



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Social Policy Scrutiny Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings

Inquiry into the Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

March 2019



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 31

1.00 pm, Thursday, 29 November 2018
Litchfield Room

Present:	Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine
Apologies	Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira
Secretariat:	Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

The Minutes of Meetings No. 30 of 26 November 2018 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

3. CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the submissions received.

Question put and passed.

The Committee further agreed to grant the Australian Lawyers for Human Rights an extension through to close of business Monday 3 December to make a submission to the Committee's inquiry.

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Ms Ah Kit seconded that:

The Committee invite representatives from St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc., the Law Society NT, and the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice to appear before the Committee at a public hearing on Thursday 6 December 2018.

Question put and passed.

4. NEW BILL INQUIRIES

During the November sittings the following Bills were referred to the Committee for inquiry and report by 12 March 2019:

- Health Services Amendment Bill 2018
- Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
- Public Information Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

1. The Committee call for submissions on its inquiries into Bills referred during the November sittings to be received by Wednesday 30 January 2019.

2. The Committee write to the responsible Ministers requesting a contact officer in relation to the Bills referred and inviting representatives from the Department to appear before the Committee at a public briefing on Monday 3 December 2018.

Question put and passed.

5. NEXT MEETINGS

Public Briefing New Bill Referrals: 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm, Monday 3 December 2018

Public Hearing (Criminal Code Amendment Bill) and Deliberative Meeting: 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm, Thursday 6 December 2018

Meeting closed at 1.20 pm



Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 32

3.00 pm, Monday 3 December 2018
Litchfield Room

Present: Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen
Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine

Apologies Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira

Secretariat: Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant
Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer

1. PUBLIC BRIEFING

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Health Services Amendment Bill 2018

Helen Ceron: Executive Director, Office of the Chief Executive, Department of Health
Klarin Sivyer: Director of Governance Change, Legal Services, Department of Health

Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Hayley Richards: Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Department of the Chief Minister
Genevieve Mogridge: Director Federal Policy and Strategic Coordination, Department of the Chief Minister
Tom McCrie: Principal Legal Policy Officer, Department of the Chief Minister

Public Information Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Hayley Richards: Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Department of the Chief Minister
Karen Vohland: Executive Director Strategic Communication and Engagement, Department of the Chief Minister
Genevieve Mogridge: Director Federal Policy and Strategic Coordination, Department of the Chief Minister
Tom McCrie: Principal Legal Policy Officer, Department of the Chief Minister

2. NEXT MEETING

Public Hearing (Criminal Code Amendment Bill) and Deliberative Meeting: 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm,
Thursday 6 December 2018

Meeting Closed at 4.21 pm

Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 35

12.00 pm, Thursday, 14 February 2019
Litchfield Room

Present: Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen
Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine
Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira

Secretariat: Julia Knight, Committee Secretary

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Mrs Lambley seconded that:

The Minutes of Meetings No. 34 of 13 December 2018 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

3. HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Mr Paech moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the submission received.

Question put and passed.

Mr Paech moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

The Committee adopt the draft 'No Issues' report *Inquiry into the Health Services Amendment Bill 2018*, to be presented to the Speaker on Friday, 15 February 2019 pursuant to SO 200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 12 March 2019.

Question put and passed.

4. ELECTORAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Mrs Lambley moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

1. The Committee authorise publication of submissions received.
2. The Committee invite the Electoral Commissioner and representatives from the Department of the Chief Minister to appear before the Committee at a public hearing on Wednesday, 20 February 2019.

Questions put and passed.

5. PUBLIC INFORMATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Mr Paech moved and Mrs Lambley seconded that:

1. The Committee authorise publication of the submission received.

2. The Committee invite the Auditor-General and representatives from the Department of the Chief Minister to appear before the Committee at a public hearing on Wednesday, 20 February 2019.

Questions put and passed.

6. TEACHER REGISTRATION (NORTHERN TERRITORY) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2019

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

1. The Committee call for submissions to its inquiry into the Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 to be received by Monday 11 March 2019.
2. The Committee write to the Minister for Education requesting a contact officer in relation to the Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 and inviting representatives from the department to appear before the Committee at a public briefing on Wednesday, 20 February 2019

Questions put and passed

7. PETITION REFERRALS

Mr Paech moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

Pursuant to Sessional Order 17(2) the Committee notify the Clerk that the Committee recommends that the Assembly debate Petition No. 32.

Question put and passed.

8. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROCESS

The Chair requested committee members to provide any additional comments to her as soon as possible and noted that she would seek comments from the First Clerk Assistant.

9. NEXT MEETING

Public Briefing and Public Hearings 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm, Wednesday 20 February as follows:

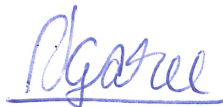
1.30 pm – 2.00 pm: Public Briefing from Department of Education on the Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

2.00 pm – 3.00 pm: Public Hearing on the Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

3.00 pm – 4.00 pm: Public Hearing on the Public Information Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

4.00 pm – 4.30 pm: Deliberative meeting to consider evidence and provide direction for report drafting.

