

**INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO
REDFERN/WATERLOO**

Organisation:

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Theme:

Summary

<p style="text-align: center;">INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO REDFERN / WATERLOO STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES OF NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SUBMISSION FROM GEOFFREY AND LYN TURNBULL, [REDACTED] STREET, REDFERN.</p>

The terms of reference of the Standing Committee ask the committee to inquire into:

(d) strategies under the current New South Wales Government "Redfern / Waterloo Partnership Project", and the effectiveness in meeting the needs of local indigenous and other members of the community

We wish to make a submission to the Standing Committee primarily regarding the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project (RWPP) and its "partnership" with the Redfern and Waterloo communities. This submission is based on material that we have gathered about the RWPP and our own experience in trying to engage the RWPP and the Redfern Waterloo community in discussion about the RWPP's activities in Redfern and Waterloo. Some of this engagement has been done through articles published by Geoffrey Turnbull in the *South Sydney Herald* and these are attached and referred to as necessary.

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1. Our View of Partnership and the RWPP

The word partnership evokes the idea of at least two bodies working together as equals towards a shared task or objective. The “partnership” of the RWPP is however a partnership of government instrumentalities coming into the Redfern Waterloo area to fix up the communities’ problems.

Where do the Redfern and Waterloo communities stand in relation to this partnership? The RWPP has not been, as it has claimed, working “in partnership with the Redfern and Waterloo communities”. In both the RWPP’s social policy development up until the Human Services Review, and the RED “consultations”, the process has been very much from the Government down. There had been no real attempt to find out about how the people who live in the area see the problems or how they think State and Local Government can better use their resources to improve the area. The approach is that Government knows best and that a better coordinated push by the State Government in planning and social policy will fix the problems of Redfern and Waterloo.

There is another way of doing things that gets used effectively in communities around the world and which might still produce an actual partnership between the community and government, if followed. We saw some glimpses of it in the processes of the Human Services Review. It starts by getting people who experience the problems and live in the area to meet in small groups, to identify their problems, to talk about what causes these problems and how the problems and the causes might be fixed.

Governments tend not to like this process because it can throw up problems that are caused by their own structures, programmes and bureaucrats; not just the issues the Government identifies as the problem. Governments like to control the process and to be able to anticipate the outcome.

It is far easier for Government to have a “community consultation” with some of the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and to ask them about what is needed in the community, than it is to find out from the people themselves. This is how the RWPP has been consulting in Redfern Waterloo on its social agenda up until recently. Until the Human Services Review, the public meetings of 18 October 2003 and 1st December 2003 have been the only opportunities for the public to look at the RWPP’s social agenda in the 2 years the RWPP has been operating. RWPP forums have only been report backs about what the RWPP had been doing, with a few questions and limited opportunity for discussion. They were not consultations with the community about what it wanted from the RWPP.

As most NGOs are dependant on government funding for their programmes, there is pressure on NGOs to be very careful about what they say to government, and how they say it, so future funding is not jeopardised. For this reason the RWPP should not solely rely on their discussions with NGOs. The RWPP must also talk to people who can not be bought into line by the fear of future funding cuts and who are not going to feel pressured to tell the Government Departments what they want to hear. These people often raise the hard questions about the ways the Governments’ own policies, bureaucracy and lack of social funding are contributing to the problems in the area rather than to solutions. They often throw up issues that are not on the Government or NGO’s radar.

The Human Services Review has tried, in the short time available to it, to consult with residents. It has focused on finding out about the needs of the area and assessing what services are being supplied to meet those needs and how they can be better organised.

The concern however is that once the Human Services Review Report is presented to the RWPP, the RWPP will revert to its previous mode of operating and no longer see the need for genuine engagement with the local community.

The Premier’s Department has selected the 20 people it wants to represent the community to the RWPP. Under its terms of reference this Community Council’s role is in part to “ensure the Government is

accountable to the community”!! This is a strange form of community representation. Six community representatives have been chosen by the Premier’s Department from residents who self nominated for the position without having to show community support. A fear in the community is that the RWPP will now claim it is consulting the community when it meets with its council and it will no longer try to consult with the wider community.

Certainly, the RWPP will address some of the community’s problems in its top down manner, but many problems will be left un-addressed unless the RWPP endeavours to find out how those that live in the area see the problems, their causes and the feasibility of the RWPP solutions. Many well meaning solutions from RWPP are likely to end up seriously flawed due to lack of wide community input. If the Government had followed a best practice community development model, there would have been funding allocated for such grass roots consultations from the beginning.

The challenge for the RWPP, or its successor, will have to be to form a serious partnership with all the stake holders in Redfern and Waterloo; both the non-government service providers and the diversity of residents in the area. Without continued genuine community involvement the RWPP will be flawed, no matter how good the information and the recommendations in the Human Services Report maybe.

Putting time into building a partnership with the community and the capacity for the community to be an equal partner are not optional extras for the RWPP to achieve its goal; it is the key to its success. Without a genuine partnership with the community the problems of Redfern and Waterloo will not be solved.

In the next few sections we have provided documentation and examples to support the view we have outlined above.

2. The Structure of the RWPP’s so called Partnership

The Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project describes itself in the mission statement block in its 2003 newsletters as “An initiative of the NSW Premier’s Department, the RWPP works in partnership with the Redfern and Waterloo communities, Government departments, Government and non-government agencies to co-ordinate lasting solutions to long standing social, economic, safety, environmental and planning issues”.

The diagram of the RWPP’s Governance Model (Attachment F) clearly indicates that the partners are not all equal within the partnership. The government parties are structurally involved in making decisions at CEO and Senior Officer levels about the RWPP, whereas the community sector has what the website describes as “a mechanism for the community to be involved... ”.

It is a model for consultation rather than a model for partnership with the community. Hence in the diagram “Existing Advisory and Network Structures”, whatever they may be, have the same structural function and relationship as “Community Forums” or the “Community Council”. The consultation nature of the model is correctly reflected in the RWPP’s website second explanation of the model as “a mechanism for information to flow from the community to Government and back”. While this correctly describes the model, it is not to say that this information flow is actually happening.

After the first RWPP Community Forum, where some of the government departments involved reported on their activities under the RWPP, we were keen to make a list of the departmental contacts available to the community. When we tried to do this we discovered that a number of the departments did not want to have any direct contact with the community and wanted all contact channelled through the RWPP. Some agencies were prepared to be contacted directly and their contact details are included in Attachment C.

When the RWPP appointed its Community Council we were also keen to let the community know who had been appointed to speak on their behalf. A list of the Community Council and the basis on which

they were appointed is also included in Attachment C, along with a list of the RWPP staff and their areas of responsibility within the RWPP. Attachment C was assembled to provide residents and NGOs with information as to whom to contact about Redfern Waterloo Issues. It was assembled between November 2003 and late February 2004. As some of this information is not publicly available from other sources we have included it for the Standing Committee's information.

The list mentioned above does not include other organisations such as Sydney University and the Aboriginal Housing Company who have separate partnership agreements directly with the RWPP.

