



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

Annual Report 2024-25

Ethics Committee



Report No. 239

58th Parliament, October 2025

Ethics Committee

Chair	Mr Ray Stevens MP, Member for Mermaid Beach
Deputy Chair	Mr Peter Russo MP, Member for Toohey
Members	Mr Michael Crandon MP, Member for Coomera
	Ms Jennifer Howard MP, Member for Ipswich
	Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Scenic Rim
	Hon Leanne Linard MP, Member for Nudgee



Committee Secretariat

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All references and webpages are current at the time of publishing.

Acknowledgements

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Chair's Foreword

This report provides a summary of the activities of the committees of the:

- 57th Parliament, from 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024, which was dissolved with the dissolution of the 57th Parliament under the provisions of section 19C of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001* on 1 October 2024, and
- 58th Parliament, from 28 November 2024 to 30 June 2025.

In accordance with section 108 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, this report includes a summary of issues considered by the committee, a brief description of Ministerial responses to committee recommendations, a statement of revenue and spending for the year, and a list of committee meetings and names of members attending or absent from each meeting.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the committee during this reporting period, including the committee's secretariat and parliamentary staff for their professional support throughout the year.

I also thank the former committee and my fellow committee members for their dedication and collaborative approach.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Stevens', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair

1. Functions of the Committee

The Ethics Committee (the committee) is a statutory committee of the Queensland Parliament established under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (POQA).¹

The committee's areas of responsibility are set out in section 104B of the POQA as follows:

- dealing with complaints about the ethical conduct of particular members, and
- dealing with alleged breaches of parliamentary privilege by members of the Assembly and other persons.

Section 104C of the POQA provides that the committee's area of responsibility in relation to dealing with complaints about the ethical conduct of particular members is to:

- consider complaints referred to the committee about particular members failing to register particular interests, and
- consider complaints against particular members for failing to comply with the code of ethical conduct for members, report on complaints to the Assembly and recommend action by the Assembly.

A complaint about a member not complying with The Code of Ethical Standards together with The Guide to the Code of Ethical Standards and Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members² (the Code) may be considered only by the Assembly or the committee.

Pursuant to Chapter 46 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly (Standing Orders),³ the committee also has responsibility for considering submissions referred to it by the Speaker concerning a request for a right of reply by non-members, referred to as a 'citizen's right of reply'.

The committee is to advise the Assembly concerning any requests for a citizen's right of reply.

2. Summary of issues considered during the reporting period

This report provides a summary of the activities of the committees of the:

- 57th Parliament from 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024, which was dissolved with the dissolution of the 57th Parliament under the provisions of section 19C of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001* on 1 October 2024, and
- 58th Parliament from 28 November 2024 to 30 June 2025.

In accordance with section 108 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, this report includes a summary of issues considered by the committee, a brief description of Ministerial responses to committee recommendations, a statement of revenue and spending for the year, and a list of committee meetings and names of members attending or absent from each meeting.

¹ Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, Section 102.

² Available at:
<https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/assembly/procedures/CodeOfEthicalStandards.pdf>.

³ Chapter 46, Standing Orders 279 to 283.

During the reporting period the committee:

- tabled Report No. 228, 57th Parliament - Annual Report 2023–24, on 5 September 2024
- did not deal with any complaints about breaches of the Code, except where they may have also constituted a contempt of Parliament (see section 2.1).

2.1. Alleged breaches of parliamentary privilege

During the reporting period, the committee investigated and reported on the following matters of privilege and possible contempts of parliament:

- Report No. 225, 57th Parliament - Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 5 March 2024 regarding the spying of a members' phone in the Chamber, tabled on 22 August 2024
- Report No. 226, 57th Parliament - Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 16 April 2024 relating to the covert filming of a member on the Parliamentary Precinct, tabled on 22 August 2024
- Report No. 230, 57th Parliament - Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 23 May 2024 relating to a member's refusal to follow the Speaker's direction to withdraw, tabled on 12 September 2024
- Report No. 232, 57th Parliament - Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 7 June 2024 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House, tabled 27 September 2024
- Report No. 233, 57th Parliament - Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 7 June 2024 relating to an allegation of encouraging a member's refusal to follow a direction of the Speaker, tabled 27 September 2024, and
- Report No. 235, 58th Parliament - Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 8 April 2025 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House by former federal member for Griffith, Mr Max Chandler-Mather, tabled on 12 June 2025.

2.2. Complaints relating to the registration of interests

The Register of Members' Interests and Register of Related Persons' Interests are established under Standing Order 263. Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders sets out the rules for the registers. Standing Orders relating to the registers and the conduct of members also form part of the Code of Ethical Conduct.

The committee reported on the following matter relating to the Register of Members' Interests during the reporting period:

- Report No. 236, 58th Parliament - Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the member for Broadwater, tabled on 27 June 2025.

