



**Legislative Council
Standing Committee on Social Issues**

**INTERIM REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO ISSUES
RELATING TO REDFERN/WATERLOO**

The Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues has released its Interim Report on the Inquiry into issues relating to Redfern/Waterloo.

Chair Jan Burnswoods MLC said, "The Committee would like to stress that this is an *Interim* Report, in which we address some of the significant issues raised by inquiry participants thus far. We have much work yet to do and many issues to examine in the four months before we make our Final Report in November.

"The terms of reference for our Inquiry arose out of the tragic death of Thomas 'TJ' Hickey in February and the subsequent riot in Redfern. We would like to express our heartfelt sympathies to TJ's family and friends.

"The issues examined in this Interim Report include aspects of the Redfern/Waterloo Partnership Project, the redevelopment of the Block, several major policing issues and the location of the needle van."

Ms Burnswoods said, "The Committee has made 22 constructive recommendations. These include calling for a commitment to the redevelopment of the Block under Aboriginal ownership and control, with funding and other assistance from State, Federal and Local Government.

"We have endorsed the strong support in our evidence for the continuation of the place-based approach represented by the RWPP, despite some criticisms. There are a number of recommendations about police resources and strategies, and in relation to drug issues we have strongly supported the principles of harm minimisation while calling for the needle van to be relocated to Hudson St, Redfern.

"In the second stage of the Inquiry the Committee will examine several important issues including the adequacy of government and non government services in Redfern and Waterloo and the relationship between the police and the Aboriginal community.

"The Committee welcomes further submissions on information contained in this Interim Report or on any other aspect of the terms of reference."

Further information about the Interim Report and the second stage of the Inquiry can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat on 02 9230 3078.

*For further comment please contact Jan Burnswoods MLC, Committee Chair,
on 9230 2488 or 0419 412 154*