Meeting closed at 1.10 pm



Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 36

1.30 pm, Wednesday, 20 February 2019
Litchfield Room

Present:	Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine
Apologies	Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira
Secretariat:	Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer Kim Cowcher, Administration Assistant

1. PUBLIC BRIEFING: TEACHER REGISTRATION (NORTHERN TERRITORY) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2019

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

- Maree Garrigan: Director, Teacher Registration Board of the Northern Territory
- Amy Ireland: Senior Manager Legislation Services, Strategic Services, Department of Education

2. PUBLIC HEARING: ELECTORAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

The Committee heard from the following witnesses

- Iain Loganathan: Northern Territory Electoral Commissioner
- Maria Mohr: Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Department of the Chief Minister
- Jean Doherty: Executive Director Federal Policy and Strategic Coordination, Department of the Chief Minister
- Genevieve Mogridge; Director Federal Policy and Strategic Coordination, Department of the Chief Minister
- Tom McCrie: Principal Legal Officer, Department of the Chief Minister
- Gerry Wood MLA

Tabled Paper

TP 1.1: Electoral Commissioner: 100m Boundary Maps

TP 1.2: Responses to written questions regarding the Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 received from the Department of the Chief Minister on 19 February 2019

3. PUBLIC HEARING: PUBLIC INFORMATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

- Julie Crisp: Auditor-General for the Northern Territory
- Maria Mohr: Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Department of the Chief Minister
- Jean Doherty: Executive Director Federal Policy and Strategic Coordination, Department of the Chief Minister
- Karen Vohland: Executive Director Strategic Communications and Engagement
- Genevieve Mogridge; Director Federal Policy and Strategic Coordination, Department of the Chief Minister

- Tom McCrie: Principal Legal Officer, Department of the Chief Minister

Tabled Paper

TP 2.1: Auditor-General: Opening Statement

TP 2.2: Responses to written questions regarding the Public Information Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 received from the Department of the Chief Minister on 19 February 2019

The Committee adjourned at 4.30 pm.

DELIBERATIVE MEETING

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Minutes of Meetings No. 35 of 14 December 2019 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

5. ELECTORAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the responses to written questions regarding the Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 received from the Department of the Chief Minister on 19 February 2019.

Question put and passed.

6. PUBLIC INFORMATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Mrs Lambley seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the responses to written questions regarding the Public Information Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 received from the Department of the Chief Minister on 19 February 2019.

Question put and passed.

The Committee agreed that, to assist in its deliberations, the Committee Secretary will provide a further analysis of the evidence received regarding the Public Information Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 for consideration at the Committee's next meeting scheduled for 10.00 am on Monday, 4 March 2019. It was further agreed that the Committee Secretary will also forward a copy of the draft transcript from the public hearing to members as soon as it becomes available from Hansard.

7. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Chair reminded members to provide her with their comments regarding the scrutiny committee process by C.O.B. on Friday, 22 February.

8. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 10.00 am, Monday 4 March 2019.

- Further consideration of evidence received regarding the Public Information Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and direction for report drafting.
- Consideration of Chair's draft report on the Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Meeting closed at 5.25 pm



Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 37

10.00 am, Monday, 4 March 2019
Ormiston Room

Present: Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen
Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine

Apologies: Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira

Secretariat: Julia Knight, Committee Secretary

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mrs Lambley moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

The Minutes of Meetings No. 36 of 20 February 2019 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. ELECTORAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Consideration of evidence received.

Ms Ah Kit moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Chair's draft report outline the key issues of concern raised by submitters and incorporate the recommendations as agreed to by the Committee for further consideration at its next meeting scheduled for Monday, 11 March 2019.

Question put and passed.

3. PUBLIC INFORMATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Consideration of evidence received.

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Mrs Lambley seconded that:

The Chair's draft report outline the key issues of concern raised by the Auditor-General and recommends that:

1. The Assembly not pass the Public Information Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.
2. The Government undertake further consultation with the Auditor-General to consider and address the issues raised in the report.

There being an equality of votes, two for and two against, in accordance with Standing Order 186(3) the Chair used her casting vote to resolve the questions in the negative.

Questions put and not passed.

Ms Ah Kit moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

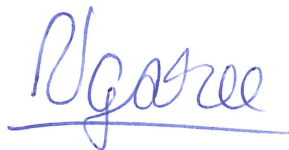
1. The Chair's draft report outline the key issues of concern raised by the Auditor-General and incorporate the recommendations as agreed to by the Committee for further consideration at its next meeting scheduled for Monday, 11 February 2019.
2. The Members for Spillett and Araluen will provide dissenting reports for inclusion in the Chair's draft report to the Committee Secretary by 12 noon on Monday 11 February 2019.

Questions put and passed

4. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 9.30 am, Monday 11 March 2019

Meeting closed at 11.06 am



**Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 38

9.30 am, Monday, 11 March 2019

Ormiston Room

Present: Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillet
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen
Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine
Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira

Secretariat: Julia Knight, Committee Secretary

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

The Minutes of Meetings No. 37 of 4 March 2019 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. ELECTORAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Mr Paech moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*, as amended, for tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday, 12 March 2019.

Question put and passed.

3. PUBLIC INFORMATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Mr Paech moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Public Information Legislation Amendment Bill 2018* for tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday, 12 March 2019.

Question put and passed.

4. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Chair advised that she would forward a draft of the Committee's submission to Committee members for their comment,

5. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 12.00 pm, Thursday 21 March 2019

Meeting closed at 10.04 am

Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA
Chair