

RECORD OF MEETING – Joint Employee Consultative Group and Work Health and Safety Committee Meeting

Friday, 18th March 2022

GovTeams

Meeting Opened: 10.00 am
Meeting Closed: 11.00 am
Meeting Facilitator: Tim Abrahams - Ministerial and Parliamentary Services
Department of Finance (Finance)

Present:

- Kerri Hartland, Chair of the Parliamentary Leadership Taskforce
- Teagan Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Parliamentary Leadership Taskforce Secretariat
- Simon Arnold, Parliamentary Leadership Taskforce Secretariat
- Katie Higgins, Parliamentary Leadership Taskforce Secretariat
- Kim York, Office of Senator Rex Patrick
- Bryden Toner, Office of Dr Mike Freelander MP
- Georgia Goldsworthy, Office of the Hon Anthony Albanese MP
- Colin Lees, Office of Adam Bandt MP
- David Mejia-Canales, Office of Senator Lidia Thorpe
- Leonie Lloyd-Smith, Office of Rowan Ramsey MP
- Rosemary Little, Office of the Hon Peter Dutton MP
- Stella Weston-Smith, Office of Mr Andrew Wilkie MP
- Simon Kelly, Office of Mr Lew O'Brien MP
- Kate Sutherland, Office of Ms Lisa Chesters MP
- Michelle Hutchinson, Office of the Special Minister of State
- David De Silva, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services
- Tim Abrahams, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services
- Cassie Alexander, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services
- Jillian Flinders, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services
- Cathy Stokes, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services
- Georgia Weichert, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services
- Ellen Laenen, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services
- Luke Kostava, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services

Apologies: Apologies were received from Gai Coghlan, Office of Mr Chris Hayes MP.

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

- Mr Abrahams welcomed representatives to the briefing and delivered the acknowledgement of Country.

Agenda Item 2 – Presentation from Ms Hartland

- Ms Hartland and Ms Johnson provided an overview of the role of the Parliamentary Leadership Taskforce (the Leadership Taskforce) which was established in accordance with recommendation two of the Set the Standard: Report on the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces (the Report).
- Ms Hartland noted that her key interests include how best to engage with employees to ensure that as the implementation progresses, the outcomes are fit for purpose.
- Key points noted were:

- Several recommendations of the Report were already completed or in train, including the establishment of the Implementation Group with representatives from Parliamentary Departments and Finance, with observers from PM&C, Comcare, PWSS and the Australian Human Rights Commission
- The ECG and WHS Committee are recognised as valuable groups already established to engage with and facilitate consultation with other MOP(S) Act employees.
- A link to an online tracker is being published on the APH Website to show the progress and timeframes of the implementation of recommendations.
- Other opportunities to engage with the Leadership Taskforce will also be communicated to MOP(S) Act employees regularly.
- Ms Hartland's team has a physical office at 1S43 office in APH. Members of her secretariat team will be there fulltime.
- Meetings are being undertaken with various stakeholders including the Presiding Officers, the CPSU, survivors groups and diversity groups.
- Two initial areas of focus of the Leadership Taskforce are the establishment of the OPSC, as well as an induction process for Parliamentarians.
- A brief e-newsletter will be issued on a regular basis and assist with providing updates on progress for all staff (including during caretaker and post-election).
- Following a question, Ms Alexander provided an update on the plans for induction advising that a program will be provided to the Leadership Taskforce shortly, and they plan to consult on the proposed induction content with the ECG and WHS Committee.
- Ms Sutherland queried whether the caretaker period may stall momentum or whether other reconsiderations were likely to be made during this time. Ms Hartland advised that the Leadership Taskforce would continue with behind the scenes work during caretaker.

Agenda Item 3 – Close

- Mr Abrahams thanked Ms Hartland, Ms Johnson, and their team, as well as representatives of the ECG and WHS Committee for their participation and closed the meeting.