

## **Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

The committee met on Monday, 2 June 2014 from 9.09 am to 11 pm.

The committee called the department and agencies of the Health portfolio, including the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, the National Mental Health Commission, the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, the National Blood Authority and the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme.

Among other issues, the following issues were discussed:

- the proposed Medical Research Future Fund
- the proposed GP Medicare co-payments, including their impact on individuals, rural health delivery, specific primary healthcare models and on the ongoing sustainability of Medicare
- staffing changes and ongoing structural adjustments within the department and following the proposed abolition of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency and Health Workforce Australia
- proposed changes to hospital funding, efficiency pricing and incentive and performance funding
- the sustainability of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme including the impact of proposed changes to co-payments and the use of modelling to determine impacts
- the registration of a cystic-fibrosis drug
- optometry rebates and dental services
- proposed changes to Medicare Locals and progress on GP Superclinics
- mental health funding and a review of mental health services and programs
- Headspace sites
- the implementation of e-health
- rural and regional teaching infrastructure grants
- the health and hospital fund
- rates of organ donation and innovation
- the proposed amalgamation of the National Blood Authority and the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority.