

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>Report #</b>	<b>Date Tabled</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Rec #</b>	<b>Rec Text</b>
<b>1</b>	01-Oct-89	<i>Accessing Adoption Information</i>	<b>19</b>	That appropriate Aboriginal organisations be accredited by the Department of Family and Community Services to provide counselling, outreach and other adoption-related assistance to Aboriginal parties to adoptions.
<b>1</b>	01-Oct-89	<i>Accessing Adoption Information</i>	<b>20</b>	That the Director-General of Family and Community Services be given discretion to waive the age qualification for access to identifying information for Aboriginal adoptees in circumstances of special need; that such discretion extend to allowing access, if judged appropriate, to more than the original birth certificate; and that in such cases, the Director-General first seek advice from qualified representatives of appropriate Aboriginal organisations.
<i>Government response</i>				Government response not on file (tabled in LC 03/05/1990)
<b>2</b>	01-Dec-90	<i>Drug Abuse Among Youth</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>3</b>	01-Oct-91	<i>Medically Acquired HIV</i>	<b>10</b>	That the following recommendations from the AIDS Bureau of the New South Wales Department of Health Report <u>Planning for HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Services in New South Wales 1990-1994</u> be implemented:  “The AIDS Bureau, areas and regions and AIDS specific volunteer agencies should encourage the involvement of mainstream volunteer agencies in the care of people with aids and their friends and families. This should be achieved through direct approaches to specific agencies and through liaison with the volunteer centre of New South Wales.”(p25)  “CSN and Ankali should consider jointly providing consultancy services and training to non-AIDS specific voluntary organisations in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.”(p109)  “The Community Support Network should extend training programmes for volunteers to include coverage of the needs of women, children, and intravenous drug using clients.” (p109)
<i>Government response:</i>				Government response not on file (tabled in LC 06/03/0992)
<b>4</b>	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	<b>2</b>	That a consultation and liaison process, similar to the French Bonnemaïson Scheme, be established under the co-ordination of the proposed Crime Prevention Division of the Attorney General’s Department, so that State Government Departments and Offices, the Federal Government, local councils and relevant community organisations can assist in the formulation of long term policies and strategies relevant to juvenile crime prevention.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

				The Committee considers that relevant State Government Departments and offices would include the Office of Juvenile Justice, the Police Service, the Department of Local Government and Planning, the Department of School Education, the Department of Community Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Housing, the Department of Industrial Relations, Further Education, Training and Employment, the Technical and Further Education Commission, the Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing and the Office of Aboriginal Affairs. (2.3)
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	4	<p>That the Department of Community Services and the Department of Housing increase the provision of services that can provide safe and suitable crisis, medium-term supported and long-term accommodation for those young people who are homeless and either cannot return home or cannot remain at home.</p> <p>That such services provided by the relevant Departments be suitably staffed and provide a range of relevant programs including independent living skills, and any relevant counselling.</p> <p>That girls who can no longer remain at home and who may have been subject to violence and abuse should have available accommodation that caters specifically for girls, is staffed by women, and offers a range of programs suitable to the needs of girls.</p> <p>That accommodation services should be responsive to the needs of specific groups, including young Aboriginal people and young people from non-English speaking backgrounds. (2.4.1)</p>
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	10	<p>That Aboriginal communities and organisations relevant to Aboriginal youth be encouraged, supported and funded to develop relevant crime prevention strategies for young Aboriginal people.</p> <p>That a liaison process between such communities and the proposed Crime Prevention Division of the Attorney General's Department be developed to facilitate this process. (2.5)</p>
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	25	That the Office of Juvenile Justice approve families, particularly Aboriginal families, for the provision of bail accommodation. (3.4)
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	50	That where an Aborigine appears before a Children's Panel, some panel members should be Aboriginal. (e.8.3)
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	86	That community-based sentencing options be utilized at all times when a young Aboriginal person is sentenced unless the severity of the offence or the protection of the young person warrants otherwise. (4.11)
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	87	That the Office of Juvenile Justice in consultation with members of Aboriginal communities examine the option of establishing a system whereby an Aboriginal elder or a member of the Aboriginal community is available to provide assistance to magistrates sentencing Aboriginal young offenders. (4.11)

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	88	That where Aboriginal young offenders are sentenced to a community-based option that requires supervision, appropriate support services are made available and utilized from local Aboriginal communities. (4.11)
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	89	That where an Aboriginal young offender is sentenced to a period in custody, adequate contact from Aboriginal organisations is made available and that such young offenders have available to them programs that are relevant to their culture. (4.11)
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	98	That formal training for youth workers in Juvenile Justice Centres give due heed to the issues of child development, counselling, personal development, non-violent strategies to deal with difficult children, Aboriginal history and culture and multi-cultural issues. (5.2.4)
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	102	That any training or pre-employment programs for youth workers, particularly those working in Juvenile Justice Centres, address matters relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal history and culture</li> <li>• Multicultural issues</li> <li>• Girls in custody</li> <li>• Disabilities and</li> <li>• Age and stages of development. (5.2.8)</li> </ul>
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	105	That the New South Wales Police Service establish a training program specifically related to policing children and young people which, similar to the Initial Response Officers Course on Domestic Violence, involves pre-residential reading material, a two week residential skills training component followed by six months field work, prior to an appearance before a review panel before graduation, and  That the New South Wales Police Service include in its training program at the Police Academy and “on-the-job” or other professional development courses, programs to adequately equip officers with the skills to liaise with and manage juveniles.  The skills required include a knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The circumstances and characteristics of young people. Such training would need to include differences and difficulties relating to sex, physical or intellectual ability, racial and cultural and ethnic background. The effects of poverty, unemployment, sexual abuse, drug dependence and different views toward the police and authority figures held by Aborigines and some migrants would need to be understood;</li> <li>• The techniques and skills needed in dealing and interacting with young people;</li> <li>• The specific laws, rules and policies for the policing of young people;</li> </ul>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An understanding and respect of the needs and rights of young people especially the right to use public spaces;</li> <li>• The nature of the dynamics of the policing of young people;</li> <li>• The legal and human rights of young people;</li> <li>• An understanding and respect for the legal and human rights of young people as well as their need for advice and advocacy;</li> <li>• An understanding of why racial and other prejudices and discriminatory actions are not appropriate to the professional policing of young people;</li> <li>• An understanding of the culture and social relationships of Aboriginal Australians;</li> <li>• An appreciation of the effectiveness of cautioning young people, and the preference of a Caution or a Court Attendance Notice rather than a charge;</li> <li>• Improved awareness of and compliance with the provisions of the Bail Act regarding the presumption in favour of bail and reasonable bail conditions; and</li> <li>• An awareness of the role of other agencies in the Juvenile Justice System, and other reasons for their powers, policies and programs. (5.3)</li> </ul>
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	106	<p>That the selection criteria for Police Youth Officers include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officer's understanding of and interest in working with youth;</li> <li>• Ability to demonstrate effective and sensitive contact with people from diverse cultural backgrounds, especially Aborigines;</li> <li>• Ability to promote co-operation between individuals, groups and organisations providing services to young people and their families;</li> <li>• Ability to facilitate culturally relevant decision making processes; and</li> <li>• Competence and flexibility in working with children, young persons and their families. (5.3.1)</li> </ul>
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	107	<p>That, in addition to their ongoing training at the Police Academy, the opportunity be created whereby Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers throughout the state could meet once per year, at a venue to be determined by the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers. (5.3.1)</p>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	108	<p>That the Police Service review the adequacy of Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers with the view to increasing the number of positions throughout New South Wales.</p> <p>In particular, consideration should be given to facilitating the recruitment of female Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers. Where female Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers are difficult to attract and retain in positions, consideration should be given to identifying women in the Aboriginal Community who would be willing and appropriate to call upon to assist as required.</p> <p>That access be made available to reliable transport for Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers in order that they may adequately fulfill their role. (5.3.2.)</p>
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	110	<p>That wherever juveniles who are Aboriginal, female or from a non-English speaking background, are or have the potential to be involved in programs, participate in schemes or use services, that the staff of those services be chosen who are able to demonstrate a sensitivity to and knowledge of the specific backgrounds and needs of those young people.</p> <p>That the Office of Juvenile Justice organise training to develop the knowledge of such workers in relation to the often complex and specific difficulties of youth at risk who are Aboriginal, female or from a non-English speaking background. (5.5)</p>
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	114	<p>That funding be made available to increase the provision of services, particularly to Aboriginal children in rural areas of New South Wales, under the Home School Liaison Officer Program. (6.4)</p>
4	01-May-92	<i>Juvenile Justice in NSW</i>	116	<p>That a fostering scheme be established for a period of 12 months, to be available to Children's Courts Magistrates in relation to both remanded and sentenced young people. That scheme should operate in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scheme be evaluated 12 months from the date it is established;</li> <li>• The scheme be co-ordinated by the Office of Juvenile Justice in conjunction with the specialized foster care program of the Department of Community Services;</li> <li>• The prospective care-givers be thoroughly screened as to their suitability in providing a safe, secure and supportive environment for the young person;</li> <li>• A mechanism for regular assessments of the progress of the young person and the suitability of the placement be established;</li> <li>• The care-giver be paid and be provided with any reasonable expense he or she may incur during the course of the placement;</li> <li>• Appropriate support systems be established within the relevant Departments, which can be utilized whenever the care-giver or the young offender requires assistance in relation to the placement; and</li> </ul>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where a young Aboriginal person is fostered under the scheme, placements should be made with Aboriginal families. (6.6.1)</li> </ul>
<i>Government response</i>				<p>Correspondence received from the Minister for Justice:</p> <p>I have referred the report to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, who I am sure will use it as the basis for their Green Paper due for release on September 1, 1992.</p> <p>The report has also been referred to the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and to the Cabinet Justice Sub-Committee chaired by our colleague the Attorney General.</p> <p>A formal response by the Department of Courts Administration and the Office of Juvenile Justice will be included in the Government's White Paper on reforms to the juvenile justice system which is due for release on November 1, 1992.</p>
5	01-Mar-93	<i>Births, Deaths and Marriages: an open register?</i>		No relevant recommendations
6	01-Dec-93	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: the hidden crime</i>	8	That the Minister for the Status and Advancement of Women ensure that women from non-English speaking backgrounds, Aboriginal women, and women with disabilities are specifically targeted in future sexual violence phone-ins.
<i>Government response</i>				A government response to this report was not provided.
7	01-Nov-94	<i>Suicide in Rural NSW</i>	9	That the Minister for Health urge the Australian Health Ministers' Council to ensure that the interests and needs of rural people, including farmers, young people, people living in remote communities and Aboriginal people, are included as a priority in the proposed National Community Education Strategy on raising awareness of and reducing the stigma associated with mental disorders.
7	01-Nov-94	<i>Suicide in Rural NSW</i>	10	That the Minister for Health ensure that the New South Wales component of the National Community Education Program aimed at raising awareness of mental disorders targets rural communities as a priority, including farming communities, young people, people living in remote areas and, in consultation with Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal people of New South Wales. Issues relevant to suicidal risk behavior, such as depression, should be addressed in that strategy, and information about relevant support services, as well as the encouragement to utilize those services, should be provided.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>7</b>	01-Nov-94	<i>Suicide in Rural NSW</i>	<b>34</b>	<p>That the Minister for Health ensure that the goals and strategies for Aboriginal Mental Health Services, outlined in the NSW Government response to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Report into the Human Rights of People with Mental Illness and the initiatives for Aboriginal mental health contained in the specific budget package for Mental Health Services are implemented as soon as possible and as a matter of priority.</p> <p>(Among the goals to be implemented are that the NSW Health Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicate 1% of the global health budget to Aboriginal health needs;</li> <li>• Expand services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by employing more Aboriginal hospital liaison workers and at least 20 extra Aboriginal mental health workers, including rural areas of New South Wales;</li> <li>• Develop liaison programs in key areas of the state, including rural areas of New South Wales;</li> <li>• Offer mental health training to Aboriginal health workers throughout rural areas of New South Wales; and</li> <li>• Establish the Aboriginal Health Education and Applied Research Centre at Prince Henry Hospital).</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	01-Nov-94	<i>Suicide in Rural NSW</i>	<b>35</b>	That the Minister for Health ensure that the mental health needs of Aboriginal people, particularly those in all rural and remote areas of New South Wales, continue to be evaluated and addressed, at least biennially within a culturally appropriate framework.
<b>7</b>	01-Nov-94	<i>Suicide in Rural NSW</i>	<b>36</b>	That the Minister for Health, in consultation with relevant Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal mental health workers, develop an education and training program for non-Aboriginal mental health workers, including those in rural New South Wales, to address Aboriginal cultural awareness and other relevant issues. Such a program should be mandatory and conducted at reasonable times for all Departmental non-Aboriginal mental health workers who are likely to come in contact with Aboriginal clients.
<i>Government response</i>				A government response to this report was not provided.
<b>8</b>	01-Sep-95	<i>Youth Violence in NSW</i>	<b>13</b>	That the Minister for Community Services ensure that pilot programs to assist Aboriginal parents are fully evaluated and successful programs are offered statewide.
<i>Government Response</i>				The Department of Community Services is taking action to ensure that pilot programs to assist Aboriginal parents are fully evaluated and successful programs are offered Statewide. The Government is committed to solutions devised and implemented at a local level, after consultation and negotiation with Aboriginal organizations and communities.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

