

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

This chapter examines the responses of a range of other departments to youth violence. The Committee recognises that an integrated approach to dealing with violence in the community is required.

The Department of Community Services, through its responsibilities for young people in care, supported accommodation assistance, and responding to child abuse, has particular importance in this regard. Services funded under the Community Services Grants Program and Area Assistance Scheme are also relevant to violence prevention. The policies of a number of other agencies are also considered, including the Departments of Transport, Housing and Health. The Committee also considers the issue of government responsibility for Youth Affairs, and the role of inter-agency collaboration through initiatives such as the Community Youth Support Taskforce and subsequent developments in Moree, Walgett and Marrickville. The role of community education is also examined.

13.1 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Committee is aware that many offenders have a history of contact with the welfare system. Services provided to young people in care, who are in supported accommodation or who have experienced various forms of abuse are therefore relevant to the violence prevention.

13.1.1 Young People in Care

The Committee was informed that 5,676 children are in the care of the Department of Community Services, 2,433 of whom are state wards (Shier Evidence, 29.08.94).

The Committee heard that the Department of Community Services has adopted a number of strategies to support young people expressing acting-out or violent behaviour. These include the provision of one-to-one staffing for difficult children according to their needs, specialised counselling, and obtaining the advice of experts in assessment. There are also individual service models and individual case plans for children (Shier Evidence, 29.08.94).

■ Ormond and Minali

The Committee heard of a strategy for the redevelopment of Ormond and Minali to provide a focus on individual case plans for residents. Three types of placement programs will exist in Ormond and Minali: emergency care, assessment care and a therapeutic program.

Emergency care caters for young people who need accommodation for a short period of time. Assessment care caters for young people in need of a stable environment for assessment by teachers, health workers, doctors, psychologists and social workers. Placement options are considered and an individual case plan formulated over a period of approximately six weeks.

The therapeutic program caters for young people who require intervention management over a longer period of three or four months. These young people are assisted in gaining self-control over their impulses and an insight into their behaviour (Goh Evidence, 29.08.94).

The Committee was advised Ormond and Minali will be more directly linked. Minali will offer services for younger children who are less street-wise and sophisticated and who may have a mild intellectual disability. The Ormond program will be offered to children who are more street-wise and may have a drug and alcohol dependency or be prone to suicidal behaviour. Ormond will have a close link with the Health Department's adolescent psychiatric services.

The redevelopments at Minali and Ormond enhance the new substitute care services that are being established. Information will be collected to develop area plans and identify the young people that require intensive therapeutic involvement because of their behaviour (Shier Evidence, 29.08.94).

The Committee considers it vital that programs at Ormond and Minali addressing the needs of young people with acting-out or violent behaviour are maintained.

RECOMMENDATION 167

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.

■ Substitute Care Reforms

Under the substitute care reforms there will be 16 new residential services, providing 96 beds. The first five successful tenderers to provide the new services are Barnardo's Australia (Illawarra); Centacare (South West Sydney); Burnside (Macarthur); Baptist Community Services (Cumberland/Prospect) and St Saviour's Neighbourhood Centre (Southern Highlands) (Minister for Community Services, 1994).

The Committee heard from Departmental representatives that the reforms will enhance the provision of appropriate care and support by providing more personalised programs tailored to meeting the children's needs in their local area. The small numbers in residential units will ensure trained staff focus on the individual needs of the children, anticipating problems as they arise and preventing them from escalating to the same extent as can occur in large congregate care arrangements (Shier Evidence, 29.08.94).

The substitute care services required in each of the Department's twenty areas are being identified through a process of community consultation. Individual case audits of each young person currently in the Department's care are being carried out to identify how future services should cater for individual needs. The Committee believes this process should be closely monitored to ensure all needs are met by future services under the substitute care reforms, and an evaluation should take place after three years.

One witness was critical of what he believed to be the "flawed" concept of the Usher report which suggests that non-government institutional care is better than government institutional care. The Committee was informed that in the U.S. and England a number of institutions were bought back by the Government after a number of years when it was found a core of young people were not being taken on by the non-government welfare sector (Bowie Evidence, 08.11.93).

RECOMMENDATION 168

That the Minister for Community Services

- **monitor the audits conducted by the Department of Community Services to ensure that the needs of each young person currently in the Department's care will be met by future services under the substitute care reforms; and**
- **evaluate the effectiveness of the reforms after three years to ensure these needs are being met.**

13.1.2 Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) provides assistance for families, single men or women, and adolescents who are homeless. It has been estimated from a range of data, including numbers in a SAAP service or refuge on census night in 1991, that there are between 15,000 and 19,000 homeless young people in Australia each year (MacKenzie and Chamberlain, 1992). In 1992-93, 175 services offered support for young people under the SAAP program. These services provide accommodation, information, referral, assessment and outreach, with a primary focus on preventative activities.

