the main recipients, would be appropriate.
- 46 A matter of concern to the Committee is the difficulty in obtaining detailed budget figures for each regional health authority. Whilst the Committee recognises that budget figures are provided in program format, and that each regional health authority delivers services under these programs, the amount of money allocated to each regional health authority is not shown.
- 47 Given that Regional Health Authorities use 80% of the health budget to deliver health services, the committee believes it would be useful if indicative budget figures for each regional health authority were shown in the DES.
- 48 A related matter arose in preparation for the hearing. Annual reports of regional health authorities are currently not tabled. Under s.3.3 of the *Health Services Act 1991*, authorities are required to produce and publish an annual report, but the Minister need only table a summary of the report of each Authority (s.2.3 *Health Services Act 1991*) in the annual report for the department.
- 49 This is the current practice despite the budgets of some regional health authorities being far in excess of the budgets of a number of whole departments. Whilst the annual reports of each regional health authority are readily available, the Committee considers that they should be tabled in Parliament. This will help make regional health authorities more accountable for the sizeable proportion of the health budget for which they are responsible.
- 50 While the committee found all DES's useful in expanding budgetary details, the DES of DEVETIR was regarded as being exceptionally well prepared.

THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

- 51 While the Committee strongly supports the Estimates Committee process, the Committee believes that an examination and evaluation of the procedures would further enhance the effectiveness of the process. This review should be conducted by the Parliament in consultation with all parties concerned.
- 52 During general discussion by the Committee, some members suggested that the three minute answer period was too long, and that it could be shortened. Also, Ministers may need to be directed to ensure that answers are relevant to the questions asked, given the narrow scope of members questions. Similarly, some questions were long and complex, across multiple areas of interest, making concise answers difficult.
- 53 Another area in need of clarification is the circumstances in which a question ought to be taken on notice. Perhaps some discretion should be given to the Chairperson to direct that a question be taken on notice, particularly when the

information required is of a statistical or historical nature. Alternatively, the information could be provided at a later stage of the hearing.

- 54 The proposed expenditure of the three departments examined by this Committee comprise over 50% of the total State budget. In view of this, it is suggested that hearings could be held over more than one day, or different groupings of departments considered. This would facilitate greater scope of questioning and allow greater participation by all members of the Assembly. It would also provide increased opportunity for the Committee to hear evidence from public servants who have detailed knowledge of departmental operations.

RECOMMENDATION

- 55 The Committee recommends that the proposed expenditures, stated in the *Appropriation Bill 1994* for the organisational units within the portfolios referred to Estimate Committees C for examination, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 56 The Committee takes this opportunity to express its appreciation for the level of co-operation and assistance afforded to it by the various Ministers and departmental staff. The Committee wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Hansard and the committee secretariat staff for their support and assistance during the Estimates process.



Mrs Wendy Edmond
Chairperson

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Meeting held 30 May 1994

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C

Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 May 1994
at 2.05 p.m. in Room A.17
Parliament House, Brisbane

1. **Present:**
 - Mrs W Edmond MLA
 - Mr D Briskey MLA
 - Ms J Spence MLA
 - Mr M Horan MLA
 - Mr R Quinn MLA
 - Mr S Santoro MLA
 - Mr J Sullivan MLA

In Attendance: Mr R Downey, Research Director
Ms S Jacobs, Senior Research Officer

2. **Appointment of Committee**

3. **Election of Chairperson**

Mr Downey called for nominations for Chairperson.
Ms Spence nominated Mrs Edmond, seconded by Mr Sullivan.
Mrs Edmond was the only member nominated and was elected Chairperson.

4. **Election of Deputy Chairperson**

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chairperson.
Mr Sullivan nominated Mr Horan, who declined.
Mr Sullivan nominated Mr Santoro who declined.
Mr Sullivan nominated Mr Quinn who declined.
Ms Spence nominated Mr Briskey who accepted.
Mr Quinn nominated Mr Sullivan who accepted.
A vote was taken and Mr Briskey was elected Deputy Chairperson.

