



The Hon Linda Burney MP

Minister for the State Plan
Minister for Community Services



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- 5 MAY 2010

Mr N Khoshaba, MP
Chair
Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on
Public Works
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Khoshaba *Minos*

I refer to your letter seeking information for the Legislative Standing Committee on Public Works inquiry into the effects of graffiti on public infrastructure.

Community Services recognises that graffiti is a public nuisance. Advice sought by the agency indicates that the best deterrent to graffiti vandalism is to have the graffiti removed as soon as possible. The agency also understands that the NSW Police Force tries to build a profile of graffiti vandals, as these people often use "tags". Providing a photo of the graffiti together with a notation of place, date and timeframe of when the graffiti probably occurred may assist police in apprehending the graffiti vandal(s).

Where graffiti vandalism occurs on a leased building, Community Services staff have been instructed to report the incident as soon as possible to the building lessor in writing, by fax or by email.

Community Services has also provided information to all its offices in the form of a maintenance and minor works fact sheet outlining how to deal with graffiti vandalism when it occurs on agency property. The instructions are:

- photo be taken by office staff and provided to local police, as well as a report to the PAL call line to advise of the incident;
- office staff to contact the local council and enquire whether there is a graffiti removal program for local ratepayers. If so, request the council to remove the graffiti (for external building areas only); or
- advise the lessor/building agent or submit a Maintenance Request Form to Community Services Head Office to have the graffiti removed.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Linda Burney
Minister for the State Plan
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