



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEES

Annual Report 2022-23



Report No. 35, 57th Parliament

Community Support and Services Committee

October 2023

Community Support and Services Committee

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Chair's foreword

This report details the activities of the Community Support and Services Committee from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

In accordance with section 108 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, this report includes a summary of issues considered by the committee, a brief description of Ministerial responses to committee recommendations, a statement of revenue and spending for the year, and a list of committee meetings and names of members attending or absent from each meeting.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the committee during this reporting period.

I am especially thankful for the first responders and community support workers who met with the committee during its Inquiry into the decriminalisation of certain public offences, giving the committee a glimpse of the valuable work they do to ensure the safety and welfare of some of Queensland's most vulnerable people.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the people of Queensland who met with the committee or provided submissions to the committee's inquiry into the Path to Treaty Bill 2023. The committee remains deeply appreciative of the individuals who shared their stories with honesty, integrity and dignity.

I also thank my fellow committee members for their ongoing dedication and collaborative approach and the committee's secretariat and parliamentary staff for their professional support throughout the year.



Corrine McMillan MP




Chair

Report summary

The Community Support and Services Committee is a portfolio committee with responsibility for:

- Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
- Housing
- Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services.¹

In the 2022-23 financial year, the committee:

 <p>examined 6 bills</p>	<p>held 15 public hearings</p>	 <p>held 9 public forums</p>	 <p>reviewed 10 pieces of subordinate legislation</p>
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The committee's examination of bills included proposals to:

- update aspects of the state's child protection legislation in relation to offender reporting and to account for new offending patterns and behaviours²
- extend and strengthen police use of hand held scanner devices in safe night precincts and on public transport³
- consider foundation legislation to facilitate a Path to Treaty in Queensland, including establishment of a First Nations Treaty Institute and a Truth-telling and Health Inquiry.⁴

In addition to scrutinising legislation, the committee undertook one issue-based inquiry, into the Decriminalisation of Certain Public Offences, and Health and Welfare Responses, referred by the Legislative Assembly. The committee's inquiry examined the decriminalisation of public intoxication, begging and public urination in the *Summary Offences Act 2005*, and available health and social welfare responses required to support decriminalising these offences in Queensland's communities.

In August 2022, the committee examined portfolio budget estimates for 2022-23. The committee also commenced its examination of the Auditor-General Report No. 1, 2022-23 – Delivering Social Housing Services and continued its inquiry into the Auditor-General Report No. 1, 2020-21 – Family support and child protection system.

The committee's total expenditure for the year was \$524,777.

¹ From 23 May 2023, responsibility for youth justice, digital economy and multicultural affairs shifted to other portfolio committees as a result of machinery of government changes.

² Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

³ Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022.

⁴ Path to Treaty Bill 2023.

1 Functions of the committee

The Community Support and Services Committee is a portfolio committee responsible for:

- Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
- Housing
- Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services.

The committee has a broad range of responsibilities within its portfolio area, as detailed in Figure 1, below. These responsibilities are set out in the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (PoQA).⁵ The committee is also responsible for oversight of the Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC), as detailed in Schedule 6 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly and, as part of its portfolio responsibilities, the committee continues to monitor the provision of social housing in Queensland.

Figure 1: Committees are responsible for oversight of many matters within their portfolio areas



2 Overview of committee activities

In 2022-23, the committee undertook considerable engagement with stakeholders who made submissions to its inquiries. As detailed in Table 1, which summarises the activities of the committee in the last financial year, the committee heard from 294 witnesses across 11 public briefings and 15 public hearings. The committee also held 9 public forums. The evidence gained during these activities was invaluable and helped the committee to be fully informed of the issues under inquiry.

The committee considered a series of bills, subordinate legislation and one referred inquiry during the 2022-23 financial year, as well as reporting on its annual activities, including site visits of social housing projects in South East Queensland.

Members' attendance at committee meetings, hearings, briefings and forums is set out in **Appendix A** at the back of this report.

⁵ PoQA, Sections 92-94.

The committee's reports during 2022-23 are available from the committee's webpage: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/CSSC.

Table 1: Committee activities, by type, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Activity	Number
Committee meetings	35
Public briefings	11
Private briefings	0
Public hearings – Brisbane	10
Public hearings – regional Queensland	5
Public forums – regional Queensland	9
Private hearing	1
Witnesses questioned at private and public briefings and hearings	294
Site visits	6
Inquiry submissions received	612
Interactions with Schedule 6 oversight bodies ⁶	1
Bill inquiries	6
Pieces of subordinate legislation examined	10
Forms authorised by legislation considered	0
Public account inquiries (including examination of portfolio budget estimates)	2
Annual reports of portfolio entities examined ⁷	1
Auditor-General reports examined	2
Inquiries referred by the Legislative Assembly	1
Inquiries into other matters (self-referred)	0
Reports tabled	14

3 Examination of budget estimates

The committee was responsible for examining the 2022-23 budget estimates for its portfolio areas, which totalled \$7.267 billion.