5. Meeting Times

The Committee discussed future meeting times and proposed the following:

7 June 1994	1.00 pm in Room A.17
16 June 1994	11.30 am - 1.00 pm, and longer if required (Level 9 Meeting Room)
17 June 1994	11.30 am only if necessary (Room A.17)
20 June 1994	10.00 am onwards (Room A.17)

6. Scheduling of Departments

The Committee agreed to discuss this question at the next meeting on 7 June 1994.

7. Administration/Procedure

The matter of the applicable procedure to handle non-Committee members questions at the hearing was deferred until the next meeting on 7 June 1994.

Mr Downey and Ms Jacobs agreed to seek clarification on which Minister is required to answer questions on a program or activity which is administered or controlled by more than one Department. An example given was School Transport - funded by Education Department but administered by Queensland Transport.

Mr Downey advised the Committee of the extent of the information which staff are permitted to seek from Departments. He also provided Briefing/Background Papers on each Department whose estimates will be examined by this Committee. Other general administrative matters were discussed by the Committee.

8. Next Meeting

7 June 1994 at 1:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 2:35 pm.

Confirmed this 7th day of June 1994.



Chairperson

Minutes of Meeting held 7 June 1994**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C****Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 June 1994
at 2.05 p.m. in Room A.17
Parliament House, Brisbane**

1. **Present** Mrs W Edmond MLA
Mr D Briskey MLA
Ms J Spence MLA
Mr R Quinn MLA
Mr S Santoro MLA
Mr J Sullivan MLA
- Apologies** Mr M Horan MLA
- In Attendance** Mr R Downey, Research Director
Ms S Jacobs, Senior Research Officer.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of Meeting held 30 May 1994 were confirmed, moved Mr Quinn, seconded Ms Spence.

3. **Order of Departmental Appearance at Hearing of 14 June 1994**

The Committee resolved that the order of appearance shall be:

Education, Health, DEVETIR

Moved Mr Sullivan

Seconded Mr Briskey

4. **Length of Meeting Times**

The Committee resolved that the hearing conclude no later than midnight of 14 June 1994.

Moved Mr Sullivan

Seconded Mr Briskey

5. Length of Departmental Appearance

The Committee resolved that the Chairperson inform each Department that their appearance shall be 3 hours and 40 minutes.

Moved Ms Spence
Seconded Mr Quinn

6. Other Business

The Chairperson asked all members to confirm by the afternoon which statutory bodies members may require to attend the hearing.

Mr Downey discussed several administrative matters.

7. Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to meet 15 minutes prior to the hearing of 14 June 1994. As previously agreed, the next formal Committee meeting will be held on 16 June 1994 at 11.30 a.m. in the Meeting Room on Level 9 of the Parliamentary Annexe.

The meeting closed at 1:43 pm.

Confirmed this 16th day of June 1994.



Chairperson

Minutes of Public Hearings held 14 June 1994**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C****Minutes of Public Hearings
held on 14 June 1994 commencing
at 11.30 a.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber
Parliament House, Brisbane****1. MEETING**

The Committee met in public session at 11.30 a.m. with the Chairperson, Mrs Wendy Edmond, presiding.

2. STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson made an introductory statement concerning the Committee's consideration of proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill 1994 for the areas set out in the Sessional Orders.

3. ATTENDANCE

The following Members of the Committee were present:

Mrs W Edmond MLA
Mr D Briskey MLA
Mr M Horan MLA
Mr R Quinn MLA
Mr S Santoro MLA
Ms J Spence MLA
Mr J Sullivan MLA

Also present: Mr Rob Downey and Ms Sussan Jacobs.

4. EXAMINATION OF PROPOSED EXPENDITURE**Department of Education**

In attendance was the Minister for Education, the Honourable Pat Comben MLA, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr Peter Macdonald	Acting Director-General
Mr Frank Peach	Deputy Director-General (Corporate Services)
Ms Robin Sullivan	Acting Deputy Director-General (Schooling)