Any assessment of the RWPP by the Inquiry must include examining the extent to which the Premier's Department's RWPP has entered into a partnership with the four partners identified in the mission statement. We have argued in our overview, a modified version of Geoff's articles *The Partnership has no Clothes* (Attachment A) and *Let the RWPP Know What you Think* (Attachment B), that community engagement by the RWPP has been poor to date and that a serious engagement with the community and NGOs will be necessary if the objectives of the RWPP are to be met.

3. Assessment of RWPP Activities

Two major reports from RWPP remain outstanding at the time of writing this submission. This makes any assessment of what the RWPP has undertaken very difficult. These reports are the RED Strategy and the Human Services Review. The material being assembled by the Human Services Review is also needed to adequately assess the earlier decision making of the RWPP in the formation of its services and taskforces. We have made some comments on these three areas below.

a. The RED Strategy

The Draft RED Strategy was due for public consultation in late February 2004, but has not yet been seen. The process used by the RWPP for the initial RED Strategy consultations created considerable concern amongst residents. There was a strong feeling that the State Government's interest, as a large land holder in the area, creates a conflict of interest with the interests of the local community. The consultants put some quite concrete proposals to the community and there was a strong feeling that the community was being steamrollered.

An indication of the strength of the community concern over the lack of consultation regarding RED, was seen at a community convened public meeting of 130 -150 people which was held on 29th July 2003 to discuss the RWPP's handling of the consultation process. In the covering note to the minutes Charlie Richardson, Co-ordinator of the Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development, said: "It was plain that the meeting felt that the consultation process so far conducted by the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Program (sic) (a program of the NSW Premier's Department) and their consultants has been totally inadequate. People are concerned for their homes and of public housing in the area in general. They were concerned that there has been very little in the media about the RED Strategy, and very little debate. Residents want the people from the Program to be allowed and encouraged to talk to the press. They don't feel they know what is going on."

Some of these concerns continued for the balance of the initial RED consultation, with many people feeling that they still did not have a clear idea of what the government and the RWPP had in mind for the area. Only when the Draft RED Strategy becomes public and the community sees what the RWPP and Government then does with it, will it be possible to fully assess this area of the RWPP activities.

b. The Human Services Review

The data collection for the Human Services Review is only just drawing to a close. The consultants are forming their early conclusions on the needs of the area and their assessment of the government and NGO services that address these needs. Initially the Human Services Review was met with suspicion and resistance from some residents and NGOs. This resulted from the RWPP's earlier interactions with the NGO's and the way the RED consultations were handled.

As Geoff mentioned in his article *A Human Services Review for the RWPP* (Attachment D), it is especially surprising, and probably indicative of the poor relationship between the RWPP and the NGOs, that after two years of working in Redfern / Waterloo, the RWPP could not supply the consultants, Morgan Disney, with a full list of the human service organizations working in the area.

Even more staggering was that Morgan Disney was requested to undertake a review of earlier studies and reports, to establish the needs of the people who live in the area and to test these findings through focus groups.

A proper needs identification process and the identification of all the agencies operating in the area should have been done as soon as the RWPP was established. Certainly it should have been done before the RWPP made decisions on which human services were required and which organisations were to be funded from their budget allocation of more than seven million dollars. The decisions to fund some existing services, to reorganise funding for some other agencies and to totally ignoring other needs and agencies were apparently undertaken without this basic research.

It should be noted that there was no advance information about the Human Services Review given to the community. The Human Services review does not appear as one of the activities planned by the RWPP in its August 2002 newsletter. We have been advised verbally that an early mention was made that there would be an audit of agencies. It appears this audit became the Human Services Review. While this may be the case, the Human Services Review has certainly become some thing much larger than an audit of services.

The first most people heard of the Human Services Review was when the consultants started to contact agencies or when residents received questionnaires in their mailboxes. We understand from the consultants that they met with the RWPP's Community Council early in 2004, but this wasn't publicly known at the time. The RWPP had the opportunity to inform the community of the Review at the December 1st 2003 Community Forum, which is after all supposed to be "a mechanism for information to flow from the community to Government and back". Questions were asked at this meeting that should have elicited such information. An email we sent to the RWPP in January included a section on the need for the RWPP to identify the major non-RED issues being faced by the community, but we were not told that this would be done by consultants who were just starting a Human Services Review.

Another consequence of the Human Services Review coming at the end of the RWPP's funding rather than at the beginning, it is that the Human Services Review has had to undertake its work within a very short timeframe. Their report has to be finalised before the RWPP's own funding deadline of June 30th 2004, irrespective of what might emerge in the process of the review that might necessitate a longer timeframe. This has meant that public consultations and interviews with NGOs have been rushed and many consultants have been bought in to get the report finished in the short time allowed. Community participation is one of the areas that often suffer in rushed consultations.

The initial public forum was poorly advertised and few people knew about it. Many of those at the first meeting only knew about it because they were on our email list. Some streets did not receive the "Survey for Residents" and the survey was not appropriate for many of those who received it. This meant that the

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consultants had to conduct interviews based on the survey to get responses from some sections of the community. Had the Human Services Review been undertaken earlier there would have been longer to facilitate much greater community involvement. The community and NGOs would probably have felt more like a partner in the process and had greater confidence in the Review's outcomes.

Notwithstanding this, the Human Services Review did endeavour to consult widely, within the limited time available. Those people who were involved in their initial community forum felt that, in contrast with their dealings with the RWPP, the Morgan Disney consultants really did want to know about their issues, concerns and vision for Redfern and Waterloo (see also Attachment D). People also appreciated that follow up forums for both residents and service providers were held to give a progress report on the Review's initial findings and the direction that the report was taking.

Full evaluation will not be possible until the community sees the final report. In particular, the proposal for an integrated services model floated by Morgan Disney opens up many questions that will need to be worked through with NGOs. There are concerns that integration, while very useful in certain areas, may also lead to the amalgamation of funding and less diversity in the programmes funded. It may also be used by sections of government who see this as an opportunity to rationalise overheads and cut administrative costs, thus leading to the loss of the very strengths that make NGOs very effective in their service delivery.

The Human Services Review was commissioned by the RWPP and there is community concern that the RWPP may be endeavouring to obtain a report which will be supportive of their solutions for the area. Such is the community suspicion about the RWPP, that some community members and organisations have been pushing for the Human Services Report to be made directly to the Standing Committee rather than via the RWPP.

So that the report is seen to be independent, we support it being made directly to the Standing Committee. However we recognise that the selection of the consultants and the brief that they have been given by the RWPP may already have affected the outcome if the community concern regarding this is well founded.

We would also encourage the Standing Committee to invite any of the consultants involved in the Human Services Review to give direct presentations to the Standing Committee should they so wish.

c. The Other RWPP Initiatives

The material being assembled by the Human Services Review is clearly central to being able to evaluate the needs of Redfern / Waterloo and the services in the community. This information is essential to any assessment of the projects initially set up by the RWPP, the selection of the Taskforces they established and to the wisdom of supporting certain human service agencies and projects over others with their initial funding.

We are aware that the August 2002 newsletter refers to consultations in 2002 being undertaken before these decisions were made. We have no information about these consultations and were not aware of any community consultations happening at that time. We have asked the RWPP in writing in early 2004 for details about the consultation processes that may have been used by the RWPP to date, but have received no information from them regarding this. It is our understanding from discussions with others who were involved at the time that these consultations were with service providers rather than the wider Redfern and Waterloo communities.