On 21 June 2022 the Appropriation Bill 2022 was introduced and referred to the committee for its examination and report on the 2022-23 portfolio budget estimates, as set out under Schedule 6 of the Standing Orders.

The committee held its estimates hearing on 4 August 2022 with the relevant portfolio ministers:

- Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts

⁶ The Community Support and Services Committee has oversight of the FRC.

⁷ FRC Annual Report 2021-2022, <https://www.frcq.org.au/resources/publications/annual-report-2021-22/>

- Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
- Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

The committee tabled its report (Report 18), together with a Volume of Additional Information, on 12 August 2022, recommending that the portfolio expenditures as proposed in the Bill be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly passed the Appropriation Bill 2022, without amendment, on 17 August 2022.

4 Bill inquiries

When it examines legislation, the committee is responsible for considering:

- the policy to which it gives effect
- whether it complies with basic standards for laws, known as fundamental legislative principles
- whether it is compatible with the human rights of people in Queensland
- whether subordinate legislation is lawful.

The committee conducted 7 bill inquiries during the year. As shown in Table 2, the committee made a number of recommendations in relation to the bills it considered.

Table 2: Bills examined by the committee, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Bill	Report no.	Recommendations
Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022	24	9
Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022	25	2
Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022	26	3
Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022	27	4
Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Rent Freeze) Amendment Bill 2022	29	1 ⁸
Path to Treaty Bill 2023	30	18

4.1 Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Report 24)

On 27 October 2022, the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced and referred to the committee for examination and report by 16 December 2022.

The Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022's purpose was to amend the *Housing Act 2003* and Housing Regulation 2015 to establish a charitable donation deed model in Queensland. The Bill also sought to amend the *Retirement Villages Act 1999* to increase transparency, accountability, and consistency of financial reporting in Queensland retirement villages.

⁸ The Community Support and Services Committee recommended the Bill not be passed.

The committee received a written briefing on the Bill from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE) on 11 November 2022. The committee held a public briefing with officers of DCHDE on 14 November 2022.

The committee received and accepted 8 submissions on the Bill. The committee held a public hearing to hear from stakeholders in Brisbane on 28 November 2022.

The committee tabled its report on 16 December 2022 recommending the Bill be passed. The committee made 8 other recommendations, of which the government supported 5.⁹

This Bill was passed with amendment on 28 March 2023.

4.2 Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Report 25)

On 26 October 2022, the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced and referred to the committee for examination and report.

The main objectives of the Bill were to:

- ensure the provisions of the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004* (CP Act 2004), which underpin the child protection registry scheme, reflect changing offending patterns and behaviours; and
- enhance the ability for the CP Act 2004 and the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* to provide for the protection of the lives of children and their sexual safety.

The committee received a written briefing on the Bill from the Queensland Police Service (QPS) on 7 November 2022 and held a public briefing with officers from the QPS on 14 November 2022. The committee received and accepted 11 submissions on the Bill. The committee held a public hearing on 5 December 2022 to hear from stakeholders.

The committee tabled its report on the Bill on 3 February 2023, recommending that the Bill be passed. The committee made one other recommendation relating to improved data sharing arrangements across jurisdictions. The government supported all recommendations.¹⁰

This Bill was passed with amendment on 24 August 2023.

4.3 Police Services Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022 (Report 26)

On 27 October 2023, the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022 was introduced and referred to the committee for examination and report.

The main objective of the Bill was to deliver operational improvements and efficiencies for the QPS and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES).

The Bill proposed amendments to the:

- *Police Service Administration Act 1990*

⁹ Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 24, 57th Parliament - *Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022*, government response, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/Online-Tabled-Papers>, [Ref No. 5723T323].

¹⁰ Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 25, 57th Parliament - *Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022*, government response, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/Online-Tabled-Papers>, [Ref No. 5723T557].

- *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*
- *Weapons Act 1990*
- *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*
- *Disaster Management Act 2003*.¹¹

The committee received a written joint departmental briefing on the Bill from the QPS and the QFES on 7 November 2022 and held a public briefing with officers from the QPS and the QFES on 14 November 2022. The committee received and accepted 3 submissions on the Bill. The committee held a public hearing on 5 December 2022 to hear from stakeholders.

The committee tabled its report on the Bill on 3 February 2023, recommending that the Bill be passed. The committee made 2 other recommendations. The government accepted all recommendations.¹²

This Bill was passed on 30 March 2023.