Mr Mike Keily	Director (Finance) and Sub-Program Manager-Financial Services
Mr Bob Lenahan	Director (Facilities and Services) and Program Manager-School Transport
Mr Peter Blatch	Coordinator (Low Incidence Support Centre) and Acting Sub-Program Manager-Special Education
Dr Barry Cameron	Director (Office of the Tertiary Entrance Procedures Authority)
Mr John Campbell	Manager (Administrative Support Unit)
Mr Warren Davis	Director (Executive Services) and Sub-Program Manager-Executive Services
Mr Warren Edwards	Manager (Budget Administration Branch)
Mr Rod Gilbert	Manager (Queensland Education Overseas Unit)
Mr David Ham	Director (Human Resources) and Sub-Program Manager-Human Resource Services
Mr Phil Hay	Principal Policy Officer (Executive Support Unit)
Ms Anna Van Hoof	Principal Policy Officer, Languages and Cultures Unit
Mr Les McNamara	Director (Audit Operations) and Sub-Program Manager-Audit Operations
Mr Jeff Payne	A/Manager (Management Information Services Branch) and A/Sub-Program Manager-Management Information Services
Mr John Pitman	Director (Office of the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies)
Mr David Scott	Principal Policy Officer (Regional Operations)
Mr Bob Small	Chief Research Officer, Quality Assurance Directorate
Ms Leigh Tabrett	Director (Office of Higher Education) and Program Manager-Assistance to Tertiary Institutions
Ms Carol Watson	Assistant Director (Human Resources) and Special Adviser (Employment Equity) and Sub-Program Manager-Equity
Mr Doug Watson	Executive Officer (Office of Non-State Schooling) and Program Manager Assistance for Non-State Education

The Chairperson declared the proposed expenditures of the Department of Education to be open for examination.

The question before the Committee was: "That the proposed expenditures be agreed to."

The Committee examined the following witnesses:

Hon. Pat Comben MLA	Minister for Education
Mr Peter Macdonald	Acting Director-General

Mr Frank Peach	Deputy Director-General (Corporate Services)
Ms Robin Sullivan	Acting Deputy Director-General (Schooling)
Mr Mike Keily	Director (Finance) and Sub-Program Manager-Financial Services
Mr Bob Lenahan	Director (Facilities and Services) and Program Manager-School Transport
Mr Doug Watson	Executive Officer (Office of Non-State Schooling) and Program Manager Assistance for Non-State Education

Suspension of Hearing

The hearing was suspended at 12.54 p.m.

Resumption of Hearing

The hearing resumed at 1.42 p.m.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

Department of Health

In attendance was the Minister for Health, the Honourable Ken Hayward MLA, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr Peter Read	Acting Director-General
Ms Susan Porter	Executive Director, Corporate Services
Mr Alan Davis	Director, Finance
Mr David Butt	Acting Executive Director, Policy and Planning
Mr Michael Moodie	Director, Capital Works
Mr Peter Morero	Acting Deputy Director, Health Financing Policy Unit
Dr Diana Lange	Executive Director, Public Health Services and Chief Health Officer
Dr Gerry Murphy	Director, Public Health
Dr Harvey Whiteford	Director, Mental Health
Dr Bernie Homan	Director, Oral Health
Dr Bryan Campbell	Regional Director, Brisbane North Regional Health Authority
Mr Tony Mungavin	Principal Finance Officer

The Chairperson declared the proposed expenditures of the Department of Health to be open for examination.

The question before the Committee was: "That the proposed expenditures be agreed to."

The Committee examined the following witnesses:

Hon. Ken Hayward MLA	Minister for Health
Mr Peter Read	Acting Director-General
Ms Susan Porter	Executive Director, Corporate Services
Mr Alan Davis	Director, Finance
Mr Michael Moodie	Director, Capital Works
Dr Gerry Murphy	Director, Public Health
Mr Tony Mungavin	Principal Finance Officer

Suspension of Hearing

The hearing was suspended at 6.20 p.m.

Resumption of Hearing

The hearing resumed at 7.05 p.m.

