

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

Organisation: Redfern ALP Committee

Name: Ms Rose Tracey

Telephone:

Date Received: 04/05/2004

Theme:

Summary

Redfern Committee

ALP members supporting Redfern, Darlington & Waterloo Communities



NSW Legislative Council INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO REDFERN/WATERLOO

To: The Hon Jan Burnswood MLC
Chair of the NSW Parliament Social Issues Committee
c/- Social Issues Secretariat
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Burnswoods,

This submission is the work of the ALP's Redfern Committee, a working party created by Bligh Australian Labor Party State Electorate Council to discuss and respond to government policies relating to the Redfern Waterloo area.

It has been provided in bullet point, as a summary of three meetings of terms of reference discussions between ALP members from Redfern and Darlington.

A verbal presentation could also be provided to the Inquiry.

(a) policing strategies and resources in the Redfern/Waterloo areas,

- Concern about new recruits Redfern "tour of duty"- young police officers straight out of Goulburn Police Academy should not necessarily have their first policing experiences in Redfern.
- Street patrols should consist of one new and one experienced local police officer (rather than two new young police officers)
- Rotation of police recruits does not lay down a long term foundation for better relations
- Burn out, particularly among the less experienced (and more experienced) police –
- Need for incentives to ensure long term placement of police officers – local affordable housing strategies should be made available.
- There should be further examination of sentencing procedures for indigenous Australians - tribal law could play increased role, particularly in drug and racial related crimes;

(b) other existing government programs in the Redfern/Waterloo areas, including local, state and federal programs, and

(c) non-government services and service provision in the Redfern/Waterloo areas,

- We believe that there is an absolute wealth of existing local knowledge that, with adequate re-sourcing, would be able to do their jobs more effectively.
- We don't want to see more re-inventing the wheel – we want service providers to be funded so as they are able to service the local community, not waste valuable time, energy and resources on administration and securing future funding.
- Fundamental concern about what is a sporadic short term focus on the provision of community services. Longevity of service is essential.
- Understandable burn out of local service providers – about working hours, appalling pay. Affordable housing strategies must be employed to retain staff who on current pay levels, could barely afford to RENT in the local area, let alone buy.
- Importance of long term community relations of trust between the community and service providers, particularly amongst our indigenous community.
- Need for local public service providers, not just super private charities that can afford to bid for service provision contracts.
- Erosion of trust between Indigenous community and service providers is evident when the services are sporadic or continually modifying services and staff to meet funding arrangements.
- Genuine outrage about the insecurity of tendering processes for service provision and the time and energy that it wastes of service providers

(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.

- Welcome \$7.7 million set up money from NSW Government for the Redfern Waterloo Partnership, particularly the integrated services street teams but are unclear when they are taking effect
- Concerned that this money is yet to be utilised, except for the provision of private PR consultancies.
- Concern about compulsory competitive tendering processes and their effect on LOCAL support services.
- Better and more affordable housing

(e) proposals for the future of the area known as "The Block",

- Understand that the Block is owned by the Aboriginal Housing Corporation but we are concerned about the lack of clarity over who will fund the redevelopment of the Block.
- We believe that the Federal Government must provide their share of the needed funds to redevelop the Block.
- Demolition of housing stock is apparent but concern over the delay in building new housing stock on the Block.
- Urgent need for housing stock to be built.
- Acknowledge the new residents community centre and would encourage the new Sydney City Council to ensure that its given maximum resources.

(f) any other matters arising from these terms of reference.

REDFERN SCHOOL

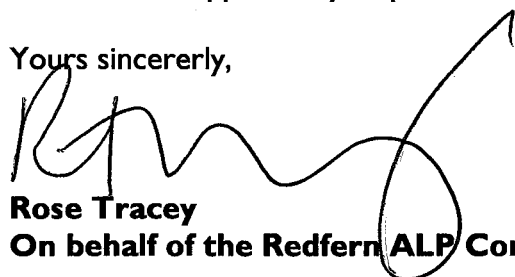
- NSW ALP Policy (as amended at the 2003 NSW Conference), Redfern ALP Branch, Darlington ALP Branch and Bligh ALP SEC all have unanimously resolved that Redfern Public School must remain in public hands. We believe that in the long term, the school must reopen if we are to ensure that local kids have the best schooling opportunities.

DRUGS POLICY

- With over 480 syringes cleared DAILY from public amenities JUST ON the Block, there should be further dialogue about a Safe Injecting Room.
- Concern that there is no Aboriginal-specific drug treatment centre.
- Drug law reform - health issue, not a criminal issue. 75% of crime in the inner city is related to drugs.

Should you wish to discuss our submission, please feel free to call Trevor Davies (0417 347 501) or myself (0417 655 636). Trevor and a small delegation would welcome the opportunity to provide the committee with a verbal presentation.

Yours sincerely,



Rose Tracey

On behalf of the Redfern ALP Committee

ps. please send any correspondence
c/- 29 George St,
Redfern NSW 2016.