4.4 Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022 (Report 27)

On 30 November 2022, the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced and referred to the committee for examination and report.

The main objective of the Bill was to extend and expand the trial of hand held scanners, or wands, to detect the unlawful possession of knives, which was carried out in Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise Safe Night Precincts (SNPs). The Bill proposed amendments to the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* to:

- extend the expiry date of the scanning provisions to 30 April 2025
- increase the scope of prescribed public areas for scanning to include all 15 SNPs and all public transport stations, including public transport vehicles
- strengthen the criteria that a senior police officer must consider before approving the use of a hand held scanner device.

The committee received a written briefing on the Bill from the QPS on 16 December 2022. The committee received and accepted 14 submissions on the Bill. On 30 January 2023, the committee held a public briefing with the QPS and a public hearing to hear from stakeholders.

The committee tabled its report on the Bill on 17 February 2023, recommending that the Bill be passed. The committee made 3 other recommendations including that the extended and expanded trial be independently evaluated prior to consideration of further legislative reform. The government supported all recommendations.¹³

The Bill was passed on 30 March 2023.

¹¹ Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022, Explanatory notes, p 1.

¹² Community Support and Services Committee, Report No. 26, 57th Parliament, *Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022*, government response, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/Online-Tabled-Papers>, [Ref No. 5723T397].

¹³ Community Support and Services Committee, Report No. 27, 57th Parliament, *Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022*, government response, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/Online-Tabled-Papers>, [Ref No. 5723T396].

4.5 Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Rent Freeze) Amendment Bill 2022 (Report 29)

On 31 August 2022, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Rent Freeze) Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced and referred to the committee for examination and report.

The Bill's stated purpose was to prevent excessive rent rises by imposing a 2-year residential rent freeze. After the 2-year period, rental increases would be capped at no greater than 2 per cent every 2 years.¹⁴

The Bill proposed to amend the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008*, for particular purposes including:

- freezing of rents at no more than the amount advertised by the lessor, or agreed by a lessor and lessee, on or before 1 August 2022
- applying a 50 penalty unit fine to lessors who fail to observe the rent freeze or who move a property from the private rental market to the short-term accommodation market during the rent freeze period
- capping rental increases after the 2-year rent freeze period at no greater than 2 per cent every 2 years
- setting rent for properties that have not been rented for over 12 months as the median rent for comparable properties in that postcode
- providing the power to the Residential Tenancy Authority (RTA) to compel lessors to provide information about the amount of rent payable with respect to a residential tenancy agreement for which a rental bond has not been lodged with the RTA, with a 50 penalty unit fine applying to lessors who fail to provide that information.

The committee received and accepted 121 individual submissions and one form submission from a total of 369 submitters on the Bill.

The committee received a public briefing from Dr Amy McMahon MP, Member for South Brisbane, on 10 October 2022. The committee held a public hearing on 5 December 2022.

The committee tabled its report on the Bill on 20 February 2023, recommending that the Bill not be passed.

The Bill was discharged on 11 May 2023.

4.6 Path to Treaty Bill 2023 (Report 30)

On 22 February 2023, the Path to Treaty Bill 2023 was introduced and referred to the committee for examination and report.

The Path to Treaty is a negotiation process undertaken by the Queensland Government and Queensland's First Nations Peoples and non-Indigenous Queenslanders, towards a treaty or treaties that will reframe and strengthen the relationship between Queensland's First Nations and the wider community. The Path to Treaty intends to recognise that the process of colonisation has marginalised and disempowered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The purpose of the Bill was to establish foundational legislation to drive the Path to Treaty.

¹⁴ Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Rent Freeze) Amendment Bill 2022, Explanatory notes, p 1.

The committee received a written briefing on the Bill from the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP) on 9 March 2023 and held a public briefing with officers of DSDSATSIP on 13 March 2023.

The committee received and accepted 39 submissions on the Bill. To engage with stakeholders, the committee conducted 3 public hearings in Brisbane, which were held on 13 March 2023, 27 March 2023 and 17 April 2023. Further, the committee conducted public forums with communities on the following dates and locations:

- 20 March 2023 Cairns, Weipa
- 21 March 2023 Thursday Island
- 22 March 2023 Palm Island, Townsville
- 23 March 2023 Longreach
- 24 March 2023 Woorabinda, Rockhampton
- 17 April 2023 Inala.

The committee tabled its report on the Bill on 21 April 2023, recommending that the Bill be passed. The committee made 17 other recommendations. The government accepted 7 recommendations and undertook to consider 3 other recommendations during development stages of Path to Treaty processes.¹⁵

The Bill was passed with amendment on 10 May 2023.