Mrs Judy Gamin MLA and Mr Bruce Laming MLA sought leave of the Committee and also asked questions.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

Department of Employment, Vocational Educational, Training and Industrial Relations

In attendance was the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, the Honourable Matt Foley MLA, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr Bob Marshman	Director-General
Mr Bernie Carlon	Acting General Manager, Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission
Mr Stan Sielaff	Executive Director, TAFE Queensland
Mr Ian Affleck	Manager, Budget Section
Mr John Hastie	General Manager, Workers Compensation Board
Mr Rob Seljak	Acting Executive Director, Employment and Training Initiatives
Mr Charles Henderson	Director, Planning and Resource Allocation, Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission
Mr Peter Henneken	Acting Executive Director, Labour Market Reform
Mr Chris Hooper	Executive Director, Corporate Services
Mr Brian McGuinness	Manager, Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Board

Mr John Hodges	Executive Director, Workplace Health and Safety
Mr Max Callen	Industrial Registrar, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission

The Chairperson declared the proposed expenditures of the Department of Employment, Vocational Education and Industrial Relations to be open for examination.

The question before the Committee was: "That the proposed expenditures be agreed to."

The Committee examined the following witnesses:

Hon. Matt Foley MLA	Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations
Mr Bob Marshman	Director-General
Mr Bernie Carlon	Acting General Manager, Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission
Mr Stan Sielaff	Executive Director, TAFE Queensland
Mr John Hastie	General Manager, Workers Compensation Board
Mr Peter Henneken	Acting Executive Director, Labour Market Reform
Mr John Hodges	Executive Director, Workplace Health and Safety

Suspension of Hearing

The hearing was suspended at 10.27 p.m.

Resumption of Hearing

The hearing resumed at 10.34 p.m.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 12.04 a.m., Wednesday 15 June 1994.

Certified as Correct this 20th day of June 1994.


Chairperson

Minutes of Meeting held 16 June 1994**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C****Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 June 1994
at 11.45 a.m. in Conference Room Level 9
Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane**

1. **Present** Mrs W Edmond MLA
Ms J Spence MLA
Mr R Quinn MLA
Mr J Sullivan MLA
Mr M Horan MLA
- Apologies** Mr S Santoro MLA and Mr D Briskey MLA
- Also Present** Mr R Downey, Research Director
Ms S Jacobs, Senior Research Officer.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** Minutes of Meeting held 7 June 1994 were confirmed, moved Ms Spence seconded Mr Quinn.
3. **Responses to Questions on Notice** The Committee agreed that all answers to Questions on Notice had been received and were satisfactory.
4. **The forthcoming Committee Report** The Committee discussed issues related to the content of the Report, and issues related to the public hearing of 14 June 1994. The difference in the level of preparedness of the departments in question was noted.
5. **Next Meeting** As previously agreed, the next formal Committee meeting will be held on 20 June 1994 at 10.00 a.m. in Room A17 of Parliament House.

The meeting closed at 12:21 pm.

Confirmed this 20th day of June 1994.


Chairperson

Minutes of Meeting held 20 June 1994
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C
**Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 June 1994
at 10.30 a.m. in Room A17
Parliament House, Brisbane**

- | | |
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| 1. Present | Mrs W Edmond MLA
Ms J Spence MLA
Mr R Quinn MLA
Mr J Sullivan MLA
Mr S Santoro MLA
Mr D Briskey MLA
Mr M Horan MLA |
| Apologies | Nil |
| Also present | Mr R Downey, Research Director
Ms S Jacobs, Senior Research Officer |
| 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting | Minutes of Meeting held 16 June 1994 were confirmed, <u>moved</u> Mr Sullivan <u>seconded</u> Ms Spence. |
| 3. Business Arising | Mr Horan did not agree that all answers to Questions on Notice were satisfactory, and asked that his dissatisfaction with two of the responses to his Questions on Notice be recorded. |
| 4. The Committee's Draft Report | The meeting was suspended for 25 minutes to allow members to read the report presented by the Chairperson. Upon recommencement the Committee discussed various changes to the existing content of the report and agreed to include the following topics in the Report:

<u>Education:</u>

Pre-School Education
Overseas Education Unit
The Wiltshire Report
Allied Specialists |

Health:

The Productivity Dividend
Hotel Services

DEVETIR:

Quality Assurance Accreditation
The High Court Challenge

5. **Next Meeting**

The Committee agreed to meet at 2.30 pm today in Room A17 to consider the changes made to the report.

The meeting closed at 12:25 pm.

Certified as Correct this 21st day of June 1994.