				<p>The Department of Community Services' Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) Reform Strategy will evaluate and develop CSGP funded services and place a greater emphasis on the evaluation of Aboriginal services. Area based needs analysis will better identify needs and gaps in service provision for Aboriginal people. Relevant pilot programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Intensive Family Based Service operating on the Far North Coast of NSW specifically designed to support Aboriginal families to maintain the care of their children and to reduce risk factors so that the child's safety in the home can be assured. Families are referred to the service when a child is at risk of being removed from the family as a result of abuse or neglect. The final evaluation report is due in December 1996</li> <li>• A Parent Help Line which has an Aboriginal identified position (see the Gov response to Recommendation 12 above).</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	01-Sep-95	<i>Youth Violence in NSW</i>	<b>18</b>	That the Minister for Industrial Relations consult appropriate Federal Ministers to ensure that taxation penalties against Aboriginal workers in CDEP programs are removed.
<i>Government Response</i>				The Government notes that employment programs are the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. The Government will raise the matters referred to in Recommendations 18 and 19 with the Commonwealth Government.
<b>8</b>	01-Sep-95	<i>Youth Violence in NSW</i>	<b>98</b>	<p>That the Minister for Education ensure that, in areas with significant Aboriginal populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies are in place to develop appropriate links between schools and the Aboriginal community; and</li> <li>• Adequate numbers of both male and female Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers are employed in schools to establish and maintain these links and increase awareness of Departmental practices and policies, support at-risk students, and encourage parental involvement in programs.</li> </ul>
<i>Government Response</i>				<p>As noted by the Committee, significant work is already under way to implement the recommendation. For example, the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group acts as the peak Aboriginal organization for liaison with schools at local and state levels. Aboriginal organizations which have sought closer links with the Department of School Education include the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Aboriginal Health Unit, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Education Policy (AEP) was launched by the Minister for Education and Training in February 1996. \$5.7 million has been allocated to implement the policy. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve educational outcomes of Aboriginal students to a level comparable with those of the population generally</li> </ul>



**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Aboriginal students have high quality, culturally appropriate education</li> <li>• Target resources and programs to provide for the educational needs of Aboriginal students and</li> <li>• Ensure Aboriginal people are employed at all levels of the Department of School Education.</li> </ul> <p>A comprehensive assessment of progress in achieving the goals of the AEP will take place at the end of a five year development and implementation period. The policy ensures that Aboriginal communities will be involved, through the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG), in policy and program development.</p> <p>TAFE NSW is a major training provider for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth. Of the 12,400 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in TAFE NSW, some 44 percent are under 24 years. TAFE's work in this area includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating in an inter-departmental trial at Keelong Juvenile Justice Centre seeking to develop a coordinated program of vocational education and training provision to young people in custody, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander juvenile detainees</li> <li>• Responding on a needs basis to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, individuals and organizational requests for culturally appropriate accredited courses, through a network of field officers located across the State in the 11 Institutes of TAFE NSW (the network of nine Aboriginal Development Managers and 25 Aboriginal Coordinators complements the work performed at the school level by Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers)</li> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander specific or general Joint Secondary Schools TAFE programs (JSSIT) in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth also participate, whereby year 11 and 12 secondary students can under undertake TAFE NSW studies counting towards their HSC.</li> </ul> <p>The Koori youth Program, sponsored by the Department of Training and Education Coordination, assists young Aboriginal people who have left school early and are unemployed or who are at risk of leaving school early. The program provides assistance with literacy, numeracy, social skills and cultural identity through part-time courses conducted by community organizations.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Employment Strategy for the Public Sector is designed to improve employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal people in the public sector, providing funding for a project officer in the Department of School Education. The position could have a role in the establishment of other designated positions in the Department of School Education to maintain links between schools and the Aboriginal community.</p>
--	--	--

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>8</b>	01-Sep-95	<i>Youth Violence in NSW</i>	<b>118</b>	That the Minister for Community Services and the Minister for Police ensure Aboriginal communities are consulted on policing practices, and a report on the outcome of these consultations is prepared. The report should include strategies for the recruitment of Aborigines to the Police Service.
<i>Government Response</i>				<p>Consultation, and as importantly, negotiation with the Aboriginal communities in relation to policing and the active recruitment of Aboriginal people are recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody which this Government supports.</p> <p>A Police Service Aboriginal Employment Training and Career Development Strategy, released in December 1995, provides a strategic framework for enhancing recruitment, vocational training and career development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait people. It aims to increase the numbers of indigenous people employed and represented in all levels across the Police Service.</p> <p>The Police Service Aboriginal Policy Statement and Strategic Plan is currently being reviewed. The Plan, released in November 1993, is focussed on reducing the number of Aboriginal people entering the criminal justice system as victims or offenders.</p> <p>The Police Aboriginal Council established in 1992, has remained as the peak body for consultation between the Police Service and Aboriginal community on policing policies.</p> <p>The Government has established an Aboriginal Complaints Unit within the Ombudsman's Office as recommended by the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service. A key function of the Unit will be to assist in establishing better liaison between the Police Service and Aboriginal people, particularly in remote areas.</p> <p>The Ombudsman's Office has agreed to assist the Police Service in a twelve month research project to evaluate the implementation of the Police Service Aboriginal Strategic Plan, subject to the availability of a research grant from the Australian Research Council. Communication is one of the key result areas of the Plan.</p> <p>The joint evaluation will be conducted in full consultation with Aboriginal people. It will be of vital importance in determining the overall effectiveness of the Plan. It is anticipated that the evaluation should provide useful information for any necessary amendment or refinement of both the Plan and its implementation strategy.</p>
<b>8</b>	01-Sep-95	<i>Youth Violence in NSW</i>	<b>167</b>	<b>(Implicit)</b> That the Minister for Community Services maintain a commitment to ensuring programs for young people at Ormond and Minali address the needs of young people with acting-out or violent behaviour.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<i>Government Response</i>				<p>The Government notes the recommendation.</p> <p>Within the restructure of the substitute care program there has been ongoing consideration of the need to be able to respond to the needs of young people who exhibit behaviours which are destructive within the community or to themselves. The Government is committed to ensuring that services required by these children are available.</p> <p>Currently these young people's placement needs are met by intensive support services. The centres currently being used for these young people are, however, only interim arrangements until the young people are placed in an extended placement, returned to their parents/extended families or placed in some form of supported independent living situation.</p> <p>Because of the special needs of these young people there is an ongoing need to develop innovative responses which meet individual needs. The large centres at Minali and Ormond do not necessarily meet the extensive needs of these people. It is well documented that congregate care for young people, who have significant behaviour problems, can exacerbate undesirable behaviour.</p> <p>The Minister has supported the establishment of the Intensive Support Services Project Management Committee convened by a Senior Officer of the Department of Community Services. This Committee is ongoing and includes specialists in substitute care. The Committee has the responsibility to reform current practice and/or develop and implement alternative models for children requiring intensive care.</p> <p>See also the Government's response to Recommendation 24</p>
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>69</b>	That the Minister for Health provide funding for the permanent position of Aboriginal Health Officer with the Women's Health and Sexual Assault Education Unit.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>70</b>	That the Women's Health and Sexual Assault Education Unit provide training to appropriate Aboriginal women equipping them with fundamental skills to counsel victims/survivors of sexual violence in their local communities.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>71</b>	That the Government support the New South Wales Aboriginal Family Health Strategy and ensure adequate funding and resources are made available to establish sexual assault services for Aboriginal victims/survivors throughout the State.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>73</b>	That the Attorney-General urge his Federal counterpart to examine, as a matter of priority, the implications for Aboriginal women arising from recommendations of the Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>74</b>	That the Attorney-General ensure Aboriginal women are consulted prior to the implementation of recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody to ensure the specific needs of Aboriginal women are included in any policy and/or program response.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>75</b>	That the Police Service actively recruit Aboriginal women for Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer positions and provide appropriate support structures (including training and mentoring programs) for the women appointed to these positions.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>76</b>	That the Police Service provide training and information to Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers on issues associated with sexual violence (such as gender power imbalances, myths and societal attitudes).
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>77</b>	That the Police Service develop a protocol for the appropriate response of Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers to sexual violence including provision for Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers to make available to victims/survivors information on legal rights and appropriate referral services.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>78</b>	That the Police Service advertise Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer positions with an essential requirement being “knowledge of local Aboriginal women’s issues” to ensure Officers are sensitive to the needs and concerns of Aboriginal women.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>79</b>	That the Police Service consider those who have past convictions of offences against women and/or children to be ineligible for employment in the position of Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>80</b>	That the Department for Women continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report, <i>dubay jabil: Aboriginal Women and the Law Report</i> and inform women in Aboriginal communities about the report.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>81</b>	That the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs urge his federal counterpart to encourage ATSIC to fund a series of ongoing workshops for Aboriginal women on legal issues and their legal rights. The workshops are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be under the direct control of the Aboriginal women in their communities;</li> <li>• To be presented by a female lawyer, preferably Aboriginal;</li> <li>• To cover issues including family law, domestic violence, adult and child sexual abuse and care and protection matters.</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>82</b>	That the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Crown Prosecutors be advised of the expressed preference of Aboriginal women to have closed circuit television and other protective measures available to them when appearing before the court as a witness for the Crown in cases of sexual violence.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>83</b>	That the training program on sexual assault conducted by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for its officers include a core module on Aboriginal women and cultural awareness issues.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>84</b>	That the Attorney-General urge his federal counterpart to ensure funding dedicated under the Justice Statement for the development of Aboriginal women's legal services be made available.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>85</b>	The Office of Aboriginal Affairs and the Department for Women coordinate the production of a series of brochures and other information aimed at informing Aboriginal women of their legal rights and access to the legal system. The brochures are to be designed and presented in a manner that is culturally appropriate and accessible to Aboriginal women including those with literacy difficulties. Strategies are to be put in place to ensure the effective dissemination of the material.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>86</b>	That the Attorney-General ensure the material produced as a result of Recommendation 85 be prominently displayed in Local Courts and readily accessible to Aboriginal women.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>87</b>	That the Victims Compensation Tribunal undertake a publicity campaign to inform Aboriginal women of their rights to compensation and the procedure to apply for compensation.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>88</b>	That the Office of Aboriginal Affairs and the Victims Compensation Tribunal design and develop a set of brochures informing Aboriginal women of their entitlements to victims' compensation and the procedure to make claims.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>89</b>	That the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, when advising all victim witnesses of their rights to claim victims' compensation, and of the two year time limit which applies to claims, pay particular attention to the cultural appropriateness of the information being conveyed to Aboriginal women.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>90</b>	That the Attorney-General and Minister for Police instruct prosecution lawyers, Police prosecutors and police to ensure all Aboriginal victims/survivors are made aware of their entitlement to victims' compensation.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>91</b>	That the Gender Equity Taskforce proposed in Recommendation 42 include consideration of the Aboriginal female perspective in the courtroom.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>92</b>	That the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions develop a network of female experts in the field of Aboriginal culture who can be called upon to dispute claims made in court that physical or sexual violence is a "normal" part of Aboriginal culture.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>93</b>	That the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions conduct Aboriginal Cultural workshops, facilitated by Aboriginal women, to encourage better understanding of Aboriginal culture by the judiciary.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>101</b>	That the Attorney-General recommend to the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General that the Women's Safety Survey to be undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in early 1996 ascertain the ethnic/cultural background of respondents in an attempt to determine the incidence of sexual violence against women from Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander and non-English speaking backgrounds.
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>102</b>	That all future sexual violence surveys undertaken by state agencies (for example the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research) include the ethnic/cultural background of the victim/survivor in an attempt to determine the incidence of sexual violence against women from Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander and non-English speaking backgrounds.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