5 Other inquiries

5.1 Referred inquiries

Section 92 of the PoQA provides that, in addition to performing a legislative scrutiny and general oversight role in relation to its primary areas of responsibility, a portfolio committee is responsible for dealing with any issue referred to it by the Legislative Assembly or under another Act.

During 2022-23, one issue-based inquiry was referred to the committee by the Legislative Assembly.

5.1.1 Inquiry into the Decriminalisation of Certain Public Offences, and Health and Welfare Responses

On 24 June 2022, the Legislative Assembly agreed to a motion that the committee inquire into and report on the Decriminalisation of Certain Public Offences, and Health and Welfare Responses. The terms of reference for the inquiry were that the committee inquire into and report on:

- changes to legislation and operational policing responses to decriminalise the public intoxication and begging offences in the *Summary Offences Act 2005*
- the compatibility of proposed legislative amendments, and health and social welfare-based service delivery responses to public intoxication and begging, with rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019*
- the costs and benefits of responses to public intoxication and begging in other Australian jurisdictions

¹⁵ Community Support and Services Committee, Report No. 30, 57th Parliament, *Path to Treaty Bill 2023*, government response, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/Online-Tabled-Papers>, [Ref No. 5723T604].

- the health and social welfare-based responses to public intoxication and begging necessary to support legislative amendments, having regard to existing responses, such as diversion services
- the impacts of decriminalising public intoxication and begging in rural and remote communities
- the design of health and social welfare-based responses that are culturally safe and appropriate and informed by First Nations people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and legal services, and also representative bodies for seniors and people with a disability
- the appropriateness of other police powers and offences to ensure community safety and public order arising from public intoxication and begging, particularly in the context of events where there may be significant alcohol consumption
- how existing public messaging on the harm of alcohol and other drugs, including alcohol-related violence, can continue to be reinforced following the decriminalisation of public intoxication, and
- the appropriateness of repealing the ‘Urinating in a public place’ offence under the *Summary Offences Act 2005*.

The committee received and accepted 44 submissions.

The committee received written advice and public briefings from the following 3 departments in response to the terms of reference of the inquiry:

- Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE)
- Queensland Health
- Queensland Police Service.

The committee held public hearings on the following dates to hear from stakeholders in the locations listed below:

- Brisbane 29 August 2022
- Cairns 5 September 2022
- Mareeba 6 September 2022
- Mount Isa 4 October 2022
- Townsville 5 October 2022
- Gold Coast 21 October 2022.

The committee undertook site visits, some at night, with key stakeholders in the below listed locations and on the following dates:

- Fortitude Valley 31 August 2022
- Cairns 5 September 2022
- Mount Isa 4 October 2022
- Townsville 5 October 2022
- Surfers Paradise 20 and 21 October 2022.

The committee tabled its report, Report No. 23, 57th Parliament – *Towards a healthier, safer, more just and compassionate Queensland: decriminalising the offences affecting those most vulnerable* on 31 October 2022, making 16 recommendations. In response, the government noted the

recommendations and committed to ‘further consideration of these recommendations in light of any future legislative reform and investment in additional intervention and diversionary programs’.¹⁶

5.2 Auditor-General reports

The committee’s role includes consideration of reports of the Auditor-General that fall within its portfolio.¹⁷ The Auditor-General leads the Queensland Audit Office (QAO), which is the independent auditor of the public sector. It reports to parliament on the results of its audit work, providing insights and advice, and recommendations for improvement.

In the 2022-23 financial year, the committee considered one new report from the Auditor-General, Report 1: 2022-23 - *Delivering social housing services*. During its consideration of the report, the committee held a public briefing with officials from the QAO. The committee also continued its inquiry into Auditor-General Report No. 1: 2020-21 – *Family support and child protection system* (Report No. 1: 2020-21) by holding a public briefing with representatives from the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services and has determined to take no further action in relation to the report.

Table 3: Auditor-General reports considered in 2022-23

Auditor-General report	Consideration completed/ongoing
Report 1: 2020-21 – <i>Family support and child protection system</i>	completed
Report 1: 2022-23 - <i>Delivering social housing services</i>	ongoing

5.2.1 Auditor-General Report 1: 2020-21 – Family Support and Child Protection System

On 14 July 2022, the committee wrote to the following entities to follow up on the implementation of the Auditor-General’s recommendations in accordance with commitments for implementation:

- Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Queensland Health
- Department of Education
- Queensland Police Service
- Queensland Family and Child Commission
- Office of the Public Guardian.

On 24 May 2023, the committee wrote to the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services requesting an update on progress toward the implementation of remaining outstanding Auditor-General’s recommendations. On 12 June 2023, the committee received a public briefing on the progress of implementation from department representatives.

