



2007

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**Parliament of Tasmania**

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**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE**

**WORKING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE  
PARLIAMENT**

**REPORT NO. 16**

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**TITLE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

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**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

**Mr *Parkinson* MLC (Chair)**  
**Mrs *Smith* MLC**  
**Mr *Wilkinson* MLC**  
**Mr *Wing* MLC**

**Mr *Llewellyn* MHA**  
**Mrs *Napier* MHA**  
**Ms *Putt* MHA**  
**Ms *Wriedt* MHA**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Committee was established by both Houses of the Tasmanian Parliament at the commencement of the First Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament on 7 October 1998. The Terms of Reference for the Committee are set out below.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

That a Joint Select Committee be appointed with power to send for persons and papers, with leave to sit during any adjournment of either House and with leave to adjourn from place to place, and with leave to report from time to time, to inquire into and report upon —

- (1) Measures for reform which may improve the performance and efficiency of the Parliament and its Members having particular regard to, but not confined by, a consideration of —
  - (a) the Statement of Principles agreed to by resolution of the Legislative Council on the 3rd and 4th day of September 1997;
  - (b) the procedures for the resolution of dispute and deadlocks between both Houses including standing order provisions and Parliamentary custom and conventions;
  - (c) the system of Statutory Standing, Joint Sessional and Joint Select Committees of both Houses, their roles, functions and relevance to contemporary Parliamentary practice;
  - (d) whether a separate Appropriation Act for —
    - (i) the Parliament;
    - (ii) the Auditor-General's office;
    - (iii) the Ombudsman's Office;
    - (iv) the Electoral Office;
 is desirable.
  - (e) and any other matters incidental thereto.
  
- (2) That the Committee be authorised to disclose or publish, as it thinks fit, any evidence or document presented to it prior to such evidence being reported to either House.
  
- (3) That the Committee finalise its report by 31 March 1999.\*

\*Since the initial establishment of the Committee, it has been reconstituted as necessary following prorogations to allow for the continuation of its enquiries. The latest re-establishment of the Committee occurred on 1 June 2006.

The Committee has tabled the following reports to date –

Report No. 1	Estimates
Report No. 2	Parliamentary Standing Committees
Report No. 3	Government Business Enterprises and Government Corporations Scrutiny Committees
Report No. 4	Review of the Estimates Committees Process November 1998
Report No. 5	Arrangements for the Opening of Parliament
Report No. 6	Citizen's Right of Reply
Report No. 7	New Parliamentary Committee System
Report No. 8	Committee Meeting Times and Resources
Report No. 9	Selection of Government Businesses for Scrutiny
Report No. 10	Acknowledgement of Traditional People
Report No. 11	Issues of Parliamentary Procedure
Report No. 12	E-Petitions
Report No. 13	Electronic Committee Meetings
Report No. 14	Dissenting Statements
Report No. 17	Timing of Government Businesses Scrutiny Hearings

## **BACKGROUND**

The Joint Select Committee on the Working Arrangements of Parliament considered the forms of address and titles given to Members of Parliament as there appeared to be some confusion in the community. An example of this confusion is MHA being “Master of Hospital Administration” as well as “Member of the House of Assembly”.

Currently Members of the House of Assembly use the title MHA and Members of the Legislative Council use MLC.

### **Other Parliaments**

The Committee gathered evidence in relation to other Parliaments in Australia.

The following table shows the forms of address and titles for Members of Parliament used in other states :

	<b>HOUSE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>HOUSE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Federal	House of Representatives	MP	Senate	Senator
NSW	Legislative Assembly	MP	Legislative Council	MLC
Queensland	Legislative Assembly	MP		
South Australia	House of Assembly	MP	Legislative Council	MLC
Victoria	Legislative Assembly	MP	Legislative Council	MLC
Western Australia	Legislative Assembly	MLA	Legislative Council	MLC

The use of MP for lower House Members seems to have developed as a preference rather than being a hard and fast determination. It is generally used in mail and formal addresses, although MHA is used when the term comes before the surname, for example, MHA for Lyons, David Llewellyn, but David Llewellyn MP.

All upper Houses retain their traditional acronym.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee recommends that all Members of the House of Assembly be addressed as MP and that all Members of the Legislative Council retain their title of MLC.