

INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO REDFERN/WATERLOO

Organisation:

Name: Ms Marcia Neilson

Telephone:

Date Received: 23/03/2004

Theme:

Summary



MARCIA NEILSON
COMMUNITY SERVICE SUPERVISOR

The Committee,

1987-1992

20/3/04

Dear Sir

I am writing to give information re "The Block" Redfern.

Ten years ago I worked as a Sessional Supervisor (as above) supervising the Community Service Orders Scheme. This involved weekly visits to The Block at Redfern for five years. I interviewed many persons who were working on Community Service Orders (instead of going to gaol.) I also spent quite a bit of time with the leaders of the Block.

My conclusions are -

* That the country people (aborigines) stay at the block "looking for excitement" with the police and media etc because of the image it has gained for itself. I was told this by the locals, that they are not usually the cause of any problems, it is the outsiders.

* I was actually ^{cornered} ~~cornered~~ by two teenage girls on one visit and I believed I was about to be "bashed up", saving myself by ^{saying} I was visiting an aborigine guy who was working in the boxing gym. I made sure he escorted me to my car after my visit.

I feel strongly that people should be relocated to live elsewhere, if possible and perhaps keep all the good things eg gym etc going. That is keep the residential living to a minimum.

Marcia Neilson.