The committee considered the relevant government departments’ progress in response to Report 1: 2020-21’s recommendations and determined to take no further action in relation to the report.

¹⁶ Community Support and Services Committee, Report No 23, 57th Parliament, *Towards a healthier, safer, more just and compassionate Queensland: decriminalising the offences affecting those most vulnerable*, government response, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/Online-Tabled-Papers>, [Ref No.5723T553].

¹⁷ PoQA, s 94(1).

5.2.2 Auditor-General Report 1: 2022-23 – Delivering Social Housing Services

On 12 July 2022, Auditor-General Report No. 1: 2022-23 – *Delivering social housing services* (Report 1: 2022-23) was tabled and referred to the committee on 18 August 2022.

The committee received a public briefing on the report from the Auditor-General and Queensland Audit Office staff on 10 October 2022.

On 24 May 2023, the committee wrote to the Department of Housing, seeking an update on progress toward the implementation of the Auditor-General’s recommendations.

As at 30 June 2023, the committee’s consideration of Report 1: 2022-23 was ongoing.

6 Monitoring and Oversight

The committee has responsibility under Standing Order 194A for oversight of the Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC).

The FRC *‘is a statutory body conceived by Aboriginal Australians and driven by community members, whose purpose is to support welfare reform community members restore socially responsible standards of behaviour, local authority and wellbeing’*.¹⁸

The committee’s role is to:

- monitor and review the performance by the FRC of the FRC’s functions
- report to the Legislative Assembly on any matter concerning the FRC, the FRC’s functions or the performance of the FRC’s functions that the committee considers should be drawn to the Legislative Assembly’s attention
- examine the annual report of the FRC tabled in the Legislative Assembly and, if appropriate, to comment on any aspect of the report
- report to the Legislative Assembly any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the FRC that the committee considers desirable for the more effective operation of the FRC or the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008* (FRC Act).¹⁹

6.1 Oversight activities during 2022-23

During the financial year, the committee considered the FRC’s 2021-22 annual report, which was tabled on 13 March 2023. Following its consideration of that report, and to assist the committee with its oversight of the functions of the FRC, the committee held a public briefing with the Family Responsibilities Commissioner, Ms Tammy Williams, and other FRC staff, on 27 March 2023. Topics covered during the briefing included the FRC’s annual report, self-determination, voluntary income management, school attendance, and future directions for the FRC.²⁰

¹⁸ Family Responsibilities Commission, <https://www.frc.org.au/>.

¹⁹ Standing Order 194A.

²⁰ Community Support and Services Committee, Oversight of the Family Responsibilities Commission, Public briefing transcript, Brisbane, 27 March 2023, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees>.

7 Consideration of matters within the portfolio

In relation to the committee's portfolio area, the committee may consider a matter, report on the matter, and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.²¹

7.1 Provision of social housing

On 28 March 2022 (in the previous financial year), the committee resolved to conduct a study tour in Sydney and Melbourne in June 2022 to inform the committee of innovative models for the provision of public and social housing, as part of an investigation into:

- funding models used to finance public and community housing
- initiatives to address homelessness
- initiatives to house seniors, including women.

In the period under review, the committee received written advice from the Australian Department of Social Services and DCHDE.

The committee also held a public briefing with these entities on Monday 15 August 2022.

The committee tabled its Report No. 20, 57th Parliament - *Exploring models of housing in Australia's two largest capital cities: Sydney and Melbourne 2022* on Friday 9 September 2022.

7.2 Social housing projects in South East Queensland

On Monday 22 May 2023, the committee resolved to request written briefings and undertake site visits, for each of the following examples of social and emergency housing models:

- Samford Road, Alderley, Department of Housing
- Roblane Street, Windsor, Department of Housing and BlueCHP Housing
- Greber Road, Beerwah, Department of Housing and Coast2Bay Housing Group
- Eco Cottages, Cooroy
- Gympie Recovery Accommodation Park, Jane Street, Gympie, Department of Housing and Gympie Regional Council.

The committee resolved to undertake site visits 7 and 8 August 2023, and report on their findings to the Legislative Assembly on 15 September 2023.

²¹ PoQA, s 92.

8 Scrutiny of subordinate legislation

Subordinate legislation is legislation made by a department or other entity under powers given to them by an act of parliament. All subordinate legislation must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, which can disallow it by resolution.²² To help it decide whether or not to do so, the Legislative Assembly refers each item of subordinate legislation to the relevant portfolio committee for consideration.

When examining subordinate legislation, each committee considers a range of matters, including:

- whether it has sufficient regard for basic standards for legislation, known as ‘fundamental legislative principles’
- whether it is consistent with the human rights of people in Queensland
- whether the explanatory notes provide an adequate explanation of why the subordinate legislation is needed and what it does.