9	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	103	That sexual violence incidence data collected by state government agencies, such as the New South Wales Health Department and the Police Service, include the ethnic/cultural background of the sexual violence victim/survivor in an attempt to determine the incidence of sexual violence against women from Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander and non-English speaking backgrounds.
9	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	141	That the government allocate adequate resources to research of sexual violence in New South Wales and undertake a range of research strategies to provide a comprehensive picture of the sexual violence experienced by migrant and Aboriginal women, lesbians, women with disabilities, women in the state's correctional system, women in church communities, survivors of childhood sexual assault and women in rural and remote parts of the state. Relevant community based organizations are to be consulted in the process of developing appropriate and effective research strategies.
9	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	175	That the proposed Declaration on Violence Against Women be inclusive of all Australian women and include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island women, women with a disability, women from non-English speaking backgrounds and women in rural and isolated areas.
9	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	178	<p><b>(Implicit)</b> That the Department for Women devise, fund and conduct a statewide community education and awareness campaign aimed at women that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denounces unequivocally all forms of sexual violence against women;</li> <li>• Emphasizes society's responsibility for the prevention of sexual violence;</li> <li>• Explains the law relating to sexual offences in a clear and accessible manner;</li> <li>• Encourages all victims/survivors of sexual violence to report the incident and explains the legal procedures applicable to sexual violence cases and options for legal redress and encourage victims/survivors to make use of all available and appropriate services. The campaign is to emphasise that the system is there to assist them and that previously held negative perceptions of the police and courts may now be out-dated;</li> <li>• Identifies and challenges false myths of sexual violence that discount the victim/survivor's experience, confound prosecution and hinder recovery for victim/survivors;</li> <li>• Assures the victim/survivor she is never to blame; and</li> <li>• Identifies and challenges existing gender power imbalances and negative constructs of gender.</li> </ul>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>181</b>	<p>That the proposed community education and awareness campaign [<i>see Recommendation 178</i>] also be directed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women from non-English speaking backgrounds;</li> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island women;</li> <li>• Adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse;</li> <li>• Women with disabilities; and</li> <li>• Women in rural and isolated areas.</li> </ul> <p>Campaigns aimed at non-English speaking background women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are to be culturally appropriate, and available in all major community languages. Relevant ethnic and Aboriginal communities are to be involved in the design and development of the campaigns.</p>
<b>9</b>	01-Apr-96	<i>Sexual Offences in NSW: Sexual Violence: addressing the crime</i>	<b>193</b>	<p>That the proposed community education and awareness campaign targeting men also be directed to men from non-English speaking backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island women and men in rural and isolated areas.</p>
<i>Government response</i>			A government response to this report was not provided.	
<b>10</b>	01-Sep-96	<i>Children's Advocacy</i>	<b>16</b>	<p>That the Minister for Health and Aboriginal Affairs establish an Aboriginal Child Health Unit within the Department of Health as one means of addressing the unacceptable health status of Aboriginal children. (As a priority that unit should examine and implement strategies to overcome the problems associated with poor nutrition and otitis media).</p>
<i>Government Response</i>			<p>NSW Health already has an Aboriginal Health Unit, which has developed strategies specifically aimed at Aboriginal children. In addition to the Aboriginal Health Unit, NSW Health is currently finalizing a Children's Health Policy which will specifically respond to the health needs of Aboriginal children.</p>	
<b>10</b>	01-Sep-96	<i>Children's Advocacy</i>	<b>22</b>	<p>That the Minister for Education ensure that Aboriginal students and students from a non-English speaking background are not unfairly targeted by disciplinary procedures in schools by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing adequate resources to schools with large Aboriginal and non-English speaking background student populations to enable full investigation of incidents, and appropriate welfare and counseling support; and</li> <li>• advising principals to contact a nominated student advocate, such as a youth or community worker, to assist in any procedures for suspension, exclusion or expulsion, including appeal procedures, for Aboriginal students or students from a non-English speaking background.</li> </ul>



**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<i>Government Response</i>				<p>The Department of School Education is implementing measures to meet the concerns raised by this recommendation. The Department is undertaking an analysis of case studies relating to suspension rates of Aboriginal students to identify the most effective practices in schools for reducing the rate of suspensions. This will form the basis for new training and development measures to be implemented across the school system. In addition, schools will be required to review their discipline procedures over the next 12 months. A process of review will also be included in the suspension policy.</p> <p>NSW Government schools employ 227 Aboriginal Education Assistants to provide support for Aboriginal students, and 30 Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers to build links between schools and Aboriginal communities. In addition, programs such as the Koori Youth Program and the Circuit designed to encourage young people to stay at school and to assist in disciplinary problems.</p>
<b>10</b>	01-Sep-96	<i>Children's Advocacy</i>	<b>35</b>	<p>That the Office of the Status of Children and Young People regularly meet and consult with the following independent bodies and agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Children's Advocacy Network (see Recommendation 36);</li> <li>• the State Network of Young People in Care;</li> <li>• the Youth Justice Coalition;</li> <li>• the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies;</li> <li>• the Association for the Welfare of Child Health;</li> <li>• the New South Wales Council for Intellectual Disability;</li> <li>• the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council;</li> <li>• Aboriginal groups and agencies;</li> <li>• the Committee of Children and Young People (See Recommendation 37);</li> <li>• the New South Wales Students Representative Council; and any other organisation that it deems appropriate.</li> </ul>
<i>Government Response</i>				<p>It will be vital for the Office to liaise and develop links with various independent bodies and agencies representing children and young people.</p>
<b>11</b>	01-Jun-97	<i>Aged Care and Nursing Homes - Caring for the Aged</i>		<p>No relevant recommendations</p>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>12</b>	01-Jul-97	<i>Children of Imprisoned Parents</i>	<b>4</b>	<p>That the Attorney General, the Minister for Corrective Services and the Minister for Juvenile Justice establish a program to ensure that all options for court diversion and non-custodial penalties are thoroughly exhausted before incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders is considered. The Committee urges that this recommendation be treated as urgent and that particular attention be paid to primary carers of children. (Chapter 3)</p>
<i>Government Response</i>				<p>Partly implemented.</p> <p>Options for court diversion and non custodial penalties are covered in the pre-sentence report prepared by the Probation and Parole Service of Corrective Services. The Law Reform Commission is now investigating sentencing of disadvantaged people, including Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders and juveniles. It is anticipated that a Discussion Paper on these issues will be release later in 1998. The Government will consider any issues arising from the discussion paper when it is released.</p> <p>In relation to young people, legislation is already in place, with the introduction of the Young Offenders Act, 1997, to direct diversion from custodial sentences wherever possible. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not excluded under the Young Offenders Act 1997, which will commence in April 1998. The Act provides for a hierarchy of four different levels of interventions into juvenile offending, beginning with police warnings and cautions and graduating through to conferencing and finally, attendance at court. A young person will be entitled under the Act to have their matter dealt with by a warning, caution or conference provided the matter meets the relevant criteria. How a matter is dealt with will depend upon the type of offences that has been committed, how serious it is, the amount of violence, involved and the harm caused to the victim.</p> <p>Under the Act, a number of juveniles who are repeat offenders or who have committed serious offences will be directed to participate in a Youth Justice Conference rather than appearing before a Court. Conferences will take place within local communities with the young person's family, other relevant community members and, wherever possible, with the victim in attendance.</p> <p>Reparation made by a young offender to a victim pursuant to a conference may take the form of a verbal and/or written apology to the victim, restoration to the victim (whether monetary or otherwise) or participation in a relevant program (for example, a drug and alcohol program or community work). It is not intended that this list be exhaustive or that there be any limitation on the nature or variety of conference outcomes. In addition, conferences are able to make recommendations which, while not tied to an outcome plan, promote the reintegration of the young person into the community (for example, attending a literacy course).</p> <p>Under the Young Offenders Act, the fact that a young person has been warned, cautioned or participated in a conference for a previous matter should not necessarily preclude them from being warned or cautioned or from participating in a conference for future matters (sections 14 (3), 20(6),</p>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

			<p>37(5)i However, the number and nature of any offences committed by a child and the number of times the child has been dealt with under the Act, is a factor to be considered by prosecuting authorities in deciding whether or not a caution or conference is appropriate.</p> <p>At each stage of the juvenile justice process, police, prosecuting authorities and judicial officers will, before proceeding, be required to consider whether the intervention being suggested is appropriate or whether some other form of intervention should be used. At each level of decision making, safeguards have been built in to the legislation in order to ensure that the most appropriate decision making is being made and that matters are not ending up unnecessarily before the courts.</p> <p>Provisions have also been included to ensure that the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children, children from a NES background and children with communicative and/or cognitive disabilities are taken into account, that they are able to participate fully in the cautioning or conference process and that they are not disadvantaged by these processes. The Department of Juvenile Justice has employed Nine Aboriginal Program Development Officers (APDOs) across the State, primarily for the purpose of consulting with Aboriginal communities to develop new programs to meet identified needs, or to enhance existing programs to meet those needs. The APDOs regularly inform local Magistrates and Children's Magistrates of local initiatives. The Nardoola Bail Program and the Ja-Biah Bail Program have been developed as an alternative to remand for Aboriginal young people. They were developed following consultation with local communities.</p> <p>Alternatives to custody, such as Community Service Orders (CSOs) and supervised probation/recognizance orders are available statewide for young offenders. A number of new non custodial options, such as the extension of CSOs up to a maximum of 250 hours, have increased the range of diversionary sanctions available to sentencing authorities. The Department of Juvenile Justice arranges for Aboriginal juveniles to perform community service work with local Aboriginal organisations wherever possible. Aboriginal sessional supervisors are employed, on a fee for service basis, to supervise Aboriginal young people in their performance of CSOs. These measures enable Aboriginal children in rural and remote areas to have more equitable access to CSOs.</p>
12	01-Jul-97	<i>Children of Imprisoned Parents</i>	<p>5 That the Attorney General ensure that repeat offenders who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander are not automatically excluded from any diversionary or non-custodial sentencing option. (Chapter 3)</p>
<i>Government Response</i>			<p>Under consideration.</p> <p>The Law Reform Commission is now investigating sentencing of disadvantaged people, including Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. It is anticipated that a Discussion Paper on these issues will be released later in 1998. The Government will consider any issues arising from the discussion paper when it is released.</p> <p>See response to recommendation 4 in relation to the <i>Young Offenders Act 1997</i>.</p>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>12</b>	01-Jul-97	<i>Children of Imprisoned Parents</i>	<b>6</b>	That the Attorney General, Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Juvenile Justice ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Offenders are eligible for diversionary and non-custodial programs close to their communities by providing funds where necessary for community service programs or for Youth Conference outcomes. (Chapter 3)
<i>Government Response</i>				Partly implemented.  Options for court diversion and non-custodial penalties for adults are covered in the presentence report prepared by the Probation and Parole Service of Corrective Services. For juveniles, such services are provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice. Periodic detention centres currently operate at 10 locations, with a further two centres to open at Bathurst and Broken Hill. Community Service Orders are available throughout the State. Home detention has initially been introduced in the Lower Hunter, Central Coast, Greater Sydney and Wollongong areas. Periodic detention and home detention are not available to juveniles in NSW.  See response to recommendation 4 in relation to the <i>Young Offenders Act 1997</i>
<b>12</b>	01-Jul-97	<i>Children of Imprisoned Parents</i>	<b>7</b>	That following the implementation of the program stated in Recommendation 4 the Attorney General monitor the outcomes to determine whether the courts are utilizing diversionary and non-custodial options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and in particular primary carers. (Chapter 3)
<i>Government Response</i>				Supported in principle.  Under s. 70 of the Act Young Offenders Act, the Youth Justice Advisory Committee has been established to undertake monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Act. The Police Service, Department of Juvenile Justice and the Attorney General's Department have organised all data which needs to be provided to the Committee on a regular basis.
<b>12</b>	01-Jul-97	<i>Children of Imprisoned Parents</i>	<b>8</b>	That the Minister for Community Services recruit appropriate Aboriginal foster carers to care for Aboriginal children coming from rural areas to visit their parents in custody. (Chapter 3)
<i>Government Response</i>				Implemented.  The Department of Community Services, and Aboriginal non-government agencies funded by the Department, recruit Aboriginal carers for Aboriginal children. In the case of Aboriginal children who are subject to care proceedings and are to be placed other than with their immediate family, Section 86 of the Children (Care and Protection) Act establishes a scheme under which the vast majority of such children will be placed with Aboriginal carers. This principle has been carried through into the Department and agencies' general practice in making alternative care arrangements for Aboriginal children.
<b>13</b>	01-Sep-97	<i>Clinical Trials and Guardianship</i>		No relevant recommendations

