

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARISING OUT OF THE ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING OF 28 AUGUST, 2006

Can you indicate what moneys have been applied to your anti-racism policies and what specific programs and benchmarks have been applied?

ANSWER:

I consider all Aboriginal programs being pursued by the NSW Government to be anti-racism policies in that they seek to remove the gap of disadvantage that currently exists between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in this state, and therefore remove the basis of racism and misunderstanding.

Two Ways Together 2003-2012 is the NSW Government's plan to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities. It is the NSW Government's major policy initiative in Aboriginal affairs and builds on the *NSW Government Statement of Commitment to Aboriginal People of 1997* and the *2002 Service Delivery Partnership Agreement*.

Two Ways Together recognises that in order to achieve real and sustainable improvements in the wellbeing of Aboriginal people a whole of Government approach is required. It recognises that effective partnerships with Aboriginal communities must underpin Government action if policies and programs are to be relevant to Aboriginal people.

The plan is a long term vision for change which recognises that Aboriginal people and the NSW Government are jointly responsible for planning and delivering solutions that meet community needs. In developing sustainable partnerships between Aboriginal people and government it aims to strengthen Aboriginal people's capacity to exercise their inherent rights as the first peoples of Australia.

This Government has also committed \$40 million over 4 years to accelerate key initiatives in five focus areas, working intensively with Aboriginal families in the areas of:

- Reducing Incarceration and Breaking the Cycle of Family Violence
- Improving Year 3 and 5 Literacy and Numeracy and School Retention Rates
- Otitis Media – Conductive Hearing Loss
- Increasing Aboriginal Employment
- Improving Living Conditions