During the reporting period, the committee examined 10 pieces of subordinate legislation in accordance with its responsibility under section 93(1) of the PoQA, tabling the following reports:

- Report No. 21, 57th Parliament – *Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 March 2022 and 16 August 2022* (tabled on 14 October 2022)
- Report No. 28, 57th Parliament – *Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 August 2022 and 29 November 2022* (tabled on 17 February 2023)
- Report No. 31, 57th Parliament – *Subordinate legislation tabled between 30 November 2022 and 21 February 2023* (tabled on 21 April 2023).

As shown in Table 4, the committee did not identify any matters of concern regarding fundamental legislative principles or its lawfulness.

From 1 January 2020, all subordinate legislation was required to be accompanied by a human rights certificate prepared and tabled with the subordinate legislation by the responsible Minister.²³

During the year, the committee examined the human rights certificates for all items of subordinate legislation notified and tabled,²⁴ including considering the explanations provided by responsible Ministers regarding any identified limitations on human rights, and the compatibility of the subordinate legislation with the HRA.

Report No. 21, 57th Parliament – *Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 March 2022 and 16 August 2022* highlighted human rights issues potentially raised by items of subordinate legislation discussed within the reports, all of which were acknowledged by the responsible Minister in the relevant human rights certificate. In each instance, the committee was satisfied with the explanation provided by the Minister in the relevant human rights certificate and agreed that any limitation on human rights was reasonable and demonstrably justifiable in the circumstances.

The committee also considered that the human rights certificates tabled with the subordinate legislation provided a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the subordinate legislation in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

²² *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, ss 49 & 50.

²³ PoQA, s 41.

²⁴ A human rights certificate was not required to be tabled with the proclamation examined in Report 28, 57th Parliament – *Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 August 2022 and 29 November 2022*.

Table 4: Portfolio subordinate legislation examined, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Report No.	Subordinate legislation	Matters considered		Explanatory notes/HR certificate adequate
		Fundamental legislative principles	Human rights	
21	Retirement Villages (Exempt Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2022 [No. 59 of 2022]	1	1	✓ ²⁵
21	Adoption (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022 [No. 62 of 2022]	0	1	✓ ²⁶
21	Housing Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022 [No. 66 of 2022]	0	0	✓
21	Disability Services and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022 [No. 83 of 2022]	0	1	✓ ²⁷
21	Residential Services (Accreditation) (Exclusion of Retirement Villages) Amendment Regulation 2022 [No. 94 of 2022]	0	0	✓
21	Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Amendment Regulation 2022 [No. 95 of 2022]	2	1	✓ ²⁸
21	Forensic Disability Regulation 2022 [No. 102 of 2022]	0	1	✓ ²⁹
28	Proclamation – Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022 [No. 149 of 2022]	0	0	✓
28	Public Records (Crime and Corruption Commission of Inquiry) Amendment Regulation 2022 [No. 164 of 2022]	0	0	✓
31	Public Records (Commission into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence) Amendment Regulation 2023 [No. 5 of 2023]	0	0	✓

²⁵ The explanatory notes broadly comply with part 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

²⁶ The explanatory notes broadly comply with part 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

²⁷ The explanatory notes broadly comply with part 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

²⁸ The explanatory notes broadly comply with part 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

²⁹ The explanatory notes broadly comply with part 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

9 Consideration of forms authorised by legislation

The committee’s responsibilities include monitoring the operation of s 48 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954* in relation to legislation within its portfolio area. That section sets out a number of requirements for forms, including how forms must be notified and made available to the public.

During 2022-23, the committee did not consider any forms.

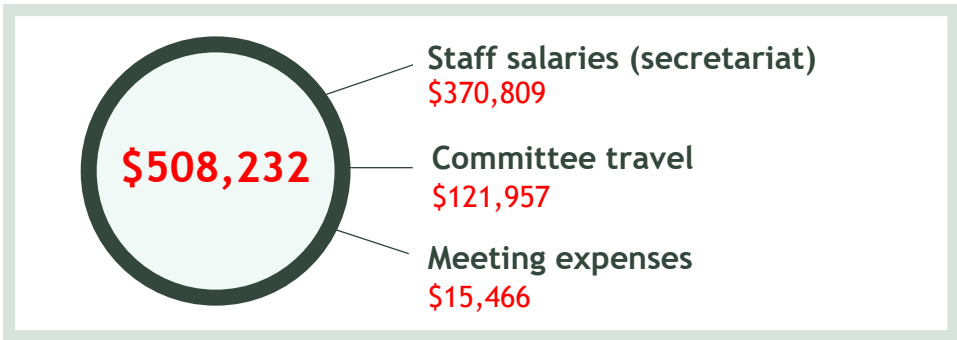
10 Committee expenditure

Committees are funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly and rarely generate revenue. After funding is allocated for the committee office as a whole, expenditure by individual committees is determined by their specific requirements and volume of work. Travel expenditure is subject to an additional approval process.