The Standing Committee should enquire of NGOs appearing before it, to ascertain if the RWPP's taskforces and funded activities were in line with any consultations that may have been held. Some of the

comments made at a recent meeting of agencies would indicate that some NGOs may have concerns in this area.

4. The RWPP Community Engagement Strategies

The RWPP produced a "Community Engagement Strategies" document for the last Community Forum on December 1 2003. A copy of this document is attached as Attachment H as it is not available on the RWPP website for the Standing Committee to access.

It is indicative of the RWPP's approach that the Community Engagement Strategy has been given to the community by the RWPP, rather than developed with the community through processes such as workshops. An agreed Community Engagement Strategy, which is actually followed, is essential if there is to be full community involvement in the RWPP. In the absence of such a strategy, the people in Redfern and Waterloo do not know what the RWPP is doing and so rumours breed. Without such serious engagement, the RWPP cannot tap the knowledge that is within the community and engage the community in the solutions to the problems. A community engagement strategy must involve two way communication even in its formation.

Six months after the RWPP delivered its strategy; little of it has been put into effect. The strategy document does provide a basis for evaluating what the RWPP has done in terms of community engagement to date. We have quoted the RWPP's strategy in italics below for easy reference and made our comments on it.

a. Redfern/Waterloo Community Council - The Community Council provides advice to Government on the range of issues within Redfern and Waterloo and on the proposed Government response to these. Community representatives are from a number of different interest groups.

Attachment C provides details of the RWPP's Community Council members and the interest groups they represent. Nominations were called for the six community representatives on the 20 person Council and all appointments were made by the Premier's Department. We were advised that even the Community Council Chairman, and then mayor of South Sydney Council, was not involved in the selection.

Attachment G contains a copy of the nomination form for the Community Council. The form is the full extent of the information requested from nominees (other than proof of identity and residence). It is difficult to see how this provided the Premier's Department with sufficient information to determine who were best placed to represent the community on the Community Council.

In the letter from the Director General of the Premier's Department to nominees he asserted that: "The proposal for the community council has resulted from discussions with the community ...". We have not yet met anyone who is aware of these discussions and find it difficult to believe that any community consultations would have agreed to a non transparent appointment process that did not have a mechanism for community representatives to be appointed by the community.

While the lack of community involvement in the appointment of the six community representatives is the most glaring problem with the current council, there are also questions regarding the basis of appointment for the balance 14 members. Many, while no doubt experienced, are not involved in the local community on a day to day basis. Redfern Waterloo make up only a small part of their responsibilities. The Community Council must represent the diversity of the Redfern & Waterloo communities. The best way of involving all sectors of the community on the Community Council should be the subject of negotiation with the community, rather than being handed down by the RWPP. There has also been some concern voiced by proponents of public education, that the exclusion of government employees, means that only those working in private schools can represent the important area of education on the Community Council.

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At the last community forum a request was put to the Chairman that Community Council meetings should be open for the public to attend as observers. It is not known if the Community Council has had the opportunity to consider this question. Public scrutiny and transparency are important at all levels of government and are even more important where the community's representatives are not chosen by the community they are supposed to represent.

There has been concern that, with a couple of exceptions, the appointed community council members have not attended the Human Services Review community forums. These forums have been the only RWPP related community events since the Community Council's appointment. Attendance at such functions are important if the community members are to reflect community views back to the RWPP.

If the Community Council is to be the main mechanism for the RWPP to consult with the community, it must be a mechanism jointly accepted by the Government and the community. It must also encompass genuine community representation. At the present this is not the case.

b. RWPP Taskforces -RWPP runs a number of Taskforces around specific areas of community interest. These include:

- Drug & Alcohol Taskforce
- Child & Families Taskforce
- Community Safety Taskforce
- Youth Taskforce

Representatives come from non-Government and Government agencies working in the local area and local residents. Other Taskforces will be established as needed.

We would welcome greater opportunities for community involvement in the taskforces but the mechanisms for community involvement have not been made known. Some taskforces do not state they are open to residents. We have queried why a Taskforce has not been established on Mental Health and how other necessary taskforces can be established.

c. Community Forums - Community Forums will be held four times per year and provide the opportunity for residents and other community members to have a direct say on what is happening in Redfern and Waterloo. Government will also report back at these Forums on what they have done in the last 3 months.

Two Community Forums have been held, the first on 13th October 2003 and second and most recent on 1st December 2004. The first provided a report back from the primary government departments engaged in the partnership. The agenda allowed time for three questions to be asked of each of the nine presentations. The second Community Forum contained reports about some of the projects funded by the RWPP as well as a report on the RED Strategy and an SRA presentation on the lack of plans for Redfern Railway Station. To date the forums have been strongly to the "report back" end of the spectrum and have given little opportunity for residents to even comment on what is happening in Redfern Waterloo.

In the absence of confidence in the RWPP's Community Council, the RWPP should use Community Forums to involve the community in a dialogue about the direction and priorities of the RWPP. There is a fear that, with the establishment of the Community Council, the RWPP is only seeking advice from those they have appointed, rather than from the wider community.

d. Public Discussion Workshops - are open to anyone to attend although pre-registration will be required. The discussion workshops are intended to allow for in-depth discussion around a specific topic or area of concern.

We think these would be an excellent idea. Unfortunately we are not aware of any such workshops having been conducted other than as part of the Human Services Review. Such workshops could

facilitate dialogue between the community, service providers and the RWPP over specific areas of concern and in developing proposals for how the partners should respond. Such workshops should encourage early involvement by all concerned parties. We would encourage the RWPP, or its successor, to use this process and to publicise such workshops widely so that community members can be involved.

*e. **Focus Groups** -will target specific groups within the community where there is a concern they may not participate in other consultation processes. This is to ensure that these groups have an adequate opportunity to input into areas that RWPP is working on.*

Focus groups have an important role to play in obtaining information and testing ideas. Focus group should form part of a wider process and to ensure involvement by target groups and subsections of the community. The use of focus groups should be open to review by the community and should be used as part of consultations and policy formation; not as an alternative to wider community consultation. Focus groups need to be held in venues where the people being consulted are comfortable eg if the focus group is targeting residents of The Block hold the meeting on The Block. Focus Groups have been used as part of the Human Services Review.

*f. **Information Sessions and Public Displays** - Where appropriate, information sessions will be held to inform the community about specific aspects of particular initiatives. These will only occur as part of a broader consultation process.*

To date the RED consultation has followed this process. Information Sessions have a role where proposals such as the Draft RED Strategy need to be displayed to the community and reactions obtained. Displays need to be well publicised, held at times accessible to different groups in the community and run over a sufficient period to allow the maximum community involvement. The RWPP acknowledges above that they are only part of a broader consultation process. It was a concern that this practice was the only strategy being used that lead to community concern in the RED process. Rather than start with workshops to generate ideas, the public consultation started with concrete proposals from the consultants.