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>14</b>	01-Sep-97	<i>Aged Care and Nursing Homes - Caring for the Aged - Final</i>	<b>32</b>	The Committee recommends that the specific needs of Indigenous Australians should be considered within the context of the NSW Aged Care Strategy to be developed under Recommendation 4, and developed in close consultation with indigenous Australian representatives. (Chapter 4)
<i>Government Response</i>				<p>As part of the NSW Government's Social Justice Directions Statement Indigenous Australians are considered under the priority objective of promoting a more inclusive community. Specific strategies include the provision of 'effective services that respond to the individual needs of each community, recognizing the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities in New South Wales.'</p> <p>The needs of older Indigenous Australians will be considered within the context of the NSW Healthy Ageing Framework, in its discussion and strategies for health, accommodation, care and support services, which includes aged care.</p> <p>The Government's commitment to older Indigenous Australians is demonstrated by the funding it has provided under the Health and Community Care (HACC) Program for these communities, and the NSW Action Plan on Dementia. A working group has been set up under the Plan to consider issues about dementia and Aboriginal communities and funding has been allocated to support priority projects identified by working group.</p>
<b>15</b>	23-Sep-98	<i>Working for Children: Communities supporting families</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>(Implicit)</b> The Committee recommends that the Premier ensure that communities with indicators of social and economic disadvantage be given highest priority in the funding of parent education and support programs. This should be reflected in the strategic plan for parent education and support programs, and in the co-ordination of funding for programs. (Chapter Five)
<b>15</b>	23-Sep-98	<i>Working for Children: Communities supporting families</i>	<b>42</b>	<p>The Committee recommends that the Office of Children and Young People address the specific needs of Aboriginal parents for education and support in the development of the strategic plan. Appropriate parent education and support programs should be developed with the close involvement of Aboriginal people using the existing consultation forums.</p> <p>The Committee further recommends that this research should build on the findings of previous consultations and pilot programs being conducted in other states. (Chapter Six)</p>
<b>16</b>	11-Nov-98	<i>Hepatitis C in NSW</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>17</b>	19-Nov-98	<i>Adoption Practices in NSW - Transcripts</i>		No relevant recommendations

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

18	23-Nov-98	<i>Enhancing Aboriginal political representation</i>	<p>1</p> <p>The Committee did not make any recommendations in this report. Instead, the Committee made the following conclusions:</p> <p><b>Conclusion One</b></p> <p>The Committee considers that the following steps must be taken before dedicated seats could be introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• further consultation with Aboriginal people about how dedicated seats would operate;</li> <li>• the conduct of an education campaign about dedicated Aboriginal seats, which involves individual Members of Parliament, political parties and the community;</li> <li>• an assessment of the level of support for dedicated seats in the existing political parties and the community; and</li> <li>• the development of a proposal for dedicated seats and its adoption by the people of NSW at a referendum.</li> </ul> <p>These steps pose formidable challenges to the advocates of dedicated seats. The Committee is firmly convinced that Aboriginal people should formulate the initiatives to improve Aboriginal representation and believes that the establishment of an Aboriginal Assembly should be considered, as an interim measure, by the Aboriginal community.</p>
<i>Government response</i>			<p>There is a clear need for a more extensive community debate on the issue of dedicated seats before any conclusions can be drawn about an appropriate model to be put to a referendum. Certainly, the Committee was unable after extensive consultation, hearings and submissions, to formulate specific recommendations on how dedicated seats would operate.</p> <p>The NSW Government notes that there was considerable support at the community consultation meetings held by the Committee for more time to discuss the complex issues surrounding the mechanisms for dedicated seats. The NSW Government concurs with the Committee's view that Aboriginal people should formulate initiatives to improve Aboriginal political representation.</p> <p>The NSW Government supports continued and informed debate in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities on achieving greater Aboriginal participation in our political system.</p> <p>The reconciliation movement provides formal mechanisms for considering issues of Aboriginal political representation. The NSW State Reconciliation Committee is organising a State Reconciliation Convention, to be held in Wollongong on 13-15 August 1999. NSW Government agencies are represented on the Committee and will participate in the convention.</p>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

				<p>The second day of the convention is devoted to the theme of citizenship and includes a workshop on Indigenous participation in government. It is understood that the State Reconciliation Committee will submit convention resolutions to the Government for consideration.</p> <p>In addition, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation has released for public comment its draft Documents for Reconciliation. The draft National Strategy to Promote Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights proposes the development of strategies for increased representation of Indigenous people in Australian parliaments. The NSW Government will be assisting the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation in its community consultation in NSW on this and the other documents.</p>
<b>18</b>	23-Nov-98	<i>Enhancing Aboriginal political representation</i>	<b>2</b>	<p><b>Conclusion Two</b></p> <p>The Government Members of the Committee believe that an Aboriginal Assembly to meet in the NSW Parliament should be established as an interim measure to further Aboriginal representation at all levels of government. The Assembly should be guided by a formal Charter and be adequately resourced. The Assembly should only be established if it has significant support from the Aboriginal community in NSW.</p> <p>Other Members of the Committee do not support the establishment of an Aboriginal Assembly at this stage.</p>
<i>Government response</i>				<p>It is clear from the Committee's report that there are complex issues about the constitution and functions of an Aboriginal Assembly that would need to be resolved prior to its establishment. The Government agrees with the Committee's finding that such an Assembly should only be established if there is significant support from the Aboriginal community in NSW.</p> <p>The NSW Government supports greater community discussion, both within the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities about the need for, and structure of, an Aboriginal Assembly. The NSW Government notes that it established the Black Parliament, First held in the Legislative Assembly in June 1997, followed by a second Black Parliament in September 1998. The Black Parliament may serve as a starting point for discussion on how an Aboriginal Assembly might operate.</p> <p>A forum for discussion of these issues will include the State Reconciliation Convention, to be held in Wollongong in August 1999. As noted above the convention provides an opportunity to consider Indigenous participation in government.</p>



**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>18</b>	23-Nov-98	<i>Enhancing Aboriginal political representation</i>	<b>3</b>	<p><b>Conclusion Three</b></p> <p>A majority of Members of the Committee concluded that every political party represented in the NSW Parliament should be asked to develop an action plan by March 2000. This plan could detail the steps the party might take to encourage Aboriginal participation, including the methods to encourage Aboriginal people to join their party, participate in committees and policy development, stand as candidates for winnable seats and gain employment as support staff to sitting members of Parliament. Each party could be invited to make an annual report to the NSW Parliament on the progress of their action plan.</p> <p>The other Members of the Committee believe that the political parties could do more to encourage Aboriginal participation and seek their commitment to improve this situation.</p>
<i>Government response</i>				<p>The NSW Government acknowledges that political parties have an important role to play in enhancing Indigenous participation in the NSW political process.</p> <p>The Government encourages every political party represented in the NSW Parliament to carefully consider this conclusion of the Committee and to note that the Committee's report contains a number of suggestions as to how parties might achieve greater Aboriginal participation.</p> <p>The Government notes that the Australian Labor Party is interested in encouraging all ethnic and Indigenous groups to participate in the Party, and undertakes to bring the Committee's report, and this conclusion in particular, to the attention of the General Secretary of the NSW Branch of the Australian Labor Party.</p>
<b>18</b>	23-Nov-98	<i>Enhancing Aboriginal political representation</i>	<b>4</b>	<p><b>Conclusion Four</b></p> <p>The Committee supports the Local Government Aboriginal Mentoring program and considers that, if the foreshadowed evaluation shows that mentoring is effective in encouraging Aboriginal people to serve in Local Government, the program should be extended to the elections in 2003.</p>
<i>Government response</i>				<p>The Government has made a commitment to expand the Aboriginal Mentoring Program to more councils. An evaluation of the program is currently underway, involving six councils: Leichhardt, Maclean, Kempsey, Gosford, Moree and Marrickville. This evaluation will assess factors that may limit the program's effectiveness as well as how it could be made more effective. It is anticipated that the final report will be released by March 2000.</p>
<b>18</b>	23-Nov-98	<i>Enhancing Aboriginal political representation</i>	<b>5</b>	<p><b>Conclusion Five</b></p> <p>The Committee urges the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to request the federal Special Minister of State to reconsider funding an information and education program for indigenous people about the electoral system.</p>



**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<i>Government Response</i>				The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP has written to the Commonwealth Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Chris Ellison, suggesting the funds be directed to an on-going public information and education campaign for Aboriginal people on the electoral process.
<b>19</b>	02-Dec-99	<i>Disability Services: The Group Homes Proposal</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>20</b>	02-Dec-99	<i>De Facto Relationships Legislation</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>21</b>	21-Jun-00	<i>Adoption Practices in NSW - Transcripts</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>22</b>	08-Dec-00	<i>Adoption Practices in NSW</i>	<b>10</b>	The NSW government should review the current funding arrangements for Link-Up (NSW) to ensure that current funding levels for support, counselling and reunion assistance for indigenous people affected by past adoption practices are sufficient.
<i>Government response</i>				No specific government response to the recommendation. Response to whole report available from: <a href="http://bulletin/prod/PARLMENT/committee.nsf/0/56e4e53dfa16a023ca256cfd002a63bc/\$FILE/ATT5NZ8Q/Adoption%20Government%20Response.PDF">http://bulletin/prod/PARLMENT/committee.nsf/0/56e4e53dfa16a023ca256cfd002a63bc/\$FILE/ATT5NZ8Q/Adoption%20Government%20Response.PDF</a>
<b>23</b>	18-Dec-00	<i>Disability Services: A Matter of Priority (interim report)</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>24</b>	14-Mar-02	<i>Classification Enforcement Amendment Bill 2001 - Off Line matters</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>25</b>	06-Jun-02	<i>Classification Enforcement Amendment Bill 2001 - On Line matters</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>26</b>	16-Oct-02	<i>Child Protection Services – Prevention (interim report)</i>		No relevant recommendations

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>27</b>	16-Oct-02	<i>Early Intervention for Children with Learning Difficulties: Early Child Development - A co-ordinated approach (interim report)</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>28</b>	01-Nov-02	<i>Disability Services: Making it Happen</i>	<b>2</b>	<p><b>(Implicit)</b> The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care should adopt a culturally competent approach to disability services which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of explicit NESB access strategies as an essential and ongoing component of all its programs and services</li> <li>• A systematic approach to consultation with culturally diverse groups in order to inform policy and program development and implementation</li> <li>• The implementation of mechanisms such as service guidelines, performance measurements and monitoring systems to ensure that funded service providers deliver culturally inclusive disability services.</li> </ul>
<b>28</b>	01-Nov-02	<i>Disability Services: Making it Happen</i>	<b>3</b>	<p><b>(Implicit)</b> The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care should establish a cultural diversity working party comprising representatives of people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse communities to assist the Department with the development and implementation of policy and programs for people from diverse backgrounds.</p>
<b>28</b>	01-Nov-02	<i>Disability Services: Making it Happen</i>	<b>4</b>	<p><b>(Implicit)</b> The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care should undertake a comprehensive information and education campaign for culturally diverse communities to raise their awareness about and access to the range of services for people with disabilities, their families and carers.</p>
<i>Government response to rec # 2, 3 &amp; 4</i>				<p>The Government recognises that improvements can be achieved in supporting people with a disability from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.</p> <p>DADHC is developing an Action Plan to improve access to and the responsiveness of services for people with a disability from CALD backgrounds in conjunction with peak groups.</p> <p>The development of the plan will be supported by a Unit that has been established within DADHC to oversee the development of policy and strategic initiatives and a more systematic approach to consultation with CALD communities.</p>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

				<p>The Government also acknowledges that people from CALD backgrounds require information about the disability service system and that service providers need to take account of the language and cultural backgrounds of their clients.</p> <p>DADHC is currently reviewing advocacy and information services to ensure that people with a disability have better access to information and advocacy services and is ensuring that the views of people from CALD communities are being canvassed. In addition, DADHC is developing a new website that will include information on the Department, services, events and general information about disability in key community languages and in interactive formats.</p> <p>DADHC also requires all organisations submitting proposals for funding to include provision in budgets for translation and interpreter services and is establishing mechanisms to measure the usage of translation and interpreters services through its data collection processes.</p> <p>These initiatives will build on the recent funding of a state-wide service to undertake cultural awareness training and individual advocacy to facilitate access to services in rural and remote locations.</p>
28	01-Nov-02	<i>Disability Services: Making it Happen</i>	7	<p>In consultation with representatives of the Aboriginal community, the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care should develop a policy framework for Aboriginal service delivery. The policy framework should outline specific strategies to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the need for autonomous Aboriginal disability services</li> <li>• the mechanisms that can be put in place to support communities in their governance of services, for example training for boards of management as well as workers who will work in partnership with them</li> <li>• potential mechanisms to achieve a better balance between accountability and flexibility</li> <li>• appropriate levels of funding for holistic and community-focused services.</li> </ul>
28	01-Nov-02	<i>Disability Services: Making it Happen</i>	8	<p>The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care should undertake a survey of need within Aboriginal communities to determine the level of need for disability services.</p>
<i>Government response to rec # 7 &amp; 8</i>				<p>The Government acknowledges that Indigenous people with a disability require support that is delivered in a culturally appropriate manner.</p> <p>The Government is committed to the establishment of a state-wide Indigenous service delivery network within DADHC that builds on the success of the Home Care Service, the largest provider of services to Aboriginal people with a disability and older people in the state.</p>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

