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Parliament of South Australia  
Legislative Council

# **Social Development Committee**

**General Information  
2017**

## **THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Social Development Committee is a Standing Committee of the South Australian Parliament established under the *Parliamentary Committees Act 1991* (the Act).

The Committee comprises three Members of the Legislative Council and three Members of the House of Assembly.

The current Membership is:

- Hon Gail Gago MLC *Presiding Member*
- Hon Jing Lee MLC
- Hon Kelly Vincent MLC
- Ms Nat Cook MP
- Mr Adrian Pederick MP
- Ms Dana Wortley MP

Staff of the Committee are:

Ms Robyn Schutte, Secretary

Ms Mary-Ann Bloomfield, Research Officer.

### **Role of the Committee**

The Committee is required to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on matters of importance to the people of South Australia including matters relating to the:

- health/welfare
- education
- occupational safety
- industrial relations
- arts
- recreation and sport
- cultural or physical development
- quality of life

of communities, families or individuals of the state of South Australia or how that quality of life might be improved

Inquiries may be instigated by:

- either house of Parliament
- the Governor
- the Committee itself

*see appendix 1 for s15 of the Parliamentary Committee's Act 1991*

## **INQUIRY PROCESS**

At the start of each inquiry, an advertisement detailing the terms of reference and calling for written submissions is placed in the local and national press, and websites and newsletters as appropriate. The closing date for acceptance of written submissions, information on making application to provide an oral submission and contact information for the Committee is also included.

The Committee encourages any person or organization with an interest in the matter under inquiry to make a submission addressing the terms of reference, which may also include suggestions for action.

Individuals are encouraged to lodge submissions putting forward their views and experiences relevant to the terms of reference under inquiry.

In addition, expert witnesses may be directly contacted by the Committee and invited to provide a written submission, oral evidence or both.

## **EVIDENCE**

### General information

All contributors to a Committee inquiry will be listed in the final report. In addition, submissions may be cited by the Committee and published on the Committee's internet page.

Once received by the Committee, evidence, both written and oral, attracts Parliamentary Privilege. However, should a written, or oral, submission provided to the Committee be published or distributed prior to the Committee authorising its publication, it may not be protected by Parliamentary Privilege.

***The Committee reserves the right to release and otherwise make use of any evidence (written or oral), given during the course of an inquiry where it deems this to be appropriate.***

### **Written Submissions**

A written submission may address any, or all, of the terms of reference and should reach the Committee Secretary by the advertised closing date.

Submissions that deal with issues that fall outside the terms of reference under inquiry may not be accepted by the Committee.

Submissions may be lodged in hard-copy, by post or fax. It is preferred that hard-copy submissions are received typed and on A4 paper, however if this is not possible, handwritten submissions are acceptable. Submissions may also be lodged via email.

Documents prepared in Word or PDF format are preferred.

A written submission **must** include your name, the name of the organisation (if any) you represent, and a contact address and telephone number. The submission must be signed by you, on your own behalf, or on behalf of the organisation you are representing.

Submissions forwarded electronically to the Committee email address, must also include a contact postal address and phone number.

Where a submission is lodged on behalf of more than one individual, the name and contact details of each person should be clearly listed, and be signed by each person represented by the submission.

Supplementary submissions may be lodged. If you are unable to lodge your submission by the advertised closing date an extension may be possible. Please contact the Committee Secretary to discuss your situation.

Once received, and accepted, by the Committee, written submissions are the property of the Committee and should not be distributed to any other party prior to the Committee resolving to publish. Should you wish part, or all, of your written submission to be treated as confidential, please indicate this clearly on the document and the Committee will consider your request; otherwise it will be assumed that you have no objection to its publication, including on the Committee's internet page.

Written submissions are considered by the Committee and you may be invited to provide oral evidence in support of your submission.

### **Oral Submissions**

Giving evidence before a Parliamentary Committee provides an opportunity to present information directly to Members of Parliament and to draw attention to specific issues in the terms of reference. It also allows Committee Members to put questions to a witness on specific points of interest.

The Committee is not obliged to grant every request to present an oral submission. The Committee often receives requests to present an oral submission from individuals or organisations making similar points, or sharing similar experiences. In these instances submissions representing more than one person, presenting an expert opinion or making a unique contribution based on first-hand experience will generally be given preference.

If you have previously provided a written submission, Members will have been provided a copy and you may wish to highlight certain aspects in your oral presentation.

Part of your hearing will be taken up with questions put to you by the Members and your response to these.

Occasionally a witness may not have the required information at hand to answer a question. In this case you can request to take the question on notice and provide your response in writing as soon as possible.

Your evidence will be transcribed by Hansard. The transcript of your evidence will be sent to you to check for accuracy, but *must not be amended in any other way*.

