

27 May 2009



**Legislative Council
Standing Committee on Social Issues**

NSW Government committed to Closing the Gap

The NSW Government today tabled its response to the Upper House Inquiry into Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage in NSW.

Chair of the Social Issues Committee, the Hon Ian West MLC said “I am pleased that both the Indigenous community and Minister Paul Lynch MP have been positive and supportive towards our recommendations.”

“I warmly welcome the NSW Government’s comprehensive response to our Report on Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage in NSW. The response demonstrates a commitment to work in genuine partnership with Aboriginal people to improve health, educational and economic outcomes.”

“This response highlights that the Government is open to innovative ideas to further strengthen its work with Aboriginal communities to close the gap on Aboriginal disadvantage. I am pleased that many of the recommendations made in our Report are already being implemented, which eases any concerns that the Report may gather dust on a shelf” said Mr West.

“The Governments response has a clear focus on the value of working in a meaningful partnership with Communities. This has been demonstrated in particular by the Government’s Partnership Community Program. Through this program, project officers are supporting Communities across the State to develop local Governance bodies to work with Government agencies”.

Mr West said “In the final analysis the Community will judge our report and the Governments response”.

The Committee’s report and the Government Response are available on the Committee’s website www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/socialissues.