				<p>DADHC has also recently established an Aboriginal Unit whose priority will be to develop an Aboriginal Policy Framework for the delivery of services to older Indigenous people, Indigenous people with a disability and their carers.</p> <p>In addition, the Government is supporting the establishment of an Indigenous disability advocacy and information service in conjunction with the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Using its network of Aboriginal services and staff the Department will engage with Aboriginal people to develop the mix and spread of service required to meet local needs.</p>
29	10-Dec-02	<i>Child Protection Services - Care and Support</i>	45	<p>The Department of Community Services should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake an extensive consultation process, particularly with Aboriginal communities, on whether the proclamation of Schedule 1 [17] of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Permanency Planning) Act 2001, to include kinship care in the definition of out-of-home care, should occur. This should be finalised by December 2003</li> <li>• In partnership with the Association of Child Welfare Agencies, the Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat and other relevant bodies, develop a framework for supporting kinship care that includes systematic screening, monitoring, training and support</li> <li>• Provide additional funding to indigenous out-of-home care services to support Aboriginal children and young people in kinship care and their carers</li> <li>• Assign a caseworker to, and ensure a case plan is in place for, all children and young people in kinship care under a care order.</li> </ul>
<i>Government response</i>				<p>Implementation to date:</p> <p>The relevant provisions of the <i>Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998</i> were proclaimed on 15 July 2003. Consultation occurred through the Ministerial Advisory Committee.</p> <p>The Department is working with Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat (the Secretariat) to identify strategies for the enhancement of services to Aboriginal children in out-of-home care. \$1m additional funding was provided in 2003-04 to support improvements in Aboriginal foster care services. The Department is also providing funding support for the operation of the Secretariat.</p> <p>Two planning sessions were held in June and July 2003 with the Secretariat, Aboriginal out-of-home care service providers and the Children's Guardian to identify funding priorities. The meetings considered the following issues and developed a 12 month workplan for their implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding enhancements for existing service providers</li> </ul>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities for new funded services – eg location, service provider, models</li> <li>• Infrastructure priorities – eg support to foster carers, training</li> <li>• Steps to progress the development of an Aboriginal Out-of-Home Care Plan</li> </ul> <p>Future steps: These initiatives are ongoing.</p>
29	10-Dec-02	<i>Child Protection Services - Care and Support</i>	47	<p><b>(Implicit)</b> In order to improve after-care service provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Community Services and other out-of-home care providers should ensure that after-care planning is integrated into case management for all young people, including those in kinship care, well in advance of leaving care</li> <li>• The Department of Community Services should ensure that after-care services are available to young people in regional, rural and remote areas and that young people can access adequate emotional support.</li> </ul>
<i>Government response</i>				<p>Implementation to date:</p> <p>The provisions of the legislation require adequate preparations, including planning, to be undertaken to assist young people in care to make the transition to independent living when their leaving care is approaching.</p> <p>In November 2002, the Minister for Community Services approved the allocation of more than \$0.5m to facilitate the establishment of three new after-care services. Leaving and after-care services have been extended such that all regions, rural and metropolitan, have access to services of this kind.</p> <p>The provision of emotional support for young people about to make the transition to independent living is one element of case planning.</p> <p>Future plans:</p> <p>A caseworker training program has been developed about the leaving-care provisions.</p>
29	10-Dec-02	<i>Child Protection Services - Care and Support</i>	62	<p>In order to enhance the capacity of indigenous communities to care for their children and young people, the Department of Community Services should, when implementing recommendation 45 (rec re indigenous services in OOHc chapter):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund a state-wide, systematic and culturally sensitive prevention and early intervention strategy, including family support, which is controlled by Aboriginal communities</li> <li>• Adequately fund indigenous organisations for their role in supporting children and families</li> <li>• Work in partnership with indigenous organisations to recruit more Aboriginal foster carers</li> <li>• Develop an effective system of support for Aboriginal Departmental staff.</li> </ul>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<p><i>Government response</i></p>	<p>Implementation to date:</p> <p>\$14m has been allocated over four years up to 2006 to the Aboriginal Child, Youth and Family Strategy. The allocation of funds to regions is based on the number of Indigenous children and young people. Regions commenced implementation of the strategy in late 2002. Funds have been used to employ 9 Aboriginal planners and project officers to assist with the development of regional Indigenous plans.</p> <p>One-off funds have been used for service development grants for Aboriginal organisations, school holiday programs for Indigenous young people, various communication strategies such as community newsletters, and training programs.</p> <p>The Government's integrated funding package included funds for the establishment of the Aboriginal Services Branch within the Department of Community Services. The expanded branch reflects the broad business components of prevention and early intervention, child protection and out-of-home care. Its role is to improve the Department's capacity to provide culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal children, families and communities, and to provide strong linkages between the Branch and Aboriginal staff throughout the Department.</p> <p>With respect to out-of-home care, the Department is continuing to work with the Aboriginal community to improve its capacity to provide out-of-home care. \$1 million of additional funds were provided in 2003-04 to achieve improvements in Aboriginal out-of-home care services. As well, funding support has been provided to assist the operation of the State Secretariat. Assistance will continue to be provided in efforts to increase the number of Aboriginal foster carers and work will continue on the development of an acceptable model of kinship care.</p> <p>Future steps:</p> <p>Approximately \$3m will be available in 2003-04 to advance the Aboriginal Child, Youth and Family strategy. As Regions complete their consultation processes, and construct Indigenous plans, the need for strategies such as ACYF services may be identified and new services may be purchased and existing services may be enhanced.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Services Branch is progressing initiatives around Aboriginal employment, career development and support in consultation with Regions, Directorates and Aboriginal staff. These will provide more structured support opportunities for Aboriginal staff.</p>
-----------------------------------	--

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

29	10-Dec-02	<i>Child Protection Services - Care and Support</i>	<p>63 <b>(Implicit)</b> In order to enhance the cultural competency of the child protection system, the Department of Community Services should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide culturally and linguistically appropriate information, including material that is translated into community languages, on all its services and programs</li> <li>• Provide systematic and ongoing cross-cultural training to Helpline and Community Service Centre staff, including training in the use of interpreter services</li> <li>• In consultation with ethnic community organisations, develop and implement an approach to out-of-home care that actively seeks to keep children and young people connected to their culture and community</li> <li>• Establish a pool of bilingual or bicultural support workers who have been trained to work with children and families who are at risk</li> <li>• In consultation with ethnic communities, develop a comprehensive, community based prevention strategy</li> <li>• Develop and implement a strategy to support Departmental staff.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Government response</i></p>			<p>Implementation to date:</p> <p>The Department provides information on its services, programs and community education campaigns in a range of appropriate community languages.</p> <p>The Caseworker Development Course, which is compulsorily for all new caseworkers, including Helpline staff, now includes a full day on cross-cultural issues which includes the attendance of interpreters to demonstrate the practical applications of interpreting.</p> <p>Funds were allocated under the Government's integrated funding package for the establishment of a Multicultural Service Unit in 2003-04. The Multicultural Services Unit is now operational and implementation of its workplan, developed in consultation with other Directorates, has commenced.</p> <p>The Department has a number of ongoing cross-cultural initiatives in out-of-home care, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Muslim foster care strategy in Metro West and Metro South West Regions which assists in meeting the religious and cultural needs of Muslim children and young people</li> <li>• Specialist services provided to assist former child migrants</li> <li>• Assistance provided to unaccompanied minors referred by the Federal Department of Immigration.</li> </ul>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

				<p>The Department currently has 51 designated Caseworker (Multicultural) positions who work with children and young people who are at risk and their families. The Caseworker (Multicultural) Program is currently under review.</p> <p>With respect to prevention, consultation with ethnic communities was included in the planning of the Prevention and Early Intervention strategy.</p> <p>Initiatives which address the support needs of staff from culturally and linguistically diverse communities include the Department's Workforce Management Plan, the Multicultural Staff Reference Group and the Department's Ethnic Affairs Priority Statement (EAPS).</p> <p>The Department's EAPS has been integrated into the Regional/Directorate business plans, enhancing accountability for strategies to improve service-provision for clients and support for staff.</p> <p>Future steps:</p> <p>The recommendations of the Caseworker (Multicultural) review will be considered.</p>
<b>30</b>	16-Sep-03	<i>Early Intervention into Learning Difficulties</i>	<b>11</b>	<p>The Government should enhance funding for state funded services to promote access to children's services for children with a disability, children from a non-English speaking background, Aboriginal children and those with challenging behaviours.</p>
<i>Government response</i>				<p>NSW families have a wide range of options for early childhood education and care programs. Early childhood intervention services are provided in way which vary to meet the needs of children with a disability who may access support from mainstream and specialist settings.</p> <p>DADHC provides more than \$12 million per annum for early intervention services for children aged 0 to 6 years provided by non-government providers. Other NSW and Australian Government agencies provide programs supporting the inclusion of children with a disability across the range of mainstream children's services.</p> <p>The need for collaboration between the NSW and Australian Governments in supporting access for children with a disability to children's services is noted.</p> <p>The Department of Community Services administers the Supporting Children with Additional Needs funding scheme, providing children's service providers with resources to assist children with additional needs to have equal access with all children to quality services. This includes children with disabilities, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal children and those with challenging behaviors. There is \$10.6 million per annum for the scheme.</p> <p>The preschools provide educational opportunities for children in Aboriginal communities who would otherwise have little or no access to preschool education. Seven of the 21 new Departmental preschools to be established in 2005 are in communities with significant numbers of Aboriginal children.</p>



**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>31</b>	28-Nov-03	<i>Community Housing</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>32</b>	02-Aug-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/Waterloo: Interim Report</i>	<b>3</b>	That the Redfern/Waterloo Partnership Project develops and implements a comprehensive strategy to ensure there is effective consultation and communication with the Redfern and Waterloo communities. In addition, to improve its relationship with the local community, particularly the Aboriginal community, the Redfern/Waterloo Partnership Project should establish mechanisms to facilitate capacity building with the Aboriginal community.
<b>32</b>	02-Aug-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/Waterloo: Interim Report</i>	<b>5</b>	That the NSW Government, through the Redfern/Waterloo Partnership Project, continue its constructive working relationship with the Aboriginal Housing Company and the provision of in-kind assistance to the Company, with the aim of ensuring that the Company is able to redevelop and manage the Block.
<b>32</b>	02-Aug-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/Waterloo: Interim Report</i>	<b>6</b>	That the NSW Government expedite the completion of the audit of the financial affairs of the Aboriginal Housing Company and the valuation of its properties.
<b>32</b>	02-Aug-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/Waterloo: Interim Report</i>	<b>7</b>	<p>That the three tiers of government make a firm commitment to the redevelopment of the Block by the Aboriginal Housing Company, subject to the requirements set out in Recommendation 8, and in particular that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the NSW Government make a substantial funding contribution to enable the completion of the Pemulwuy Redevelopment Project, and that it facilitate access by the Aboriginal Housing Company to other funding sources</li> <li>the Federal Government be approached by the NSW Government to make a substantial funding contribution to the Pemulwuy Redevelopment Project</li> <li>the City of Sydney Council make a substantial contribution to the Pemulwuy Redevelopment Project, which might take the form of in-kind assistance, such as handing over freehold title to laneways or waiving rates for a period of time.</li> </ul>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>32</b>	02-Aug-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Interim Report</i>	<b>8</b>	<p>That the commitment of funds to the Aboriginal Housing Company for the Pemulwuy Redevelopment Project identified in Recommendation 7 should be made dependent upon strict requirements relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• creation of a representative development structure to manage and oversee the Pemulwuy Redevelopment Project</li> <li>• continued involvement by the NSW Government in improving the governance structure and management practices of the Aboriginal Housing Company and ensuring its sustainability</li> <li>• the incorporation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles in the design of the redevelopment</li> <li>• extensive consultation with the local community</li> <li>• the transparent and equitable allocation of housing to tenants</li> <li>• establishment of an ongoing program for maintenance of the new housing stock</li> <li>• the employment, where possible, of Aboriginal people in the Pemulwuy Redevelopment Project</li> </ul>
<b>32</b>	02-Aug-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Interim Report</i>	<b>9</b>	<p>That the Redfern/Waterloo Partnership Project provide assistance to the Aboriginal Housing Company to keep the local Aboriginal community, as well as the wider community in Redfern and Waterloo, regularly and comprehensively informed as to the progress of the redevelopment of the Block.</p>
<b>32</b>	02-Aug-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Interim Report</i>	<b>15</b>	<p>That the Minister for Police undertake an audit of the implementation of the initiatives contained in the NSW Police Aboriginal Strategic Direction 2003-2006 in the Redfern Local Area Command and that where relevant initiatives have not been implemented the Minister make their implementation a matter of priority.</p>
<b>32</b>	02-Aug-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Interim Report</i>	<b>16</b>	<p>That the Minister for Police, as part of the six month review of the initiatives announced on 16 July 2004, consider the impact of the initiatives on the local Aboriginal community with reference to the NSW Police Aboriginal Strategic Direction 2003-2006.</p>
<b>32</b>	02-Aug-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Interim Report</i>	<b>19</b>	<p>That the Minister for Police release the final report of Strike Force Coburn as soon as possible with, if necessary, parts relating to the Coroner's Inquiry into the death of TJ Hickey or to sensitive operational matters, kept confidential.</p>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>32</b>	02-Aug-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/Waterloo: Interim Report</i>	<b>21</b>	That the NSW Government, through the Redfern/Waterloo Partnership Project, liaise with the Central Sydney Area Health Service, relevant Aboriginal organisations and representatives from the Aboriginal community, to ensure there are adequate referral services for Aboriginal people with drug and alcohol problems in Redfern and Waterloo. In particular, consideration should be given to the feasibility of establishing detoxication and other drug and alcohol related services, particularly for Aboriginal people, at the Rachel Foster Hospital site or another appropriate site.
<b>33</b>	27-Aug-04	<i>Inebriates Act 1912</i>	<b>17</b>	That NSW Health and the Attorney General's Department consult with Indigenous communities in order to ensure that the decision making process in Recommendation 15 is implemented in a culturally sensitive manner.
<b>33</b>	27-Aug-04	<i>Inebriates Act 1912</i>	<b>26</b>	That the Government evaluate the proposed system of involuntary care within five years of commencement of the legislation. The evaluation should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demographic and social characteristics of people subject to an order</li> <li>• circumstances precipitating the order</li> <li>• the parties who sought the order</li> <li>• length of orders and length of time in care</li> <li>• outcomes of legal review</li> <li>• use and outcomes of appeal</li> <li>• interventions provided while in care</li> <li>• client outcomes achieved by discharge and upon follow-up</li> <li>• use of the legislation in respect of Aboriginal people.</li> </ul>
<i>Government response</i>				See government response to Issues relating to Redfern/Waterloo Final Report (report #34)
<b>33</b>	27-Aug-04	<i>Inebriates Act 1912</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>(Implicit)</b> That the Government urgently expand the number of intoxicated persons services which will take intoxicated persons, particularly in inner-city, rural and remote communities that do not have these facilities.
<i>Government response</i>				This recommendation will be considered as part of the review referred to in Recommendation 28 [review of current legislation and arrangements for managing intoxicated persons in public places]. It should be noted that since the 2003 Summit on Alcohol Abuse, the Government has brought forward a number of service reforms to help people who fall within that category of vulnerable people who are chronically intoxicated and have related health, social and other problems including homelessness:

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the establishment in January 2006 of the Inner City Homelessness Outreach and Support Service, a joint initiatives of the NSW Department of Housing and the City of Sydney with support from the Department of Community Services. The service includes assistance for homeless people with dependence on alcohol and other drugs</li> <li>Establishment of the <i>Port Jackson Housing Company</i> to assist low income people especially those with complex needs including mental health, drug and alcohol and housing problems by providing opportunities for sustainable tenancies and linkages to support services, including drug and alcohol and mental health services.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the Government's <i>Partnership Against Homelessness</i> network of twelve government agencies led by the Department of Housing has continued to roll out a range of services, assessment and housing initiatives for homeless intoxicated persons.</p>
33	27-Aug-04	<i>Inebriates Act 1912</i>	35	<b>(Implicit)</b> That in implementing the Committee's proposed model of involuntary care, NSW Health recognise and incorporate the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse communities, in consultation with them.
<i>Government response</i>				In making the recommendation, the Committee indicated that there may be greater demand for involuntary care in the inner city, given the relatively high concentration of homeless people in that area. The Government has considered this recommendation but does not consider a stand-alone purpose built facility to be necessary at this time. As indicated under Recommendation 2, co-location with an existing medicated detoxification facility is considered to be the preferred approach to ensure access to required medical treatment for the range of health and other needs these patients may have. However, this issue will be considered during the Trial and in light of new services that have been made available to people with intoxication problems including in the inner city area (see Recommendation 29).
34	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/Waterloo: Final Report</i>	1	That the Minister for Police extend the level of training received by new recruits in Aboriginal cultural awareness issues as part of their Diploma of Policing Practice.
34	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/Waterloo: Final Report</i>	3	That the Minister for Police ensure that the Redfern Local Area Command review its Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer program within six months to determine whether the new strategies that have been recently implemented have improved the program and whether any additional changes to the program need to be made. In addition, the results of that review should be included in the Government's response to this Report.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>4</b>	That the Minister for Police expedite the promised examination of the support and training structures available to Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers, as contained in the Government's response to the NSW Alcohol Summit 2003, to determine whether additional support structures and training are required.
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>12</b>	That the Department of Community Services' Eastern Sydney Community Service Centre take the following actions, as a matter of priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish a process for allocating and responding to level two and level three cases</li> <li>• ensure adequate training and support for caseworkers, to optimise professional practice</li> <li>• build its relationships with other agencies through better case coordination and interagency participation, including with non government agencies and at the caseworker level</li> <li>• build its relationship with the Aboriginal community of Redfern and Waterloo through a more collaborative approach with Aboriginal families and service providers, and interagency participation.</li> </ul>
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>13</b>	That the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project immediately reinstate the Youth Taskforce and ensure that its membership includes representation of government and non government providers, as well as young people themselves.
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>14</b>	That, in keeping with Recommendation 8 of this Report concerning the approval and expedition of a process for renovating or improving the facilities of services, the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project immediately consider the adequacy of accommodation for youth services in the area. In particular, the Partnership Project should ensure a speedy resolution of the issue of relocating the Fact Tree Youth Service to more appropriate facilities.
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>15</b>	That in developing a Youth Services Plan, the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project and other members of the Youth Taskforce ensure that there is adequate provision for weekend and after hours youth services, including recreational activities.
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>16</b>	That the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project, as a matter of priority, make a formal commitment to actively supporting a 'community healing strategy' in the Redfern and Waterloo Aboriginal community, as proposed in the Human Services Review Report, and that it provide appropriate resources to support this. In addition, the Partnership Project should approach community leaders as soon as possible to ask the community to undertake the strategy.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>17</b>	<p>That in establishing the community health facility in Lawson Street, the Central Sydney Area Health Service, ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the provision of a broad range of services at the facility</li> <li>• the establishment of strong, ongoing links with existing services in the area</li> <li>• full consultation with relevant stakeholders</li> </ul> <p>and that consideration be given to the establishment of a formal consultation and governance mechanism such as a community board, and to the opportunity for research partnerships.</p>
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>18</b>	<p>That in implementing the recommendations of the Human Services Review, the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project ensure the immediate development of a drug and alcohol services plan and a mental health services plan. Both must provide for adequate local services and culturally appropriate services.</p>
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>23</b>	<p>That when implementing Recommendation 7 to formally review the activities of government agencies not included in the Human Services Review, the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project ensure that the following core government responsibilities are comprehensively considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• child protection services</li> <li>• mental health services</li> <li>• alcohol and other drug services</li> <li>• education</li> <li>• housing</li> <li>• ageing and disability services.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the review should consider the cultural sensitivity of the full range of services, with regard to both the Aboriginal community and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.</p>
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>29</b>	<p>That the NSW Government remain committed to its guarantee not to compulsorily acquire the Block at Redfern. In addition, the NSW Government, through the Redfern Waterloo Authority and the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project, should work with the Aboriginal Housing Company, and the broader Aboriginal community, to enable the redevelopment of the Block.</p>
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>30</b>	<p>That the NSW Government ensure that the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project, or a similar coordinating body, is extended beyond 2008, is adequately resourced, with appropriate performance measurement, so that the long term social disadvantage in Redfern and Waterloo can be addressed.</p>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>31</b>	That the NSW Government, through the Redfern Waterloo Authority and the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project, ensure that the Redfern Waterloo Plan and the Human Services Plan contain an appropriate set of indicators and performance measurements by which the objectives of the Plans can be assessed. In addition, the Plans should be made publicly available; and regular evaluation and review should be undertaken and made public.
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>32</b>	That the NSW Government, through the Redfern Waterloo Authority and the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project, establish short, medium and long term strategic objectives for the area and key outcomes associated with those objectives. In addition, the Government's performance against these objectives should be regularly reviewed and reported to the public.
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>33</b>	That the NSW Government ensure that the Redfern Waterloo Plan 2004-2014 is integrated into the broader Metropolitan Strategy.
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>34</b>	That the NSW Government, through the Redfern Waterloo Authority and the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project, ensure that the strategic plans for the Redfern and Waterloo area identify and allow for the active involvement of local, State and Commonwealth Governments.
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>35</b>	That the NSW Government, through the Redfern Waterloo Authority and the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project, make a commitment to the Redfern and Waterloo community to make all plans, strategies, reports and accountability measures publicly available in a timely manner. In particular the NSW Government should release the following plans, strategies and documents as soon as they are completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Redfern Waterloo Plan 2004-2014</li> <li>• the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project Business Plan</li> <li>• the Jobs Plan</li> <li>• the Human Services Plan</li> <li>• strategic objectives and outcomes for the area as a whole.</li> </ul>
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>36</b>	That the NSW Government, through the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project and the Redfern Waterloo Authority, take all possible steps to achieve genuine partnership between State and Commonwealth agencies, the City of Sydney Council, the non government sector and the local community in order to address the issues facing Redfern and Waterloo.
<b>34</b>	16-Dec-04	<i>Issues relating to Redfern/ Waterloo: Final Report</i>	<b>38</b>	That the NSW Government take the lead in encouraging all political parties and independents to adopt an ongoing commitment to Indigenous issues and work cooperatively with the Aboriginal community to address the serious social disadvantage affecting Aboriginal people.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<i>Government response</i>	Government response below to Interim (#32) and Final (#34) reports
----------------------------	--

## **1. Introduction**

The NSW Government's response to the Inquiry into issues relating to Redfern and Waterloo was announced in two stages, in June and October 2004. In June 2004, the Government announced a package of 32 strategies and initiatives to enhance policing in Redfern.

In October 2004, the NSW Government committed significant resources to the regeneration of the suburbs of Redfern-Waterloo. This commitment builds on the Government's previous work in the area, and is a radical departure from other work being undertaken in revitalising and strengthening communities in Australia.

The key elements of the Government's commitment to Redfern-Waterloo are:

- A. the appointment of a Minister with special responsibility for Redfern-Waterloo
- B. the establishment of a new statutory authority, known as the Redfern-Waterloo Authority (RWA), and an associated fund to facilitate development of the area
- C. the continuation of the Redfern-Waterloo Partnership Project (RWPP) until 30 June 2008 and the expansion and redirection of the RWPP Team to focus on specific areas of responsibility which complements the role being undertaken by the new RWA; and
- D. the development of three key strategies which address infrastructure, jobs and human services.

This paper outlines the Government's staged response to the issues raised through the Parliamentary Inquiry and is divided into the following sections:

- Policing in Redfern-Waterloo
- Minister with responsibility for Redfern-Waterloo
- Redfern-Waterloo Plan
- Redfern-Waterloo Authority
- Redfern-Waterloo Partnership Project
- Human Services in Redfern-Waterloo
- The Aboriginal Housing Company and redevelopment of The Block.

## **2. Policing in Redfern and Waterloo**

In July 2004, the NSW Government announced a package of 32 strategies and initiatives designed to enhance:

1. Community safety in the Redfern area
2. Strategic and operational effectiveness of the Redfern Local Area Command; and
3. Support for local frontline police.

The package, known as *Enhanced Policing in Redfern 2004*, includes:

- Enhanced police resources
- Enhanced incident response
- Enhanced criminal investigation capabilities; and
- Enhanced community engagement by and cultural awareness of police.

It also provides:

- More police at Redfern



## **Social Issues Committee**

### **Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

- More experienced police at Redfern; and
- More support for Redfern police from other NSW Police commands.

*Enhanced Policing in Redfern 2004* is informed by a wide ranging review of policing resources and strategies in Redfern, including:

- Police response to civil unrest in Redfern in February 2004
- Evidence presented to the Social Issues Committee of the NSW Legislative Council
- NSW Police Association submissions; and
- Recommendations arising from internal investigations undertaken on behalf of the Commissioner of Police.