The Committee is concerned that there be a continuum of service for young people in supported accommodation, recognising that the primary needs of these young people include long-term secure accommodation, reintegration into the education system and drug and alcohol counselling.

A number of witnesses expressed concern regarding the shortage of crisis accommodation leading to children under 16 years of age being placed in refuges designed for older youths:

A number of students in residential care have adult supervision once every few days. Because of this lack of support there will be difficulties in the future. I know that the answer to that is institutionalised care. I do not care much for that, but I do not believe sufficient services are being made available for students in residential care (In camera evidence).

The Committee heard that children under 16 years may be placed in refuges or other supported accommodation services as part of a case management plan, for example, as a short-term solution to crisis, or in cases where a child presents at a refuge and remains there under

supervision after assessment while appropriate support is negotiated (Shier Evidence, 29.08.94).

National and NSW reviews of SAAP were carried out in 1993. Both reviews recognised that accommodation is one of the range of supports that homeless young people require. Other key initiatives being considered include brokerage services, detached workers and multipurpose services with a strong emphasis on case management (Shier Evidence, 29.08.94). The new Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) agreement negotiated between the Commonwealth and the States does provide for the placement of younger children.

The Committee believes appropriately supervised facilities should be available for children under 16 years under the SAAP program. The Committee also recognises children may accompany a parent or parents, including mothers escaping domestic violence, in entering crisis accommodation services, and believes the needs of these children should be considered in such services.

One submission to the Committee suggested that continued funding was not secure for the NSW Government to match federal funding for growth in the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (Submission 19). The Committee believes it vital that funding is maintained at a level which ensures the short, medium and long term needs of young people are met in these facilities.

RECOMMENDATION 169

That the Minister for Community Services ensure the NSW Government's funding commitment to SAAP is maintained at a level enabling the program to meet the needs of young people through support services which

- **provide appropriately supervised accommodation for unaccompanied children under 16 years;**
- **assist children under 16 years accompanying their parents in other crisis accommodation facilities; and**
- **address the long term needs of all groups of young people.**

13.1.3 Response to Child Abuse

As discussed in Chapter Four, the experience of child abuse has been linked to later aggressive behaviour. Several witnesses were critical of the Department of Community Services' response to child abuse. One witness stated there had been staff cuts in the Department so that

the ability of [Departmental] staff to follow through on cases of child sexual assault and other more primary prevention areas is made increasingly difficult (Bowie Evidence 08.11.93).

The Committee was also informed that, while the Department of Community Services formerly had District Officers who became part of a local support network of welfare workers, the Department now has teams of officers, which do not foster the development of collegiate support networks (In camera Evidence).

In response to the assertion that staff numbers have been cut, a Departmental officer advised the Committee the Department had increased district Officer numbers and introduced child protection specialists in each Departmental Area Office (Sinclair, 1994). In addition, the Minister for Community Services has indicated that 60 specialist child protection positions will be created within the Department by the end of 1996 (Mathieson, 1995).

The Committee also heard from a youth worker that over the last few years the Department of Community Services has increasingly specialised in child sexual assault and the Department's response to child physical abuse is lacking. The youth worker had made a notification to the Department about a young person whose father was beating him. The Department allegedly said they were not able to do anything and returned the young person to his home. The father was later alleged to have been sticking pins into his child's leg as punishment

and I still could not get the Department to do anything because it was not sexual assault and was not a priority (Brown Evidence, 25.10.93).

Another witness informed the Committee that the Department will not act on reports of children at risk unless bruising is evident (Winter Evidence, 08.11.93).

The Committee was subsequently advised that two key factors are considered in assessing the urgency of allegations of child abuse:

- the current circumstances of the case, and perceived level of risk to the child; and
- the known history of the case (Sinclair, 1994).

Departmental data, shown in Table Ten below, relating to children with confirmed abuse and neglect in 1993-94 indicate the percentage of sexual abuse decreased whereas the confirmation rate of physical abuse increased:

TABLE TEN

Children with Confirmed Abuse and Neglect, 1992-3 and 1993-4

Abuse Type	1992-93	1993-94	% Increase in 1993-94
Emotional	3571	3969	11.1
Physical	2905	3222	11.0
Neglect	2234	2430	8.8
Sexual	3584	3019	-15.8
Total Abuse	12,300*	12,634**	20.6

* There were 6 cases where abuse type was missing/unknown.

** There were 3 cases where abuse type was missing/unknown.

Source: Department of Community Services.

The Committee remains concerned, however, that the perception among some welfare workers is that allegations of physical abuse are not receiving adequate attention, and believes the Department's responsiveness to these allegations should be reviewed.