Chairperson

Minutes of Meeting held 20 June 1994**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C****Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 June 1994
at 2.33 p.m. in Room A17
Parliament House, Brisbane**

1. **Present** Mrs W Edmond MLA
Ms J Spence MLA
Mr R Quinn MLA
Mr J Sullivan MLA
Mr S Santoro MLA
Mr D Briskey MLA
Mr M Horan MLA
- Apologies** Nil
- Also present** Mr R Downey, Research Director
Ms S Jacobs, Senior Research Officer
2. **The Committee's Draft Report** The Committee discussed the final changes to be made to the Report.

The meeting closed at 3:05 pm.

Certified as Correct this 21st day of June 1994.



Chairperson

Minutes of Meeting held 20 June 1994

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 June 1994
at 3.06 p.m. in Room A17
Parliament House, Brisbane**

- 1. **Present**
 - Mrs W Edmond MLA
 - Ms J Spence MLA
 - Mr R Quinn MLA
 - Mr J Sullivan MLA
 - Mr S Santoro MLA
 - Mr D Briskey MLA
 - Mr M Horan MLA

Apologies Nil

Also present Mr R Downey, Research Director
Ms S Jacobs, Senior Research Officer

- 2. **Adoption of the Committee's Report** Mr Horan indicated that the Opposition members may wish to make a statement of reservation.

Ms Spence moved that the Report and amendments to the Report be approved paragraph by paragraph and page by page, and that the Chairperson table the Report in Parliament; seconded Mr Quinn. Motion carried.

Mr Briskey moved that the Committee authorise the publication of all documents presented to the Committee in the course of the hearings and authorise the publication of written replies and other documents which have been forwarded to the Committee; seconded Mr Santoro. Motion carried.

The meeting closed at 3:20 pm.

Certified as Correct this 21st day of June 1994.



Chairperson



ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C - RESERVATIONS

Whilst the non-Government Members of the Committee endorse most of the comments made in the body of the majority report, we feel it is important to note our reservations in regard to some aspects of the budget estimates.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Since evidence to the Committee shows that not all of the additional teachers funded in previous budgets since 1990/91, have in fact been employed, reservation is held with respect to the accuracy of the number of additional teachers to be employed during the 1994/95 year.

Concerns also remain with respect to the provision of sufficient resources for long and short term relief for both teachers and teacher aides.

Additionally, since the government has not yet fully responded to the Wiltshire Report, the priorities for the expenditure of the \$20M allocated for its implementation are unknown. In light of this fact, the reduction in funding for numeracy and literacy programs from \$5.3M last budget to \$2.3M in 1994/95 is not able to be totally supported.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

An unsatisfactory answer was given to a question on notice about the shortage of specialists by Region and by hospital. Four Regions were not listed and many hospitals in all 13 Regions were not detailed.

Waiting list data is still not available for elective surgery in Queensland hospitals despite the Department advising a Senate Committee in December 1992 that it was developing such information.

Vagueness of answers to questions on dental waiting lists, shortages of dental staff and new responsibilities under the new Commonwealth General Dental Program indicate a lack of control and management of this area of health service.

An inability to allocate or use any of the special \$11.4M Commonwealth Waiting List Funding, other than an expression of interest from one private hospital, is of concern.

The Capital Works Planning Process was seriously short of expectation. Of 21 hospital projects totalling \$48M for 1993/94, nine of these projects had little spent on them, with two having nothing spent. A total of \$18.8M was budgeted and planned for these new projects and only \$2.8M was spent.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Some of the statistical and factual information sought from the Minister was satisfactorily provided.

However, there were many questions which were primarily answered with an outline of government policy.

In other cases the statistical and factual information received was, in the opinion of Opposition members, not adequate.

This particularly applied to questions in the following areas of proposed expenditure:

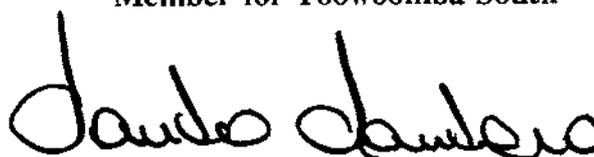
quality assurance accreditation process, HRMS, funding of TAFE college libraries and workers' compensation.



**R Quinn MLA
Member for Merrimac**



**M Horan MLA
Member for Toowoomba South**



**S Santoro MLA
Member for Clayfield**