In 2022-23, the committee’s total expenditure was \$524,777. The committee did not receive any revenue.

Figure 2 below shows the three main areas of expenditure. As that figure illustrates, salaries for the secretariat staff that support the committee comprised the vast majority (just over 70 per cent) of the committee’s expenditure. The committee’s secretariat is a three-person team, supplemented with additional resources from across the Committee Office as needed throughout the year.

Figure 2: Main areas of committee expenditure in 2022-23



After staffing expenses, committee travel was the most notable area of expenditure for the committee. The committee travelled to 9 locations for its inquiry into the Path to Treaty Bill 2023 and 6 locations for the decriminalisation of certain offences, and health and social welfare responses inquiry. Meeting expenses, which primarily comprised catering expenses, were the third largest area of expenditure.

Table 6 provides a more detailed breakdown of the committee’s expenditure for the year. As this table shows, legal advice was another notable expense. This expenditure allowed the committee to obtain expert briefings on the compliance of legislation with the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

Table 6: Expenditure of the committee, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Item	\$
Employee expenses	370,809
Meeting expenses (broadcast support & catering)	15,466
Technology (software licences, telephones, teleconferencing & videoconferencing)	6,542
Legal advice	8,299
Printing and supplies	1,704
Committee travel (including business travel)	121,957
Total expenditure	524,777

Table 7: Travel budget expenditure, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023**Decriminalisation of certain offences, and health and social welfare responses**

Destination	Date/s of travel	Type of visit	# of MPs travelling	Approval expenditure	Actual expenditure
Fortitude Valley	31 Aug 22	Site visit (night)	6	\$55,743.55	\$33,226.36
Cairns, Mareeba	5-6 Sept 22	Site visits, Public hearings			
Mount Isa, Townsville	4-5 Oct 22	Site visits, Public hearings			
Gold Coast	20-21 Oct 22	Site visits, Public hearings			

Path to Treaty Bill 2023

Destination	Date/s of travel	Type of visit	# of MPs travelling	Approval expenditure	Actual expenditure
Cairns, Weipa	19-20 Mar 23	Forums	7 (1 sub included)	\$97,482.45	\$88730.65
Thursday Island	21 Mar 23	Forum			
Townsville, Palm Island	22 Mar 23	Forums			
Longreach	23 Mar 23	Forum			
Rockhampton, Woorabinda	24 Mar 23	Forums			
Wellington, New Zealand	3-5 Apr 23	Consultation			

Appendix A: Meeting attendance record

Table 7 below shows the attendance of committee members at private committee meetings (PrM), public briefings (PB), public forum (PF) and public hearings (PH) during the reporting period.

Standing Order 202(1) provides that in the case of a committee members' illness or inability to attend, another member may be appointed to attend that meeting or stand in for a particular inquiry. The details of these appointments are included in the footnotes.

Table 7: Meeting attendance record, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.

Meeting Date	Activity	Corrine McMillan MP Chair	Stephen Bennett MP Deputy Chair	Michael Berkman MP	Cynthia Lui MP	Robert Skelton MP	Dr Mark Robinson MP
12-Jul-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ³⁰	✓	✗ ³¹
12-Jul-22	PB	✓	✓	✓	✗ ³²	✓	✗ ³³
26-Jul-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4-Aug-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4-Aug-22	PH	✓	✓ ³⁴	✓	✓	✓	✓
11-Aug-22	PrM	✗ ³⁵	✓	✓	✗ ³⁶	✓	✓
15-Aug-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15-Aug-22	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24-Aug-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ³⁷	✓	✓
29-Aug-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29-Aug-22	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1-Sep-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

³⁰ Ms Ali King MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

³¹ Mr James Lister MP substituted for Dr Mark Robinson MP.

³² Ms Ali King MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

³³ Mr James Lister MP substituted for Dr Mark Robinson MP.

³⁴ Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP substituted for Mr Stephen Bennett MP during Budget Estimates public hearing from 5.15 pm to 6.15 pm.

³⁵ Mr Linus Power MP substituted for Ms Corrine McMillan MP.