*g. **Information Collection** - Linked to specific initiatives and through surveys, interviews and feedback forms.*

This process seems only to have been used by the Human Services Review. Questions have been raised about the wording used in the community questionnaires especially for residents with low levels of literacy. This problem was partly overcome by the consultants also interviewing residents from the target groups least likely to respond to questionnaires. Information collection needs to be done in culturally appropriate ways for the target groups. Group and individual discussions in familiar surroundings may better suit the information collection than surveys covering complex concepts such as "services".

*h. **Newsletters** - RWPP will produce a Newsletter four times per year which will update the community on achievements, ways to become involved in the project and what other agencies are doing in the community in partnership with RWPP*

Information has been supplied to the community primarily via three newsletters published in August 2002, August 2003 and October 2003. The August 2002 newsletter was only sighted recently when it was posted on the RWPP website. It does not appear to have been circulated to all residents in Redfern Waterloo at the time. Newsletters are promised quarterly in the "Community Engagement Strategies" but there have been no newsletters for last 7 months.

i. RWPP Website - A website on RWPP has recently been published and includes a variety of information about the initiatives of the Project, including copies of the Newsletters. The website is updated on a regular basis as new information becomes available.

For a website to form part of the information sharing process for the RWPP it needs to be properly maintained and used to keep the community up to date on the activities of the RWPP. It was not until August 2003 that the RWPP established a website. This was one of the requests made from the July 2003 community meeting concerned with the way the RWPP was carrying out consultations concerning RED. The site has not been well maintained and does not contain up to date information about what the partnership is doing. Sections relating to RED consultations undertaken last year are still listed in early May 2004 as "coming soon". Details of the Community Council appointments are still not on the site over 5 months after their appointments.

The RWPP website does make reference to the Human Services Review. The way that the site described the review created considerable alarm among NGOs and made it more difficult for Morgan Disney to gain NGOs co-operation for the review. In contrast, Morgan Disney have used their own website effectively to make material available for the review. It should be noted that the RWPP page regarding the Human Services Review does not mention the Morgan Disney site and does not have a link to it.

Below we have added some other areas which are not mentioned as part of the RWPP Engagement Strategy, but which in our opinion should be included in it. For ease of reference we have continued the numbering scheme as used above.

j. Email Notices & Information Dissemination

At almost every RWPP meeting or consultation we have attended, the attendance sheet included a request for a contact email address. In spite of community concerns about the lack of publicity for community meetings never once have we, or anyone else we know, received an email from the RWPP to advise us about an activity. An email distribution list would be any effective way for the RWPP to at least let those that have expressed an interest know about upcoming events. We have used this process to let interested parties know about RWPP developments. We know from our own experience that our emails, about an event or meeting, are often the only way many people learnt that an event was happening. The information often then goes out through some of their networks to others.

k. Interviews, Media Releases and replies in writing

It should be noted by the Standing Committee that requests from local media to interview the RWPP Project Director regarding RWPP activities have to be referred to the Premier's Department, which has to date denied permission for any interviews. The RWPP has also been unprepared to issue press releases or provide written answers to our correspondence that may then be reported.

The lack of media publicity was one of the major concerns of the community meeting on RED. It is clearly unsatisfactory that the RWPP Project Director is not permitted by the Premier's Department to be interviewed about the RWPP's activities and that the RWPP is not using media statements and giving written replies to correspondence from the community.

The communities only sources of information under such policies, are the occasional public meetings, the RWPP's occasional newsletters and conversations with RWPP personnel of which there is no record and hence no accountability. This is clearly unsatisfactory if the RWPP is to operate a successful partnership with the community.

1. NGO Consultations

We are not in a position to document meetings between the RWPP and NGOs, or the information flows between the two, as we have not been involved in such meetings. It is our understanding that early meetings were primarily between the RWPP and NGOs but that this relationship deteriorated when the RWPP did not deliver the consultation process promised to the NGOs, especially on the RED Strategy. At a recent agency gathering many of those attending were not supportive of the suggestion of the RWPP continuing past June 2004.

It should be noted that there was concern in some Aboriginal groups about the RWPP and the Human Services Review. The Aboriginal Medical Service's concern with the process was evident when they declined to participate in the Human Services Review and circulated a letter which was published in *Inner Voice*.

The Standing Committee should ask a wide range of NGOs about the nature of their "partnership" with the RWPP.

5. Conclusion Regarding the RWPP

The authors of this submission support the improved co-ordination of Government and Non-Government service delivery to the Redfern and Waterloo areas within a genuine partnership involving the three tiers of government, non-government organisations and the Redfern and Waterloo communities.

The Human Services Review may be able to provide a new starting point for the development of genuine engagement between all these parties. While there have been problems with how the RWPP have gone about its business, a start on the problems has been made and the Human Services Review may help it get back on track.

Such a partnership must involve the community as an equal partner in the process. This is to ensure that the needs of both the local community and the users of the human services are the driving forces behind projects, rather than government or departmental agendas which may conflict with the needs identified in the Human Services Review.

Community participation must be central to all future work by the State Government in Redfern and Waterloo. It can not simply be seen as a mechanism to inform the community about what is being done for them. Community participation taps the skills, understanding and goodwill in the community. In doing so it increases the capacity to identify issues and address problems and allows the community to own the results. It is not an optional extra that takes time and resources away from "getting the job done".

We encourage the Standing Committee to recommend continued allocation of funding for an ongoing co-ordination mechanism for Redfern and Waterloo that brings together all parties in a genuine partnership. Co-ordination funding should be long term. We would suggest that it be recommended initially for a 10 year period.

Such co-ordination and any proposed reorganisation of the service network does not replace the need for the allocation of sufficient resources to tackle the area's problems. The RWPP website argues that a reshaping of the existing service network is necessary because the "capacity to deliver additional resources to community needs are limited". Resources must be allocated to match the identified needs.

Given the social indicators of public housing tenants and Aboriginal people in Redfern and Waterloo the Federal and State Governments have a special responsibility to fully fund the services they require.

In the absence of sufficient government resources for infrastructure development, public private partnerships are being used. Should public private partnerships be used in Redfern and Waterloo, mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that all private concessions made to pay for such developments do not further degrade the area and further exacerbate the areas social problems. Ideally such developments should include training and obligations to employ local people and assist in addressing the human services needs of the area.

6. Brief Comments on other areas of the Standing Committee's Terms of Reference

Following also for the Committee's reference, as Attachment E, is an account of the events of 16th February 2004. The article "A Surreal Sunday on the Western Front of the Block" was published as the lead story in the *South Sydney Herald* March 2004 and provides our view, from Lawson Street Redfern, of the events.

The closure of Redfern Public School, despite a parliamentary inquiry recommendation that it remain open until after the RWPP had done its work, resulted in a number of problems for students and parents, as well as the loss of an important local community focus. The importance of the closure of the school should not be underestimated when the committee looks at the factors that contributed to the events of February 2004.

Successive Governments have failed to address the needs of mental health patients since the Richmond Report. Institutional care closures, without the establishment of replacement programmes for housing and care, have resulted in mental health services not being adequate to meet the needs of both those who have mental health issues and the community that they live within. This is in spite of the growing concentration of people with mental health issues in Redfern and Waterloo especially in public housing. We understand this is due in part to the higher needs based requirements for public housing under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. This issue has not been high on the RWPP agenda to date.