2.3. Requests for a citizen's right of reply

Under the right of reply procedure set out in Standing Order 280, persons or corporations named in the Legislative Assembly or by a committee, in a manner that adversely affects

their reputation, may make a submission to the Speaker to have a response to those comments incorporated in the Record of Proceedings, or published in some other manner.

The committee reported on the following matters relating to a citizen's right of reply during the reporting period:

- Report No. 227, 57th Parliament - Report on a Right of Reply No. 44, tabled on 22 August 2024
- Report No. 229, 57th Parliament – Report on a Right of Reply No. 45, tabled on 12 September 2024
- Report No. 231, 57th Parliament – Report on a Right of Reply No. 46, tabled on 12 September 2024
- Report No. 234, 58th Parliament – Report on a Right of Reply No. 47, tabled on 7 May 2025, and
- Report No. 237, 58th Parliament – Report on a Right of Reply No. 48, tabled on 27 June 2025.

2.4. Ministerial responses to committee recommendations

Section 107 of the POQA provides that where a committee recommends the Government or a Minister should take particular action, or not take particular action, about an issue; or a report of the Ethics Committee recommends a motion be moved by the Assembly to implement a recommendation of the committee, the Minister responsible is required to provide the Assembly with a response.

In the case of a report of the Ethics Committee recommending a motion be moved by the Assembly to implement a recommendation of the committee, the Premier or the Premier's nominee is to provide a response.

A response tabled in accordance with section 107 must set out any recommendations to be adopted, and the way and time within which they will be carried out, and any recommendations not to be adopted and the reasons for not adopting them.

The POQA requires the relevant Minister to table the response within three months after the report is tabled. If the Minister cannot comply with this requirement, they are required to table an interim response within three months and a final response within six months.

During the reporting period the committee tabled two reports recommending the House make a finding of contempt requiring a motion to that effect.

Report No. 236 did not require a response during the reporting period.

Responses for Report No. 225 and Report No. 230 were received in the form of motions in the Assembly implementing the committee's recommendations.⁴

⁴ For Report No. 225 see Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2024, p 2833 and for Report No. 230 see Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2024, p 3134.

3. Committee Expenditure

Committees are funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly and rarely generate revenue. After funding is allocated for the committee office as a whole, expenditure by individual committees is determined by their specific requirements and volume of work. Travel expenditure is subject to an additional approval process.

In the reporting period, the committee's total expenditure was \$23,400. The committee did not receive any revenue.

Table 1 provides a more detailed breakdown of the committee's expenditure for the year.

Item	\$
Employee expenses ⁵	-
Committee travel (including business travel)	20,472
Technology	2,198
Meeting expenses	730
Total expenditure	23,400

⁵ The committee's staffing resources were shared between the Office of the Deputy Clerk and the Committee Office during the 57th Parliament, and the Office of the Director, Assembly and Committee Services and the Committee Office during the 58th Parliament.

Appendix A – Attendance record

This appendix shows the attendance of committee members at private committee meetings and other activities during the reporting period.

Standing Order 202(1) provides that in the case of a committee members' illness or inability to attend, another member may be appointed to attend that meeting or stand in for a particular inquiry.

A member of the committee who is directly concerned in a matter referred to the ethics committee or who has made any statements in the House revealing a prior judgement in the matter shall not be involved in any consideration of that matter in accordance with Standing Order 272(1). In such cases, the Speaker shall appoint a replacement member under Standing Order 272(2).

Appointments under Standing Orders 202(1) and 272(2) are detailed in the footnotes.

57th Parliament, 1 July to 30 September 2024

Private Meeting Date	Hon S Hinchliffe MP (Chair)	Mr A Powell MP (Deputy Chair)	Mr J-P Langbroek MP	Mr L Power MP	Ms K Richards MP	Mr R Stevens MP
2 August 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21 August 2024, at 1.15pm	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
21 August 2024, at 1.22pm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4 September 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11 September 2024, 1.08pm	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
11 September 2024, 1.10pm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11 September 2024, 6.22pm	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
25 September 2024, 10.30am	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25 September 2024, 5.01pm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

A. Mr Shane King MP, Member for Kurwongbah, replaced Ms Richards under SO 272(2).

58th Parliament, 28 November 2024 to 30 June 2025

Private Meeting Date	Mr R Stevens MP (Chair)	Mr P Russo MP (Deputy Chair)	Mr M Crandon MP	Ms J Howard MP	Mr J Krause MP	Ms L Linard MP
11 December 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28 January 2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19 February 2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13 March 2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 April 2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
1 May 2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21 May 2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11 June 2025 (a)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11 June 2025 (b)	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	✓
11 June 2025 (c)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 June 2025	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
26 June 2025 – 1.06pm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26 June 2025 – 4.00pm	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓

- A. Mr Stephen Bennett MP, Member for Burnett, replaced Mr Krause under SO 202.
 B. Dr Christian Rowan MP, Member for Moggill, replaced Mr Krause under SO 272(2).