



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA
STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

**Inquiry into the establishment of an independent
Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards in Victoria**

Report

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Legislative Assembly of Victoria

Standing Orders Committee

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REPORT

1. On 11 June 2014, the Legislative Assembly referred Recommendation 3 of the Privileges Committee report of May 2014 to the Standing Orders Committee.¹
2. Recommendation 3 of the Privileges Committee was that the Standing Orders Committee investigate the establishment of an independent Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards in Victoria, in consultation with the Legislative Council Procedure Committee.²
3. The Committee met on 25 June 2014 to commence its inquiry. Following this meeting, the Speaker wrote to the President of the Legislative Council inviting members of the Legislative Council Procedure Committee to the Committee's next meeting.
4. The Committee has held meetings with members of the Legislative Council Procedure Committee to progress the inquiry.
5. Valuable background material on the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards models (or equivalent) operating in other Australian and international jurisdictions has been compiled and considered by the Committee.
6. The model in each jurisdiction is different and has been designed to suit the arrangements for salaries and members' entitlements and other integrity systems in that jurisdiction. No model is therefore directly transferrable to Victoria, and a Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards in Victoria would need to be tailored to fit within Victoria's existing regulatory framework.
7. Further work on the appropriate role, scope and powers of a Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards is required before the Committee can recommend an appropriate system for Victoria.
8. The Committee will be unable to complete its inquiry before the expiration of the 57th Parliament.
9. The Committee recommends that this inquiry be referred to the incoming Standing Orders Committee in the 58th Parliament.

¹ Legislative Assembly, *Votes and Proceedings*, (2010–14), No 189, 11 June 2014, pp 874–6.

² Legislative Assembly Privileges Committee, *Inquiry in relation to recommendation 2 of the Ombudsman's report Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001: Investigation into allegations against Mr Geoff Shaw MP*, PP 328, (2010–14), p 6.