Successive Governments have avoided tackling the problems of the area. It is a widely held view in the community that a significant opportunity to address the problems of The Block was missed when Dr Andrew Refshauge was the local member, Deputy Premier, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Health. Surely this was a good basis for departmental co-ordination if ever there was one.

Reporting requirements for Human Services take up a lot of NGO time. The Standing Committee should encouraging the government to fast track processes, in consultation with NCOSS, for a reporting framework which minimises duplication of reporting and leaves NGOs more time to spend delivering and developing services.

The Standing Committee needs to recognise the important and unique role of NGOs in the delivery of human services within Redfern and Waterloo. The close involvement of most NGO management committees and staff in the area provides real insights into problems and complexities of the area and ways these can be approached. This results in them having a better ability to target projects and elicit involvement than is possible by many large NGOs and government agencies.

The Standing Committee should recognise that even though no one organisation may be tackling a problem across the whole community, diversity within NGOs enables them to respond to the overall needs of the community more comprehensively than is possible from within a single organisation.

The standing committee needs to recognise that there are many divisions within the Redfern and Waterloo communities, as there are within any community. Seldom when any one person claims to be talking on behalf of the entire community is this so. This especially applies in the Redfern and Waterloo communities. Regional, clan and family associations are important within the Aboriginal community as

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are place of birth, where in the area you live and who you associate within the broader community. To successfully listen to the Redfern and Waterloo communities the Select Committee and the RWPP will need to hear a multitude of voices.

In the same way that NGOs report to their community on their projects and activities, Government departments delivering services in Redfern and Waterloo should report on their projects and activities to the community that they are seeking to service so that these projects can be held accountable to the community in the same way as NGO projects.

When evaluating the effectiveness of Government and Non-Government Service delivery in the area, any comparison of service delivery costs and effectiveness must take into account the costs of the government overheads necessary to perform the service. It must also be recognised that community organisations have overheads to administer their programmes that must be funded.

Any move to greater integration of services in this diverse community must be done without removing the independence or diversity of NGOs. Any integrated service model proposed must recognise the special role of NGOs in service delivery and involve them as equal partners with government.

7. About the Author of the Submission

Attachment I provides some background on Geoffrey and Lyn Turnbull who have prepared this submission.

In short we make this submission to the Inquiry into issues relating to Redfern / Waterloo as:

- long term residents of [REDACTED] Street Redfern
- operators of a business in the area since 1990
- commentators on the activities of the Redfern / Waterloo Partnership Project

The Authors would be happy to answer any questions that the committee may have regarding our submission and / or to appear before the committee should it so desire.

Yours Faithfully

Geoffrey Turnbull & Lyn Turnbull

7th May 2004

Attachment A - The article below appeared in the *South Sydney Herald Nov 2003 Page 8*

THE PARTNERSHIP HAS NO CLOTHES

Remember the story about the Emperor who had no clothes. All his subjects had too much to lose to tell him he was completely naked. After the last couple of RWPP and RED public meetings I have become convinced that the story parallels the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project (RWPP).

The word partnership evokes the idea of at least two bodies working together as equals towards a shared task or objective. The "partnership" of the RWPP however is a partnership of government instrumentalities coming into the Redfern Waterloo area to fix up the problems they collectively believe makes this community less than desirable.

Where does the Redfern Waterloo community stand in this partnership? The RWPP is not, as it claims, working "in partnership with the Redfern and Waterloo communities". In both the RWPP's social policy development and the RED "consultations" the process has been very much from the Government down. There has been no real attempt to find out about how the people who live in the area see the problems or how they think Government and Council can better use their resources to improve the areas. The approach is that Government knows best and that a better coordinated push by Government in planning and social policy will fix Redfern / Waterloo.

There is another way of doing things that gets used effectively in communities around the world which might have produced an actual partnership between the community and Government. It starts with getting people who experience the problems and live in the area to meet in small groups, to identify their problems, to talk about what causes these problems and how the problems and the causes might be fixed.

Governments tend not to like this process because it throws up problems that are caused by their own structures, programmes and bureaucrats and not just the issues the Government see as the problem. Governments like to control the process and to be able to anticipate the outcome.

It is far easier for Government to have a "community consultation" with some of the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) which they fund and to ask them about what is needed in the community than it is to find out from the people themselves. This is how the RWPP has been consulting in Redfern Waterloo on its social agenda. The public meeting of 18 October was the first public meeting in the almost 2 years the RWPP has been operating. It was a report back about what they were doing and not a consultation about what the community wanted.

The RWPP should also be talking to people who are not going to tell the Government Departments what they want to hear, people who can not be bought into line by the fear of future funding cuts. These people often raise the hard questions about the ways the Government's own policy, bureaucracy and lack of social funding are contributing to the problems in the area rather than to solutions. They often throw up issues that are not on the Government or NGO's radar.

Certainly, the RWPP will address some of the community's problems in its top down manner, but many problems will be left un-addressed because RWPP has not set out to find out how those that live in the area see the problems, their causes and the possible solutions. Many well meaning solutions from RWPP are likely to end up seriously flawed due to lack of community input. If the Government had followed a best practice community development model there would have been funding allocated for such grass roots consultations but they didn't.

Instead of a partnership with the community we have meetings in which the government tells the community what it is doing or in the case of RED what its consultants would like to do. Community participation is limited to a Government appointed 20 person Community Council whose role is in part to "ensure the Government is accountable to the community"!! Only six of the twenty people the Government chooses are nominated by the community in the project area.

There is no partnership with the community. Hopefully the Community Council will dare to speak up and point out the emperor's nakedness and push the RWPP to seriously seek the views of local residents and to create a real partnership with the local community.

Geoffrey Turnbull - [REDACTED] Street Redfern

Attachment B - The article below appeared in the South Sydney Herald March 2004 Page 11

LET'S MAKE OURSELVES HEARD ON COMMUNITY ISSUES

The Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project (RWPP) has chosen not to consult the Redfern/Waterloo community before formulating their initial solutions for the area. If the RWPP and its proposals are to truly benefit the community it looks like the local community will have to take the initiative and make the RWPP, the South Sydney City Council and the government departments hear our various voices.

All Government agencies are supposed to be focusing on "fixing" the problems of Redfern / Waterloo, so now is the time to get our local issues on the RWPP and departmental agendas. At the recent RWPP "Community Forum" a number of government representatives reported on what their departments were doing for our community but nothing was said about how they were talking to people in the community to find out how their departments could be doing better.

A RWPP Community Council will bring together twenty people including local MPs to advise the RWPP on the issues and needs of the community. The members of this group will be important contacts for the community and we will need to make sure that they fully consult and reflect our local community concerns.

All these people are supposed to be listening to the community, and addressing the area's issues. So let's ring them, ask them to meetings, play groups, churches or wherever people gather and talk about the problems of the area. Those making the decisions can then meet real local people and find out about their concerns and issues.

