



**Legislative Council
Standing Committee on Social Issues**

**SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO OVERCOMING
INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE IN NEW SOUTH WALES
REGIONAL SITE VISITS 11 – 13 MARCH 2008**

The Standing Committee on Social Issues is travelling to regional New South Wales to conduct public hearings and site visits as part of its latest inquiry. The Committee will travel to Kempsey, Dubbo and Nowra on 11, 12 and 13 March 2008 respectively, to talk firsthand to people who are committed to overcoming Indigenous disadvantage in these areas.

“The Committee will be meeting with a wide range of Aboriginal people and organisations involved in areas such as health, employment, education, domestic violence, rehabilitation and corrective services”, said Committee Chair, the Hon Ian West MLC. “We will also be meeting with a number of Aboriginal Land Councils, Elders and Community Working Parties.”

“We’re looking forward to hearing about and seeing what these organisations are offering to help Indigenous communities in regional areas. We’re particularly interested in any local success stories which we might be able to learn from as we begin to prepare our first report.”

The Committee will be examining a broad number of issues that impact on the current lifetime expectancy of Aboriginal people. The Committee will also consider the outcomes and lessons learnt from the COAG Murdi Paaki Trial; and opportunities for strengthening cultural resilience within Aboriginal communities in New South Wales.

The Committee is to produce an interim report by 30 June 2008 and a final report by 28 November 2008. “The Committee is eager to produce a report that contains practical and achievable recommendations to improve the lives of Indigenous people”, Mr West said, adding: “It’s time to close the gap.”

Further information about the inquiry or the public hearings can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat on (02) 9230 2981 or (02) 9230 3556. Information is also available on the Committee’s website at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/socialissues

*For further comment please contact Ian West MLC, Committee Chair,
on (02) 9230 2052.*