#### *2.1 Summary of strategies and initiatives*

The strategies announced in *Enhanced Policing in Redfern 2004* are:

1. NSW Police has accepted the recommendations of the Coburn investigation, commissioned by Police Commissioner Moroney, in the wake of the riot.
2. A new \$6 million, seven-storey police station in Redfern, visible from Redfern railway station, is being fitted out.
3. The Target Action Group, comprising 29 officers, will be based at the new Redfern Police Station.
4. Operation Concertinas will be retained and its numbers boosted to 20 – an increase of twelve, to ensure ongoing high visibility policing.
5. All future officers rotated through the Vikings Street Crime Unit will receive Operational Support Group (OSG) training. Officers will be rotated every six months to increase the number of OSG-trained police who can respond to civil disorder and public order management.
6. The Vikings Street Crime Unit will be staffed by trained OSG personnel from October. This 46 officer strong unit will be available to respond en masse to incidents of civil disorder, public order management and major incidents as required.
7. A central coordination group for OSG policy, procedures and training will be created within the State Protection Group (SPG).
8. New and additional riot equipment for Redfern officers is being provided.
9. Redfern Local Area Command's (LAC) criminal investigation capacity will be boosted with the addition of three sergeants and one constable.
10. A further six criminal investigators will be seconded to the Redfern LAC, to better target serious drug and robbery crime.
11. Commissioner's Executive Team (CET) has endorsed "Directed Transfers" to increase experience levels in criminal investigation and general duties within the Redfern LAC.
12. Police will suspend the placement of probationary constables at Redfern for the next 12 months. Only experienced officers will be transferred into Redfern to further increase experience levels.
13. NSW Police will allocate an additional five permanent general duty positions to Redfern with a further review of general duties numbers within six months.
14. Local police will undergo additional Aboriginal cultural awareness training to increase their understanding of such issues and positively impact on relations between police and the Aboriginal community.

## **Social Issues Committee**

### **Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

15. The Redfern Local Area Commander will be strongly supported in his drive to develop and implement Local Area Command Aboriginal Consultative Committees (LACACC) for youth and seniors.
16. A modern Command and Control Vehicle will be made available on a 24-hour basis. The vehicle would be deployed to scenes of civil disorder and public order management and other major incidents at short notice.
17. NSW Police Incident and Emergency Management Training will be upgraded to include specific training for commanders and supervisors in the management and resolution of civil disorder incidents and public order management events.
18. Redfern police will continue to receive specific training for use during riots. Officers in neighbouring commands will also undergo riot training to ensure maximum numbers of police are trained and available for deployment.
19. All Redfern LAC duty officer positions will be permanently filled by substantive officers.
20. Redfern LAC position descriptions will be updated to accurately reflect the duties being undertaken by individual officers in the command.
21. Supervisor vacancies at Redfern will be filled as a matter of priority.
22. The training of two specialist Youth Liaison Officers at Redfern has been expedited.
23. Better communication between Youth Liaison Officers and the South Sydney Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC) will be fostered to ensure constructive development, coordination and delivery of enhanced programs targeting young people.
24. Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) positions at Redfern will be boosted by filling a long-term vacant position.
25. Redfern LAC will be targeted by local Anti Theft, Transit, Highway Patrol and Dog Squad teams to better focus strategies to tackle crime.
26. Local liquor accords will be rigorously enforced by police, local licensees and the Department of Gaming and Racing to help prevent alcohol related crime.
27. Legislation relating to deliberate acts of violence and civil disorder towards police will be reviewed, including the adequacy of existing offences for throwing missiles at police.
28. New riot training will be provided for all Police recruits.
29. A statewide assessment of local public order response capabilities, risk assessment systems and profiles will be conducted.
30. The capacity of existing police computer systems for recording violence against police will be reviewed.
31. NSW Police will continue to work with the Redfern-Waterloo Partnership Project to better coordinate with other Government services.
32. This package will be reviewed in six months to determine if any additional initiatives are needed.

In addition to the six monthly review referred to above, the Standing Committee on Social Issues recommended an eighteen month review of the initiatives. The NSW Government will determine the need for further reviews once the outcomes of the six month review is finalised.

Since the announcement of *Enhanced Policing in Redfern 2004* key areas of policing progress in Redfern have included:

## **Social Issues Committee**

### **Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

#### *Enhanced police numbers and resources*

There has been an expansion of Operation Concertinas staff from eight to 20 officers, ten extra criminal investigators to the Redfern Local Area Command on both a permanent and seconded basis, and five additional general duties staff.

#### *Better policing premises*

Redfern Local Area Command will soon be housed in a new seven storey, \$6 million police station. Police are due to relocate to the new Redfern Police Station in March this year.

#### *More experienced police at Redfern*

The transfer of police from other Local Area Commands into vacant positions at Redfern has been maintained. Furthermore, to ensure suitably trained staff are working at Redfern, the suspension of the allocation of Probationary Constables to Redfern Local Area Command has continued.

#### *Enhanced incident response*

NSW Police has:

- Established the Operation Vikings Street Crime Unit - a 24-hour, seven day Operational Support Group that targets rapid response to public order incidents
- Installed a fully-equipped Command and Control vehicle
- Moved to implement riot training for all police recruits; and
- Allocated new riot gear to Redfern LAC.

#### *Enhanced criminal investigation resources*

This has included:

- Three new Sergeants and one Constable for the criminal investigator ranks; and
- Six additional investigators (seconded to Redfern to specifically target drug crime and robbery).

#### *Strategic support for Redfern LAC from other NSW Police commands*

This has included:

- Redfern Crime Management Unit is tasking proactive teams like Concertinas and Target Action Groups in high volume crime areas as appropriate; and
- A greater focus from Dog Squad, Transit, Highway Patrol and Anti-Theft teams.

#### *Enhanced community engagement and cultural awareness of Police.*

This has involved:

- Three Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training Courses have been conducted by Tranbie College (Glebe). Additional training has been undertaken by the NSW Police Academy. Cultural awareness training for local police will continue.
- NSW Police are working with the Redfern/Waterloo Partnership to progress Local Aboriginal Advisory Consultative Committee.
- Training for two specialist Police Youth Liaison Officers has occurred.

## **Social Issues Committee**

### **Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

- Filling of a long term vacant Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer position; and
- Continued involvement by Police in the Redfern-Waterloo Partnership Project.

The implementation of the plan for *Enhanced Policing in Redfern* has already delivered real outcomes to the Redfern community. The Plan is designed to send a strong message of deterrence to those engaged in criminal and anti-social behavior.

The initiatives have allowed a greater concentration on both proactive policing and the investigation of offences. Redfern Local Area Command will continue to sustain increased attention and resources.

The Police and the Ministry for Police continue to work together to regularly review the implementation of these initiatives to ensure the best outcomes for the Redfern-Waterloo community and frontline police.

#### *2.2 Recording violence against Police*

Police will not undertake a review of incidents of violence against the police during the last decade, as the resources required to undertake the task are too great to warrant the expense.

### **3. Minister with responsibility for Redfern-Waterloo**

A Minister with specific responsibility for Redfern and Waterloo has been appointed to provide strong leadership and coordination of the NSW Government's response to the complex issues affecting the area. The Hon. Frank Sartor M.P. has been appointed as the Minister with responsibility for Redfern-Waterloo.

The appointment of this new position will provide greater accountability to the community and ensure that the NSW Government can respond to issues as they emerge.

Minister Sartor will have final approval in relation to all NSW Government funding that is allocated within Redfern and Waterloo under the Redfern-Waterloo Plan.

### **4. Redfern-Waterloo Plan**

The Minister with responsibility for Redfern-Waterloo will prepare and maintain a plan for the area. The plan will be called the Redfern-Waterloo Plan. The RWA Act sets out the matters for which the Plan may make provision. They include:

- a. the strategic vision for the sustainable improvement of Redfern, Waterloo, Eveleigh and Darlington
- b. urban design
- c. land use zoning
- d. the carrying out of development
- e. human services
- f. the creation of employment opportunities
- g. infrastructure, including transport and pedestrian facilities

## **Social Issues Committee**

### **Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

- h. renewal and regeneration of public land and assets
- i. the maintenance of a social mix of income levels, household types and cultural groupings
- j. the provision of affordable housing for owners and tenants (including publicly funded housing); and
- k. any other matter that the Minister considers is essential for the purposes of the RWA Act.

The Plan will be made publicly available.

#### **5. Redfern-Waterloo Authority**

The Redfern-Waterloo Authority (RWA) was established through the enactment of the *Redfern-Waterloo Authority Act 2004* (RWA Act). The legislation was proclaimed on 17 January 2005, and the Authority officially began operating at that time. The Board, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and interim staff of the RWA have recently been appointed. The Board consists of the following ten members:

- Mr David Richmond (Chair); chairman of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority and the Parramatta Road Taskforce
- Mr Robert Domm (CEO); former General Manager of the City of Sydney Council
- Mr Michael Collins: chair of the Heritage Council
- Ms Marcia Ella-Duncan: chair of the ATSIC Sydney Regional Council
- Dr Col Gellatly: Director General of the Premier's Department
- Mr Richard Johnson: chief architect for the Sydney Opera House
- Ms Clover Moore MP: Member for Bligh and Sydney Lord Mayor
- Mr Sam Mostyn: Insurance Australia Group executive
- Ms Lucy Turnbull: former Sydney Lord Mayor
- Ms Jennifer Westacott: Director General of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources.

The RWA will have responsibility for revitalising the Redfern-Waterloo area through planning, development and urban renewal. The functions of the Authority as set out in the RWA Act, are:

- a. to promote, facilitate, manage, undertake and secure the social, economic, ecological and other sustainable development and use of the operational area, including the development and management of land, the provision of infrastructure and the establishment of public areas
- b. to provide and promote housing choices in the operational area (including for Aboriginal residents)
- c. to provide and promote employment opportunities for local residents, commercial opportunities for local businesses and cultural development (including to address the needs of the Aboriginal community) in the operational area
- d. to enhance and manage public places in the operational area and to improve, maintain and regulate the use of the public places
- e. to promote, co-ordinate, organise, manage, undertake, secure, provide and conduct cultural, educational, commercial, recreational, entertainment and transport activities and facilities in the operational area; and
- f. to do any other thing for the sustainable improvement of the operational area.

## **Social Issues Committee**

### **Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

The Authority's work will be financed through the Redfern-Waterloo Fund. The Fund will be financed through government contributions, any profits made from State owned land or properties, and through contributions to supplement a range of housing opportunities in the community. The Authority is accountable to the Minister with responsibility for Redfern-Waterloo.

#### **6. Redfern-Waterloo Partnership Project (RWPP)**

##### *6.1 Background*

In June 2001, the Premier directed the NSW Premier's Department to develop a whole of government, whole of community approach to address the complex issues within the Redfern and Waterloo communities. In response to this, the Premier's Department established the RWPP as the framework through which the NSW Government would respond to community need.

In March 2002, the Premier announced a \$7 million package of initiatives involving local, state and federal levels of government, as well as the community. The initiatives sought to achieve the following outcomes:

- enhanced community participation and leadership
- reduced crime and improved safety
- enhanced services for young people and children at risk or in crisis
- increased support for families
- improved health outcomes
- reduced drug and alcohol abuse
- enhanced educational opportunities
- increased employment opportunities
- increased enterprise development
- improved urban amenity and public space
- improved planning and service coordination
- enhanced relationships between Government and the local community; and
- improved capacity of services and approaches to service delivery to better meet the needs of the community.

The complexity of issues in Redfern and Waterloo has required RWPP to implement short, medium and long-term responses to achieving the above outcomes. The responses have included:

- coordination of action by other government agencies
- crisis management
- community capacity building; and
- implementation of specific initiatives such as the Redfern-Waterloo Anti-Drug Strategy, the Street Team, the Barnardos Intensive Family Support Service, the Yallamundi Intensive Family Based Service, the Redfern-Waterloo case coordination model, and the sports development program at Alexandria Park School.

In May 2004, the Premier announced a further \$5 million until 30 June 2006 to continue the RWPP's place management approach in Redfern-Waterloo. This commitment enabled the Government to continue funding initiatives such as:

- The eleven-person Redfern-Waterloo street team, which operates seven days a week and works with children and young people, aged between 0 and 18 years who are at risk to harm or anti-social and criminal activity. This is a joint service between five agencies, with staff from each of the

## **Social Issues Committee**

### **Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

agencies. The Street Team has recorded on average over 300 contacts with young people each month since March 2003.

- A whole of government case coordination framework which will support high needs children and their families
- Barnardo's Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS) – which provides an intensive home visiting service to local families
- Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Home Family Support Service – providing practical support for Aboriginal families including nutrition, parenting programs, domestic violence counselling, housing information and support and drug and alcohol programs
- Centacare Culturally and Linguistically Diverse counselling service – which links to Barnardos IFSS to provide counselling and interpreting services to people from non-English speaking backgrounds
- Mentoring programs and the Redfern Police Youth Holiday Camps to build or restore relationships between local kids and police; and
- Redfern-Waterloo Anti-Drug Strategy – which targets the commercial supply of heroin and related social issues.

In October 2004, the Premier announced the enhancement of the RWPP and its extension until June 2008, with additional funding of \$9.3 million.

On 1 July 2005, the RWPP will be absorbed into the Redfern-Waterloo Authority. This move will ensure a holistic approach to the area's complex issues and is consistent with the Government's commitment to address the social, economic and infrastructure needs of the Redfern and Waterloo communities.