If you are not part of an existing group, you can get together with some people facing similar issues and talk about the problems you share. Then make yourselves heard!! This does not have to be done by putting together written submissions - ask some of the relevant politicians, bureaucrats or RWPP staff to come and meet with you where you feel comfortable. Ask them how the RWPP is going to address your specific concerns. Let others know of any problems you find with what the RWPP is doing (say by writing to The South Sydney Herald) and follow up your issues later to make sure they do get addressed by the RWPP.

The Redfern Legal Centre is running a workshop for people wanting to develop such skills in dealing with community planning programmes like RWPP and RED. Assistance can also be gained from many of the local NGOs. Be aware that some NGOs may be in a difficult position if the Government provides their project funding and they may not be able to be publicly active on some "political" issues.

The RWPP needs to reality test what they are doing. So talk to them about what the Department of Housing is and is not doing, how the lack of mental health services effect the community, why there is no funding for the Block to Darin school bus, what should be done by DOS, the Courts, the Police, the Schools, the Planners, the Health Department or whatever your issues are. Encourage the RWPP to listen to the marginalized and not just the middle classes.

Geoffrey Turnbull [REDACTED] Street Redfern

Attachment C – The RWPP Contact List Below was assembled by Geoff Turnbull for Publication in the South Sydney Herald and was circulated to interested agencies and Residents.

WHO TO CONTACTS ABOUT REDFERN WATERLOO ISSUES:

REDFERN WATERLOO PARTNERSHIP PROJECT STAFF

1/44-70 Rosehill Street, Redfern (PO Box 5341 SYDNEY NSW 2001) - Ph 9698 0911

Information on specific projects can be found on www.redfernwaterloo.nsw.gov.au.

There is also a "Tell Us What You Think" page for feedback.

Michael Ramsey - Project Director

Anne Connolly - Senior Project Manager - Human Services Review, Drug & Alcohol Taskforce, Substance Abuse Strategy, Case Coordination Model.

Bettina King - Senior Project Manager - Community Engagement, Aboriginal Family Violence Initiative, Child & Families Taskforce, Pathways to Prevention, Family Initiatives, Community Council, Community Forums.

Denny Hall - Senior Project Manager - RED Strategy, Infrastructure, the Built Environment, Employment & Enterprise development

Melissa D'Agostino - Project Manager - Case Coordination Model, Youth issues, Youth Taskforce, Community Safety Plan

Kim Lord - Assistant Project Officer - Community Council and Community Forum general inquiries

HUMAN SERVICES REVIEW CONSULTANTS

Morgan Disney & Associates

PO Box 3068, Manuka ACT 2603 www.morgandisney.com.au

Helen Disney (Project Director), Elizabeth Morgan, Di Lucas, Penny Becker, Beth Seddon

Ph: 9209 4149(Sydney) or 62327653 (Canberra) email: redfern@morgandisney.com.au

SOME RWPP PARTNERSHIP AGENCY CONTACTS

Some Departmental Representatives would prefer enquires be made through the RWPP staff. The following agency contacts can be contacted directly for areas relating to their role in RWPP.

Ex South Sydney Council - 92885000

Tony Pooley – Ex Mayor

John Maynard - Community Safety Officer (RWPP Community Safety Taskforce) 92885353

Department of Community Services (DOCS)

Anne-Maree Sebellico - Acting Regional Director Metro Central – 9245 1717

Department of Education & Training

Jack Basely - District Superintendent Port Jackson District Office – 9582 5800

Redfern Police

Ask for Duty Inspector on 9690 4600 to discuss any RWPP issue.

NSW Attorney-General's Department

Steven Drew - Acting Director Crime Prevention Division

Marianne Curtis - A/Manager (Policy) (contact for RWPP Pathways to Prevention) 9228 8032

INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO REDFERN / WATERLOO
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Attachment C continued

RWPP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council is appointed by the Premier's Department to represent the community to RWPP. The sector from which each person was appointed and notes on their expertise has been supplied by the RWPP. There is one vacant position as one person has yet to accept the position as an expert Community Council member.

Chair:

Tony Pooley - Ex Mayor South Sydney Council – 9288 5000

Members of Parliament:

Clover Moore MP - Independent State member for Bligh - Office number 9360 3053

Tanya Pliberseck MP - Labor Federal member for Sydney - Office number 9357 6366

Kristina Keneally MP - Labor State member for Heffron - Office number 9314 2339

Other appointed members:

Leanne Fraser - Business - Appetite Cafe - 9699 4069

John Winning - Business - Winning Appliances - 9698 8099

Gary Moore - Human Services - NCOSS - 9211 2599

Mary Perkins - Human Services - Shelter NSW - 9267 5733

Rob Welsh - Aboriginal affairs - Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council - 8394 9666

Michael Mundine - Aboriginal housing/Aboriginal affairs - Aboriginal Housing Company - 93194779

Marcia Ella-Duncan - ATSIC representative/Aboriginal affairs - ATSIC - 9288 6100

Susan Clifton - Education - Our Lady of Mount Carmel School - 9699 1407

George Piggins - Sport - no business contact number available at this stage

Community Representatives:

Gwenda Matthews - general issues with a special interest in urban planning and development

Viktor Virski - special interest around improving the lives of young people in the area and is a member of the Russian community

Ian Davidson - special interest in public housing issues and the welfare of senior citizens in the area

Marlene Newton - interest in the built environment and social issues and has been extensively involved in a number of community groups

Mabel Chang - interest in issues around culturally and linguistically diverse community & specifically the local Chinese community

Karlene Coombes - general issues with special interest in health education & social issues

Community representatives can be contacted via the Redfern/Waterloo Partnership Project Office. Mark all mail to the Community Council and post to: PO Box 5341 SYDNEY NSW 2001 or telephone (02) 9698 0911 and a message will be given to the Community Council member.

INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO REDFERN WATERLOO
By LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL – STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

Committee Secretariat: socialissues@parliament.nsw.gov.au Ph: 9230 3078 Fax: 9230 2981

Chair: Jan Burnswoods MLC

Terms of Reference can be found at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

Closing date for written submissions is 16th April 2004

Interim Report Due by 31 July 2004 and Final Report due by 30 November 2004

Attachment D *The article below appeared in the South Sydney Herald April 2004 Page 12*

A HUMAN SERVICES REVIEW FOR THE RWPP

One early finding of the Human Services Review has been that in two and a half years of working in the area the Premier's Department's Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project (RWPP) has not been able to assemble a list of the human services organizations in Redfern Waterloo.

Even more staggering is that part of the Morgan Disney consultancy is to establish the needs of the people who live in the area. They are sifting through historical reports for the RWPP on the documented problems and will hold focus groups to test their findings. Morgan Disney has less than 6 months to complete a substantial review as their report has to be made to the RWPP before RWPP funding runs out in June.

Identifying such basic information should surely have been the first thing that the RWPP did when they moved into the area. If they did not undertake a proper needs identification process for the area or identify all the agencies operating in the area, one has to ask how did they decide which human services were required and which organizations were funded with some of their \$7.4 million? On what basis were priorities set for selecting the existing services to fund, reorganizing funding for some agencies and totally ignoring other needs and agencies.

