



## EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINING COMMITTEE

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NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

### Preparing a submission

#### *Your chance to have your say*

One of the ways parliamentary committees investigate an issue is to call for submissions from the public and relevant organisations. This provides everyone with a valuable opportunity to have their say.

#### *Alerting committee to the facts*

Submissions alert committee members to facts or information relevant to an inquiry. Committee reports usually refer to and quote from the information and arguments presented in submissions.

Submissions show how you, your organisation, or your community feel about an issue. They may also help to decide who should be called to give evidence at the committee hearing.

#### *Addressing the terms of reference*

Terms of reference describe the issues that a committee will investigate and those for current inquiries can be found on our website and are also attached. Your submission should address some or all of the terms of reference and may include:

- facts,
- opinions,
- arguments,
- recommendations for action.

In terms of this inquiry the Committee has been asked by Parliament to inquire into the National Parliament Paper No.19 of 2011, Performance Audit Report on Teacher Absenteeism in Solomon Islands Primary Schools and the extend of Teacher Absenteeism in Solomon Islands and its impact. The Committee is taking a holistic approach on this issue and will further the scope of the inquiry to also include teacher absenteeism in Secondary and Tertiary schools. While individual experiences and cases are important to the Committee and will assist it in doing this work, it is important to be mindful in preparing your submission that the Committee is not empowered to investigate or resolve individual cases or complaints.

#### *Presenting your submission*

It is preferable that a submission is written or typed and if possible in electronic format, although this is not essential. Other formats such as video and audiotape are acceptable.

If you are making a submission on behalf of an organisation, please indicate who has authorised it, for example, the executive committee, president or chairperson. Please ensure that your name, address and phone number are included with your submission.

## *Putting it in writing*

There is no set format for a written submission. You can write a brief letter or a substantial research paper. You can also attach appendices and other supporting documents.

Preferably your submission should be double-spaced and on A4 paper, with page numbering. If your submission is more than five pages, please include a brief summary and a contents list.

## *Sending your Submission*

Select Committees generally require 2 copies of each submission. You can lodge your submission online at <http://www.parliament.gov.sb>. You can also send your submission by post, fax or email to the Committee secretariat. Contact details are listed on this brochure. A return address for correspondence and a contact telephone number should be provided with the submission. Remember to keep a copy of your submission. You may find it useful if you are called to give evidence.

## *Keeping it confidential*

You should not distribute copies of your submission without the committee's permission.

During an inquiry, a committee may decide to publish some or all of the submissions received. Submissions made public are usually available on our website. If you want all or some of your submission to be kept confidential, you must state that clearly in your submission. The committee will consider your request.

## *Parliamentary privilege - what you should know*

Parliamentary committees are an extension of the Parliament. A committee's proceedings, including the presentation of submissions and the giving of evidence, are protected by parliamentary privilege. This means that submissions and oral evidence given before a committee can be made freely and honestly without fear or threat of legal action for defamation. At the same time, committee hearings and submissions are not an opportunity to make adverse comments about particular individuals. This is particularly important in an inquiry such as this that is looking at the issue of teacher absenteeism in the education system of the country which involves the work of teachers, school administrators, education authorities and a range of public officers.

Comments made outside a hearing do not receive the protection of parliamentary privilege so you must be careful when making public comment.

Submissions and evidence given before a committee become committee documents and are confidential until the committee decides to make them public. Parliamentary privilege extends to submissions and transcripts of evidence that are published by a committee. Anyone who republishes a committee document apart from the Parliament or its committees can be subject to the laws of defamation.

## *Information on the web*

You can find submissions, hearing schedules, transcripts, committee reports and other information about standing committees of the current Parliament on our website at <http://www.parliament.gov.sb>. From here you can navigate to specific committees and inquiries. If you need help using the website please contact the Committee Secretariat.

## *Contacting the Committee*

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