

## **Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

The committee met on Friday, 19 October 2012 from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

The committee called the:

- department and agencies of the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio, including the Office of the Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services, Outback Stores, the Northern Land Council, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations and Indigenous Business Australia
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- Indigenous-specific programs across all portfolio departments and the level of coordination between departments and programs
- efforts to reduce red tape, including strategies to reduce the reporting requirements of some community organisations
- the health and nutrition goals of Outback Stores that service remote communities in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia
- issues around petrol sniffing, including consideration of more stringent approaches to the supply of sniffable fuels in Central Australia.
- dialysis services, including those provided by the Purple House and the shift in funding arrangements from the Commonwealth to the Northern Territory Government
- Indigenous employment and economic development, including the Remote Jobs and Communities Program, Job Services Australia and funding for the Indigenous Employment Program
- the scope of works involved in the rebuilding and refurbishment of tenancy housing in remote communities, including rewiring and repairs to bathrooms, kitchens and roofing and the applicable compliance standards in relation to the refurbishments
- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, including successful strategies that can be learnt from overseas experience in dealing with the issue
- Indigenous Business Australia and the merging of the Home Ownership on Indigenous Land program and the Home Ownership Program.