*Note:*

*Except where the Committee determines otherwise, members of the public, including media, may be present at meetings of the Committee where witnesses are being examined. Media may record proceedings and they may also be broadcast over the Parliamentary internal IPTV system.*

Where a witness believes confidentiality is required (eg threats to personal safety, commercial confidentiality, privacy etc), the Committee may agree to hear evidence *in camera*. Members of the public will be cleared from the meeting room, but evidence will continue to be recorded by Hansard and may be used in a Committee report and, potentially published at a later date.

You may also request to give evidence off the record. Members of the public will be cleared from the meeting room and Hansard will not record the evidence. The Committee will not be able to use this information in its subsequent deliberations and report.

Papers tabled to the Committee as part of an oral submission will be considered and a determination made on whether the documents will be received and form part of the evidence for an inquiry.

## **PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE**

Under section 28(1) of *the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991*, the proceedings of Standing Committees are subject to the same privileges and immunities as Parliament. The Act provides that reports, recommendations or documents published by the Committee must not give rise to the right to take legal action, be made the subject of, or in any way be called into question, in any proceedings before a court.

With this in mind, information contained in submissions, both written and oral, should be factual, and where possible verifiable. Knowingly misleading a Parliamentary Committee is contempt of Parliament.

Privilege should not be used as an avenue for making allegations of criminal wrongdoing.

Should you publish or distribute a written or oral submission provided to the Committee, prior to the Committee resolving to publish, it may not be protected by Parliamentary Privilege.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Draft reports will be prepared based on written submissions and oral evidence received during the course of an inquiry, and other relevant material.

The Committee considers the draft report and makes recommendations based upon the evidence received.

The final report and its recommendations are tabled to both Houses of Parliament and recommendations are forwarded to relevant Ministers.

Ministers have four months in which to consider the report and its recommendations, and provide a response to the Committee. In responding, Ministers must address the recommendations specifically referred and state what, if any, actions will be carried out, or if no action is to be taken, the reasons why.

The final report will contain a list of all participants to the inquiry, including individuals and organisations who have made written and oral submissions.

## **COMMITTEE CONTACT**

For further information about any aspect of the Committee or the work it undertakes, please contact the Committee Secretary:

Robyn Schutte  
Social Development Committee  
c/- Parliament House, North Tce, Adelaide 5000  
Ph: 08 8237 9416  
Email: [sdcc@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:sdcc@parliament.sa.gov.au)  
Web: [www.parliament.sa.gov.au/sdcc](http://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/sdcc)

**The Social Development Committee has tabled the following reports:**

- Social Implications of Population Change in South Australia
- Ministerial Responses to the Report of the Social Development Committee on the Social Implications of Population Change in South Australia
- AIDS: Risks Rights and Myths
- Rural Poverty in South Australia; Interim Report
- Family Leave Provisions for the Emergency Care of Dependents
- Long Term Unemployment & the Adequacy of Income Support Measures
- Inquiry into Prostitution; Interim Report
- Rural Poverty in South Australia; Final Report
- Inquiry into Prostitution: Final Report
- HIV/AIDS – Hepatitis B Inquiry (Part II): The Rights of Infected and Non-Infected Persons
- Gambling Inquiry Report
- Inquiry into the Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 1996
- Rural Health Inquiry
- Inquiry into Biotechnology, Part I – Health
- Inquiry into Biotechnology, Part II – Food Production
- Inquiry into Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Poverty Inquiry
- Supported Accommodation Inquiry
- Obesity Inquiry
- Post Natal Depression Inquiry
- Statutes Amendment (Relationships) Bill Inquiry
- Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Inquiry
- NHMRC ethical guidelines on the use of ART in clinical practice & research Inquiry
- Impact of International Education Activities in South Australia Report.
- Fast Foods and Obesity Inquiry
- Gestational Surrogacy Inquiry
- South Australian Certificate of Education Inquiry
- NHMRC 2004 Artificial Reproductive Technology Ethical Guidelines Inquiry
- A Review of the Department of Health's Report into Hypnosis
- Bogus, Unregistered and Deregistered Health Practitioners.
- Dental Services for Older South Australians
- Same Sex Parenting
- Food Safety Programs
- New Migrants

- Sale and Consumption of Alcohol: Interim Report
- Sale and Consumption of Alcohol: Final Report
- Statutes Amendment (Recidivist Young Offenders & Youth Parole Board) Act 2009.
- Comorbidity Inquiry
- Domestic and Family Violence Inquiry

## APPENDIX 1

### Parliamentary Committee's Act 1991

#### **Division 2—Functions of Social Development Committee**

##### **15—Functions of Committee**

The functions of the Social Development Committee are—

- (a) to inquire into, consider and report on such of the following matters as are referred to it under this Act:
    - (i) any matter concerned with the health, welfare or education of the people of the State;
    - (ii) any matter concerned with occupational safety or industrial relations;
    - (iii) any matter concerned with the arts, recreation or sport or the cultural or physical development of the people of the State;
    - (iv) any matter concerned with the quality of life of communities, families or individuals in the State or how that quality of life might be improved;
  - (b) to perform such other functions as are imposed on the Committee under this or any other Act or by resolution of both Houses.
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