Following their earlier dealings with the RWPP many of the non-government agencies in the area are justifiably very suspicious of this current review. This suspicion has been fueled by the RWPP's own web site which describes the review as providing a context for reshaping services and looking at new ways of delivering services. The RWPP's view seems to be that the needs of the area will be better addressed by "redirecting existing resources" as "the capacity to deliver additional resources to community needs are limited".

Agencies over the next few months are now likely to focus on protecting their services and funding from the perceived underlying agenda, rather than openly engaging with the consultants to comprehensively identify community needs and then to look at how these needs can be best serviced by themselves and other agencies. The way the RWPP have gone about this has not been conducive to gaining the cooperation and support of many of the area's agencies.

The question over the RWPP's underlying agenda for the review must not blind us to the opportunities provided by the Morgan Disney review. For the first time in the RWPP process there is an opportunity for people to put their concerns about the lack of services in the area and the way services are delivered. This is especially important because it includes reviewing Federal and State Government agency services in the area. Topics such as local health and employment services are covered by the review and the opportunity this offers should be taken up with Morgan Disney and with the Parliamentary Inquiry into Redfern Waterloo. Now is the time to make sure your issues are on the agenda.

At the public forum conducted by the consultants we met in small groups for the first time at a RWPP consultation. We had the chance to all talk and to listen to others talking about their situation. We had the opportunity to discuss what we wanted to see for the future of Redfern Waterloo.

In my group there was a public housing tenant who talked about the problems they faced. The consultants asked the groups to give their ideas on how they will know things have improved in three years time. Our group decided that if the quality of life for public housing tenants was markedly improved in three years that this would be an excellent indicator that the myriad of problems faced in the area had indeed been addressed by the consultants, the RWPP and the Government.

Geoffrey Turnbull

INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO REDFERN / WATERLOO
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SUBMISSION FROM GEOFFREY AND LYN TURNBULL, [REDACTED] STREET, REDFERN.

Attachment D continued

The following clarification has been received from the Human Services review concerning the non attendance of the RWPP at the community forum referred to in the above article.

From: Helen Disney [helen@morgandisney.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 5 April 2004 9:31 PM
To: geoff-turnbull@stassen.com.au
Subject: South Sydney Herald article

Dear Geoff

I haven't seen your article in the South Sydney Herald but I understand that you have commented on the fact that RWPP were not at the public forum that we convened. I would be happy to discuss this with you if you wish but the fact is I did not specifically ask RWPP to come. This is a sound and important methodological approach for us as the professional group undertaking an independent review.

There are certainly times when it is important for a body such as RWPP to come to consultation meetings facilitated by consultants. However there are also times when it is valuable to meet without the organisation that is paying for/contracting the work so that the consultant can establish their own contact with the people being consulted and so that the focus is not on the contracting body all of the time making it difficult to discuss other aspects of the review.

Our role is to report faithfully the results of the consultation and to do so in the context of the other findings of the review so that the RWPP gets valuable information to inform its work and its advice to government.

It is also important to recognise that RWPP may choose NOT to attend such meetings in order not to compromise the independence of the consultants. There are very important reasons to have dialogue sessions between a body such as RWPP and the community, and we are currently considering if and when to do this in this project.

I would be grateful if you would be prepared to email this response around to your contacts and also if you would clarify this issue in the next edition of the Herald.

We were very grateful to you for publicising the meeting and for the info you have sent us and other support you have given us. We look forward to seeing you at the next one!

Regards
Helen Disney

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Morgan Disney & Associates
Social Policy and Governance Consultants
PO BOX 3068 MANUKA, ACT, 2603
Ph. (02) 6232 7653
Fax (02) 6260 8168
0412 486 556 (Helen)
www.morgandisney.com.au

Attachment E *The article below appeared in the South Sydney Herald March 2004 Page 1*

A SURREAL SUNDAY ON THE WESTERN FRONT OF THE BLOCK

Geoff Turnbull

As a resident of the western end of Lawson Street I was one of the onlookers, along with my wife and two teenagers, of the battle that raged at the eastern end of Lawson Street early on Monday morning on the 16th of February. It raged with such intensity that it even interested the international media. As traffic on Lawson Street is usually heavy many residents took the opportunity to get out into the middle of the street to meet neighbours and discuss events.

As the car burnt at the top of Eveleigh Street, residents stood in the street talking, some drinking beer while others sipped wine. Some watched from the wire fence next to the railway station and one adventurous long-time resident ventured as far as The Aboriginal Housing Company and stuck his head around the corner to view the situation in Eveleigh Street. While some people were scared no one felt they were the target of the anger, which was very definitely aimed at the police and the railway station.

The only time residents retreated from the street was when the police were forced back towards Abercrombie Street as a result of their early move on Eveleigh Street. Only as they were driven back and rocks came down Lawson Street did people disappear. When the police had been driven back to within 30 metres of Abercrombie Street and the youths turned their attention towards the station and police line closest to it, people started to come out again.

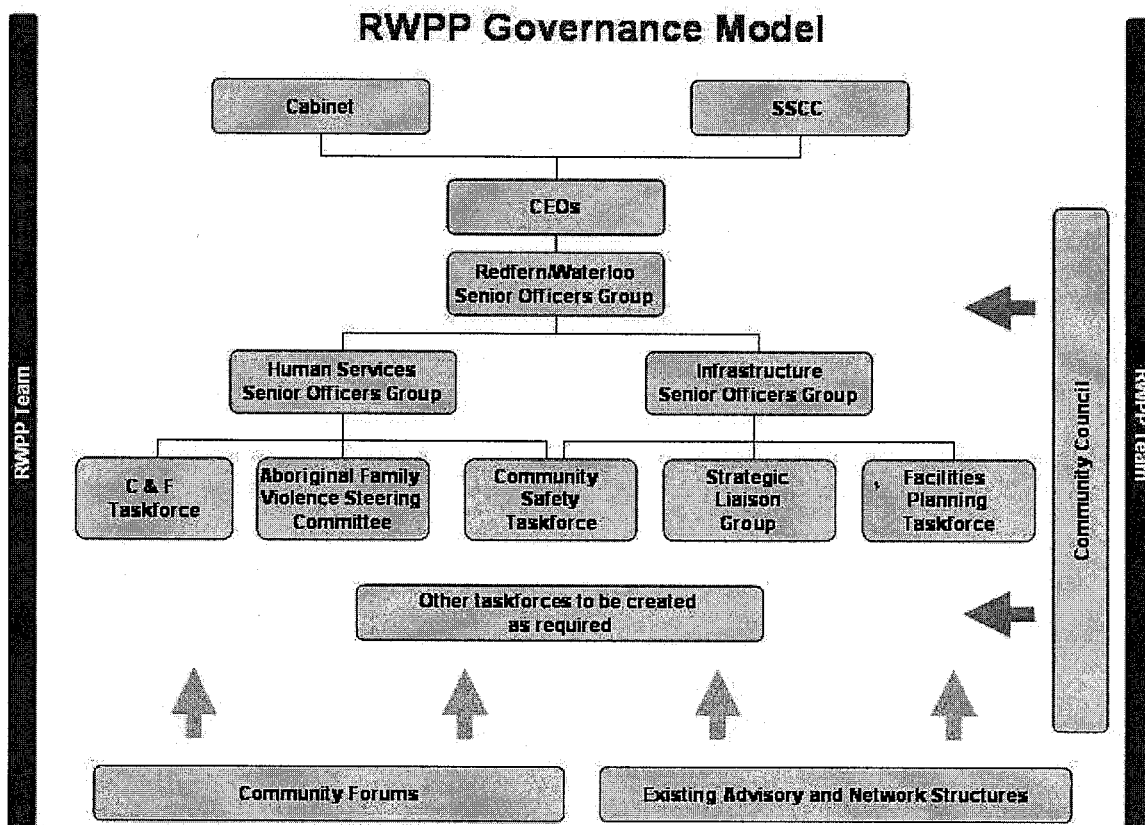
The first residents to emerge were those who wanted to move their cars. The police line opened time after time to make way for residents moving their cars, some of which had picked up dents from bricks in the earlier barrage. Even after this the street started to fill again, this time with two police lines to the west of the spectators.