#### *6.2 Communications and community engagement*

The Government has responded to the concerns expressed by the community at the Parliamentary Inquiry by dedicating specific resources to ensure that the RWA and the RWPP have the capacity to engage with stakeholders in Redfern-Waterloo. It will build on recent work undertaken to provide clear, accurate and reliable information to the Redfern-Waterloo communities. This information has been provided primarily through fact sheets on topical issues, including frequently asked questions, and website content. As a first step in implementing this approach, four fact sheets were prepared on topical issues in November and December 2004. Copies of the fact sheets are at attachment A. The RWA and RWPP are committed to having an integrated communication strategy to ensure that the community receives holistic messages, thereby avoiding confusion.

The Government will use direct mail, facsimile and email alerts (for crisis management), posters, brochures and the local media to communicate with the Redfern-Waterloo community. Relevant material will be available in both hard copy and electronically in the dominant languages of Redfern-Waterloo, including Russian and Chinese.

The Government will also seek community participation through broad, community forums and Ministerial advisory committees in specific priority areas. Recognising the particular significance of the area to Aboriginal people, the Government will work closely with the local Aboriginal community to ensure involvement.

The Minister has written to all Redfern and Waterloo residents outlining a proposed community consultation structure.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

**6.3 Capacity building**

The NSW Government will implement a community leadership development and capacity building strategy across the Redfern-Waterloo human services system.

The strategy will involve three elements:

- skills development for staff in human services organisations
- professional development to create new service models; and
- a community leadership strategy for community groups.

The Government will also dedicate resources to:

- building the capacity within the Aboriginal community to resolve future issues and achieve tangible and sustainable outcomes for the community
- building and managing an effective relationship between the RWPP and the Aboriginal community
- working with local organisations and community members to develop integrated programs in targeted areas of high need; and
- ensuring that the Government's initiatives and strategies address issues which relate specifically to the Aboriginal community.

**7. Human Services in Redfern-Waterloo**

A key aspect of the Redfern-Waterloo Plan will be the Human Services Plan. The Human Services Plan is being developed by the RWPP, following the review of Human Services conducted in 2004. Through the development of the Human Services Plan, it is expected that new approaches to service delivery will be adopted, based on community need; and that a genuine partnership approach is developed between the government, community members and the organisations that work with them.



## Social Issues Committee

### Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues

#### *Findings and recommendations of the Human Services Review*

The Review found that there are 192 services being delivered by 102 organisations in Redfern-Waterloo. Of the 192 services in the area, around thirty services are solely focused on Redfern and Waterloo. The Review estimated that Government currently allocates some \$35-40 million to human services for residents in Redfern-Waterloo, through locally based services or services delivered from out of the area.

The Review concluded that there were three options for the NSW Government in seeking to reshape the human services system in Redfern-Waterloo. These were:

- Option 1. To re-tender all contracts in the context of a new competitive funding regime that might lead to fewer and/or different organisations being funded in Redfern-Waterloo
- Option 2. To selectively re-tender contracts for services in priority areas to alter the organisational mix in Redfern-Waterloo in a more incremental manner
- Option 3. To engage in a strengths-based reshaping of the human service system in Redfern-Waterloo based on integrated service delivery, capacity-building and greater community involvement.

The NSW Government has adopted option 3 on the basis that failure to achieve change might lead to consideration of option 2.

#### *7.1 Implementation of the Human Services Review*

The report on the review was released to the public in November 2004 and in December 2004, the RWPP facilitated a series of information sessions to inform stakeholders of the findings of the review. Different sessions were specifically designed for different interest groups: the general public; people working in service delivery; and CEOs/Management Committee members. Approximately 110 people attended the five sessions.

Following on from the information sessions, the NSW Government is now in the process of developing a whole of government-whole of community planning framework to reshape the Redfern-Waterloo human services system. A Human Services Advisory Committee has been established to develop the Redfern-Waterloo Human Services Plan, 2005-2006. The Advisory Committee consists of representatives from the three tiers of government, the non-government sector, community and service users.

The Plan will be developed in two stages. Cluster groups will develop seven action plans for each part of the human services system. The action plans will be incorporated into the Human Services Plan. The first four plans will relate to Aboriginal services, youth services, family and children's services (including family and domestic violence), and health (focusing on dual diagnosis, mental health and drug and alcohol use). The following three will focus on services for people who are ageing, people with disabilities, and people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

Cluster groups will specifically address issues raised in the Human Services Review and by the Standing Committee on Social Issues. For example, amongst other things, the youth cluster will explore the adequacy of accommodation for

## **Social Issues Committee**

### **Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

youth services in the area and the adequate provision for weekend and after hours youth services. Additionally, the Aboriginal services cluster will explore the explore of adequate referral services for Aboriginal people with drug and alcohol problems in Redfern and Waterloo.

A CEOs Steering Committee of NSW Government agencies will also be set up to:

- identify and implement a new way of funding organisations, including a virtual pool of funds for human service delivery
- develop common monitoring and reporting for government and non-government organisations, and
- develop a process for funding prioritisation.

Each of these elements will be incorporated into the Human Services Plan.

In undertaking its work, the Steering Committee will act on the findings of the Grants Administration Review and work with the Commonwealth and local Governments to 'pool' funding where appropriate.

#### *7.2 Mobile needle and syringe service and community health facility*

The provision and location of the Mobile Needle and Syringe Service has been one of the more difficult issues for the Government to resolve, given the need to balance public health issues with community safety concerns. In response to the views expressed by Police, health professionals and the local community, on 24 October 2004, the Premier announced the creation of a new community health facility in Redfern. The Mobile Needle and Syringe Van will close as soon as the community health facility opens.

The facility will be located at 120 Lawson Street, with no entrance at the back of the building on Caroline Lane. It will provide a continuum of services for the whole community, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. The services will include:

- basic medical services (including, but not limited to, basic health and medical assessments, treatment and care of drug related injuries and illnesses),
- psychosocial services (including, but not limited to, assessment and referrals, welfare support, short term counselling and brief intervention),
- enhanced Aboriginal health service activities (including, but not limited to, cardiovascular and endocrine services, mental health and dual diagnosis services, legal services and family support services), and
- a range of specialist visiting services (which may include services relating to sexual health, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis screening, antenatal and post natal care) to be provided in collaboration with stakeholders such as Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and local general practitioners.

Within the context of the holistic approach to health care, the community health facility will provide sterile needles and syringes.

The community health care service will also provide opportunities for referral, collaborative case coordination, and continuity of care for clients of the program. Additionally, the collaboration between the Area Health Service and the City of Sydney Council in running an assertive clean up program on the Block, will continue and NSW Health will continue to provide emergency overdose response

## **Social Issues Committee**

### **Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

services. The RWPP will facilitate community consultation on the services to be provided by the community health facility in April 2005.

The Mobile Needle and Syringe Service was originally introduced by NSW Health to minimise the harms associated with high levels of drug injection in the area. NSW Police currently have policy guidelines for the support of needle and syringe exchange and methadone programs. The current guidelines are supported by the NSW Department of Health and are clear in their delineation of the respective roles and responsibilities of police and health personnel. NSW Health and NSW Police consider the development of individual MOUs in multiple locations as unnecessary and potentially resulting in ambiguous or inconsistent policies and practices. They also note that the establishment of a fixed site health service will obviate the need for a MOU in relation to the provision of needles at the Mobile Needle and Syringe Service.

The creation of the community health facility will be complemented by a community based education campaign on the rationale for harm minimisation. The Redfern-Waterloo Drug and Alcohol Taskforce will manage this in the context of developing the Redfern-Waterloo Substance Abuse Strategy.

#### **8. The Aboriginal Housing Company (AHC) and Redevelopment of The Block**

The NSW Government has a constructive working relationship with the AHC and continues to work closely with the Company on a number of issues, including developing a sustainable vision for The Block, financial management and governance matters. The renewal of The Block is the subject of ongoing negotiation between the Government and the AHC. The audit of the AHC has been finalised and presented to the Company. The Government is working with the AHC on determining the most appropriate response to the recommendations contained in the report.

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>35</b>	25-Oct-05	<i>Recruitment and Training of Teachers</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>36</b>	09-Dec-05	<i>Funeral Industry</i>		No relevant recommendations
<b>37</b>	31-Mar-06	<i>Dental Industry in NSW</i>	<b>5</b>	That the oral health strategic plan, the associated framework for action, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander plan be implemented by NSW Health and the NSW Oral Health Promotion Network in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the Commonwealth Government, and that sufficient funding to implement the objectives of the plan be made available.
<i>Government response</i>				<p>The NSW Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>NSW Health will implement the recommendation in full consultation with recipient communities, including Aboriginal Medical Services and Justice Health. Funded Aboriginal Medical Services include Armidale, Awabakal, Redfern, Biripi, Bulgarr Ngaru, Daruk Durri, Illawarra, Katungal, Riverina, Tharawal, Casino and Pius X Moree.</p> <p>A Statewide Aboriginal Oral Health Coordinator was appointed in July 2006 to work with the Centre for Oral Health Strategy NSW and will facilitate implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander component of these plans.</p> <p>The NSW Government has made funding available for the oral health strategy in its recent budget enhancement of 2006-2010, which will supplement activities in this area.</p>
<b>37</b>	31-Mar-06	<i>Dental Industry in NSW</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>(Implicit)</b> That the Priority Oral Health Program be reviewed, with particular reference to waiting times, to ensure that patients in the public system receive adequate treatment within reasonable time frames
<i>Government response</i>				<p>The NSW Government supports this recommendation and already has initiatives in place to review the Priority Oral Health Program.</p> <p>As both NSW Health and Queensland Health have implemented the Priority Oral Health Program, the two departments have established a joint working party that monitors changes and makes ongoing recommendations for improvement of the Program.</p> <p>The 2006/07 Budget enhancement provided funding for a review of business processes for optimising patient flow.</p>
<b>37</b>	31-Mar-06	<i>Dental Industry in NSW</i>	<b>21</b>	<p><b>(Implicit)</b> That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rural and remote dental services be increased</li> <li>• new dental clinics and facilities be located in areas accessible by public transport</li> <li>• clinics and facilities in rural and remote areas be fully equipped</li> <li>• the use of mobile dental units be investigated</li> <li>• the use of existing medical infrastructure for the transfer of medical information be explored with respect to</li> </ul>

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

				dental services.
<i>Government response</i>				<p>A statewide stocktake on dental equipment and infrastructure needs is currently being conducted by Area Health Services. Capital works programs have been identified and factors into the structural changes of the oral health budget enhancements over the next four years. The capital works program at the State and Area level includes the advancement of community-based dental services with an emphasis on services in rural Area.</p> <p>Additional capital of \$2.2M was allocated to oral health services in May-June 2006 providing an additional 25 dental chairs, 38 sets of digital radiography sensors, 10 autoclaves and minor refurbishments across all Area Health Services.</p>
<b>37</b>	31-Mar-06	<i>Dental Industry in NSW</i>	<b>23</b>	That the new oral health plan for New South Wales consider the need to provide culturally appropriate and accessible oral health services for indigenous people, comprising education for children and adults, the provision of a wider range of services beyond emergency treatment, and the means of providing preventive treatment and education.
<i>Government response</i>				<p>NSW Health has recently recruited a Statewide Aboriginal Oral Health Coordinator who will assist with the implementation of this recommendation and to have oversight of the \$3M that NSW Health currently allocates annually to Aboriginal Medical Services for the provision of dental services.</p> <p>\$150,000 will be invested in delivering dental services in at least one additional Aboriginal Medical Service in 2006/07, with \$500,000 targeted at delivering dental services in at least two additional Aboriginal Medical Services in 2007/08 and beyond. By 2010 this is expected to increase the number of dental service provided by Aboriginal Medical Services by 15%.</p> <p>The oral health strategy linked to the \$40M Budget enhancements focuses on early intervention and prevention as well as the education and training of appropriate general and oral health personnel. This is in keeping with the Future Directions for NSW Health.</p>
<b>37</b>	31-Mar-06	<i>Dental Industry in NSW</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>(Implicit)</b> That the new oral health strategic plan for New South Wales consider the issues related to special needs groups, including priority in treatment, appropriate training for dental practitioners and the need for ongoing education programs and the dissemination of information.
<i>Government response</i>				The NSW Government supports this recommendation and is expected to conduct a review of access to dental services by persons with special needs in 2006/07. The outcomes of this review will be included in the development of the special needs program, which is part of the framework of the oral health strategy linked to the \$40M Budget enhancements.
<b>38</b>	16-Jun-06	<i>Public Disturbances at Macquarie Fields</i>		No relevant recommendations

**Social Issues Committee**  
**Report Recommendations relating to Aboriginal issues**

<b>39</b>	23-Nov-06	<i>Impact of Commonwealth WorkChoices Legislation</i>		No relevant recommendations
-----------	-----------	---	--	-----------------------------