³⁶ Mr Chris Whiting MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

³⁷ Ms Ali King MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

Meeting Date	Activity	Corrine McMillan MP Chair	Stephen Bennett MP Deputy Chair	Michael Berkman MP	Cynthia Lui MP	Robert Skelton MP	Dr Mark Robinson MP
5-Sep-22	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
5-Sep-22	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6-Sep-22	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
14-Sep-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4-Oct-22	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
5-Oct-22	PH	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
10-Oct-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10-Oct-22	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10-Oct-22	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21-Oct-22	PH	✓	✓	✗	✗ ³⁸	✓	✓
24-Oct-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26-Oct-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2-Nov-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7-Nov-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14-Nov-22	PrM	✓	✓	✗ ³⁹	✗ ⁴⁰	✓	✓
14-Nov-22	PB	✓	✓	✗ ⁴¹	✗ ⁴²	✓	✓
14-Nov-22	PB	✓	✓	✗ ⁴³	✗ ⁴⁴	✓	✓
14-Nov-22	PB	✓	✓	✗ ⁴⁵	✗ ⁴⁶	✓	✓

³⁸ Mr James Martin MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

³⁹ Dr Amy McMahan MP substituted for Mr Michael Berkman MP.

⁴⁰ Mr Peter Russo MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁴¹ Dr Amy McMahan MP substituted for Mr Michael Berkman MP.

⁴² Mr Peter Russo MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁴³ Dr Amy McMahan MP substituted for Mr Michael Berkman MP.

⁴⁴ Mr Peter Russo MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁴⁵ Dr Amy McMahan MP substituted for Mr Michael Berkman MP.

⁴⁶ Mr Peter Russo MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

Meeting Date	Activity	Corrine McMillan MP Chair	Stephen Bennett MP Deputy Chair	Michael Berkman MP	Cynthia Lui MP	Robert Skelton MP	Dr Mark Robinson MP
21-Nov-22	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
28-Nov-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28-Nov-22	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5-Dec-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁴⁷	✓	✗
5-Dec-22	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁴⁸	✓	✗
5-Dec-22	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁴⁹	✓	✗
5-Dec-22	PH	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁰	✗ ⁵¹	✓	✗
14-Dec-22	PrM	✗ ⁵²	✓	✓	✗ ⁵³	✓	✓
23-Jan-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁴	✓	✓
30-Jan-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁵	✓
30-Jan-23	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁶	✓
30-Jan-23	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁷	✓
13-Feb-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁸	✓	✓
20-Feb-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23-Feb-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13-Mar-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

⁴⁷ Mr Jim Madden MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁴⁸ Mr Jim Madden MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁴⁹ Mr Jim Madden MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁵⁰ Dr Amy McMahan MP substituted for Mr Michael Berkman MP.

⁵¹ Mr Jim Madden MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁵² Mr Chris Whiting MP substituted for Ms Corrine McMillan MP.

⁵³ Mr Jim Madden MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁵⁴ Mr Aaron Harper MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁵⁵ Mr Jimmy Sullivan MP substituted for Mr Robert Skelton MP.

⁵⁶ Mr Jimmy Sullivan MP substituted for Mr Robert Skelton MP.

⁵⁷ Mr Jimmy Sullivan MP substituted for Mr Robert Skelton MP.

⁵⁸ Ms Jonty Bush MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

Meeting Date	Activity	Corrine McMillan MP Chair	Stephen Bennett MP Deputy Chair	Michael Berkman MP	Cynthia Lui MP	Robert Skelton MP	Dr Mark Robinson MP
13-Mar-23	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
13-Mar-23	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
20-Mar-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁹	✓	✓
20-Mar-23	PF	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁶⁰	✓	✓
20-Mar-23	PF	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁶¹	✓	✓
21-Mar-23	PF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22-Mar-23	PF	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
22-Mar-23	PF	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
23-Mar-23	PF	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
24-Mar-23	PF	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
24-Mar-23	PF	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
27-Mar-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
27-Mar-23	PB	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
27-Mar-23	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4-Apr-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
17-Apr-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17-Apr-23	PF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17-Apr-23	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19-Apr-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20-Apr-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8-May-23	PrM	✗ ⁶²	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

⁵⁹ Ms Joan Pease MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁶⁰ Ms Joan Pease MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁶¹ Ms Joan Pease MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.

⁶² Mr Chris Whiting MP substituted for Ms Corrine McMillan MP.

Meeting Date	Activity	Corrine McMillan MP Chair	Stephen Bennett MP Deputy Chair	Michael Berkman MP	Cynthia Lui MP	Robert Skelton MP	Dr Mark Robinson MP
22-May-23	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
12-Jun-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12-Jun-23	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27-Jun-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁶³	✓	✗

Legend: PrM private meeting
PrH private hearing
PH public hearing
PF public forum
PB public briefing

⁶³ Ms Kim Richards MP substituted for Ms Cynthia Lui MP.