Residents were divided in their observations. Some wanted the police to move in and teach the youths a lesson; others were happy with the more restrained approach of the police. People who knew Aboriginal people from The Block were concerned for them and hoped that the police did not get the chance to "charge them and watch them shit themselves", as one frustrated officer put it as they were pelted with stones outside our front door.

One German visitor remarked on how much this was like home. This sentiment was also echoed by a few Latin Americans who live in the street. It was really quite surreal between the police lines watching the events of the night unfold.

On the following Wednesday we went around to the concert on The Block. People laughed, drank and joked not unlike in Lawson street on Sunday night. The entertainment, however, was much more to our liking. Hopefully people will find some new impetus from this to tackle Redfern's myriad of challenges and Lawson Street residents can find other reasons to meet each other.

Attachment F – RWPP Governance Model as found on the RWPP Website



GOVERNANCE MODEL – Description from the RWPP Website

The Governance Model provides the structure for a whole-of-Government, whole-of-community approach to the initiatives of the RWPP and provides a mechanism for the community to be involved in developing solutions to the economic, social and infrastructure issues in Redfern and Waterloo. At the same time, the Governance Model provides a mechanism for information to flow from the community to Government and back. All of the RWPP initiatives will follow this Model as it sets out the practical structure for working collaboratively.

Attachment G – The RWPP Community Council Application Form

**Redfern/Waterloo Partnership Project Community Council
Nomination Form**

Please complete this form to nominate yourself or another person for a position on the Redfern/Waterloo Partnership Project's Community Council. Please complete all sections.

1. Full name of nominee:	
2. Contact details of nominee:	Address _____ _____ Telephone _____ Email _____
3. Is the nominee a Government employee?	Yes/No (Employees of Government are not eligible to apply)
4. Is the nominee a member of any other Government boards or committees? Please list.	Yes/No
5. Is the nominee a member of any non-Government board or committees? Please list.	Yes/No
6. Does the nominee identify as belonging to one of these groups? If yes, please tick the appropriate box	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Person with a disability <input type="checkbox"/> Culturally and linguistically diverse community <input type="checkbox"/> Young person (under 25)
7. What is the nominee's main interest or involvement in the Redfern and Waterloo communities?	
Please note:	The period of appointment for all members is 12 months

Signed: _____

Date: .../.../2003

Attachment H – Copy of the text of the RWPP Community Engagement Strategy distributed with Minutes to the 1st December 2003 Community Forum.

Redfern/Waterloo Partnership Project (RWPP)

Community Engagement Strategies

Redfern/Waterloo Community Council - The Community Council provides advice to Government on the range of issues within Redfern and Waterloo and on the proposed Government response to these. Community representatives are from a number of different interest groups.

RWPP Taskforces -RWPP runs a number of Taskforces around specific areas of community interest. These include:

- Drug & Alcohol Taskforce
- Child & Families Taskforce
- Community Safety Taskforce
- Youth Taskforce

Representatives come from non-Government and Government agencies working in the local area and local residents. Other Taskforces will be established as needed.

Community Forums - Community Forums will be held four times per year and provide the opportunity for residents and other community members to have a direct say on what is happening in Redfern and Waterloo. Government will also report back at these Forums on what they have done in the last 3 months.

Public Discussion Workshops - are open to anyone to attend although pre-registration will be required. The discussion workshops are intended to allow for in-depth discussion around a specific topic or area of concern.

Focus Groups -will target specific groups within the community where there is a concern they may not participate in other consultation processes. This is to ensure that these groups have an adequate opportunity to input into areas that RWPP is working on.

Information Sessions and Public Displays - Where appropriate, information sessions will be held to inform the community about specific aspects of particular initiatives. These will only occur as part of a broader consultation process.

Information Collection - Linked to specific initiatives and through surveys, interviews and feedback forms.

Newsletters - RWPP will produce a Newsletter four times per year which will update the community on achievements, ways to become involved in the project and what other agencies are doing in the community in partnership with RWPP

RWPP Website - A website on RWPP has recently been published and includes a variety of information about the initiatives of the Project, including copies of the Newsletters. The website is updated on a regular basis as new information becomes available.

Attachment I – Background to the authors of this submission

BACKGROUND NOTES ON GEOFFREY AND LYN TURNBULL

Geoff has been a resident of Lawson Street Redfern for the last 26 years and Lyn for 23 years. Geoff has run an import / export business in the area for the last 14 years, 11 of which have been in Abercrombie Street opposite Caroline Street. Lyn has worked in the business at various times through out its existence.

Our two teenage children attended local pre-schools and went to Primary School at Darlington PS and Lyn was active on the Darlington P&C. We have been active in various local issues & organizations over the years. Most recently we have been active in working on issues arising from the activities of the Redfern Waterloo Partnership Project (RWPP). This has involved writing articles for the local newspaper, *The South Sydney Herald*, and circulating information through an email list of residents and community workers interested in Redfern Waterloo issues.

Geoff has a BA (Hons) Sociology from UNSW and worked for 10 years in non-government organizations involved with community education on international trade, aid and human development issues. While working for Action for World Development, an ecumenical initiative of the Catholic Bishops and the Australian Council of Churches, Geoff worked with church, union and Aboriginal organizations organizing public forums and educational activities to generate better understandings of Aboriginal issues and support for Aboriginal Land Rights in NSW. During the 1970s Action for World Development had its NSW office in what is now Little Eveleigh Street Redfern and both Geoff and Lyn were involved with AWD in the late 1970's and 1980's.

Geoff has served on the executive committee and sub-committees of both the Australia Council for Overseas Aid and the NSW Co-operatives Federation. He attended a number of international conferences on development issues including as the NGO observer to the Australian Delegation for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1987.

Lyn has a BA from UNSW as well as Dip Eds in both Primary and Early Childhood teaching. Due to problems with epilepsy she currently is not teaching and is employed in our business. She has served on the board of the Settlement Neighborhood Centre and is active in Redfern Residents for Reconciliation.

We are both keen to ensure that the planning processes of RWPP and RED reflect the diverse views of the Redfern Waterloo & Darlington communities, that all stakeholders can feed their, input into the processes so that their interests are reflected in the decisions made about the area and its services.

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