RECOMMENDATION 170

That the Minister for Community Services undertake a review of the Department's responsiveness, and adequacy of staff to respond, to notification of child physical abuse and ensure immediate action is taken to guarantee the safety of the child by

- **prompt investigation; and, where desirable**
- **removal of the child.**

13.1.4 Community Services Grants Program

A range of government and non-government community support services are provided through the Community Services Grants' Program which provides support for young people, older people and families and adolescents under stress or in crisis.

Several witnesses highlighted the importance of the program in funding projects that can directly impact on levels of youth violence. The Committee heard, for example, that the Barnardo's street work team in Marrickville, funded through the Program, was instrumental in

addressing the potential escalation of violence following a fight at a local school involving a knife and two young people of different ethnic backgrounds. While the dispute was not racially based, the school realised the importance of containing the matter and held an assembly to explain the matter to students. The youth work team was then able to go out on to the streets and contact other young people to prevent an escalation of violence:

That could have erupted into another quite nasty incident between members of those communities, but the work of that team I think went a long way to diffusing that situation (Pisarski Evidence, 29.07.94).

A number of street work programs operate in the metropolitan area. The Committee heard that street-workers can teach young people more productive ways of dealing with arguments than resorting to violence (Malak Evidence, 01.11.93). The Committee also believes other services receiving Community Services Grants provide essential support for young people. Such services include Family Support Services, Neighbourhood Centres, Parent Support Centres and Children's Services Centres.

The Committee believes it vital youth programs that can contribute to crime prevention continue to be funded under the Community Services Grants Program.

13.1.5 Interagency Involvement

The Committee heard that the Department of Community Services has been developing protocols between key Government departments such as the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the federal Departments of Social Security and Employment, Education and Training for services to homeless young people aged under 18 years (Shier Evidence, 29.08.94). The Committee supports this approach.

The NSW Child Protection Council (1991) released interagency guidelines for Child Protection in 1991, and a resource kit, *Working Together to Protect Children*, has recently been launched to ensure a co-ordinated approach by all departments and agencies in the investigation of child abuse (Department of Community Services, 1994).

The Joint Investigations Team (JIT) Pilot Child Protection Project was launched at the end of 1994 as a twelve month trial in Bankstown and Wyong. Police and Department of Community Services officers are co-operating in interviewing child victims of abuse to make the process less traumatic for them. An independent review is planned for the pilot project when it is completed.

The Committee believes the Police Service should ensure officers are appropriately trained to interview child victims without contaminating their evidence. The feasibility of establishing a specialist unit to ensure children are appropriately dealt with and response times are improved should be examined.

RECOMMENDATION 171

That the Minister for Police examine the feasibility of establishing a specialist unit to be responsible for investigating child abuse cases.

13.2 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

The Committee is aware that the community is concerned regarding safety on public transport. At one high school in Sydney's western suburbs prefects and head teachers have patrolled railway stations to ensure violent brawls between students do not occur on the way to and from school. Senior students introduced the anti-violence strategy in response to fights being planned at school but carried out before and after school at railway stations and bus stops, often involving groups from other schools (Davey, 1994).

In a submission to the Committee from a security officer, it was suggested that the violence allegedly observed between school children on public transport is a new phenomenon. The submission called for liaison between the Ministers for Police and Transport in relation to implementing appropriate safety measures. The submission also recommended patrols on trains, platforms and outside station areas during peak times and the introduction of uniformed officers on buses (Submission 6).

A number of strategies have been introduced in an attempt to minimise violence and crime on trains and stations.

The State Rail Nightsafe scheme was introduced in November 1993. It has seen all but the last two carriages locked and a rail guard riding with the passengers on trains leaving the city after 9 pm. Nightsafe has now been extended to include all incoming trains arriving after this time. The introduction of help point alarms and closed circuit television cameras at stations has also improved passenger safety. In addition to the existing force of 220 transit police, the 800 Sydney beat police were instructed in 1994 to increase patrols of trains and stations (Morris, 1994). The Nightride bus service was introduced in 1989 to maximise the safety of late night passengers. The service utilises buses rather than suburban trains which do not operate from midnight to dawn (approximately 5 am). The buses have an on-board booking facility to arrange for taxis to meet the bus and provision for the bus driver to call the police if required.

In addressing a crime prevention Conference in Brisbane, Professor Marcus Felson of the University of Southern California contended that the NSW rail system has a number of important features which improve passenger safety. Indicator boards display the number of carriages so that passengers know where to wait for the train; the double-deck carriages mean that smaller platforms are required, concentrating the number of people waiting for the train, and the two rows of windows improve passenger observation. Stations have wide entrances, with shops which encourage public use (Felson, 1994).

Safety on buses has also recently received attention. The Minister for Transport indicated that a Code of Sanctions outlining five categories of misbehaviour by school children on school buses - ranging from nuisance to life-threatening misconduct - would be introduced. The Code will give children and parents clear guidelines on conduct and punishment.

The proposal was contained in a report of an Inquiry into the Behaviour of School Students on Buses. Under the new Code of Sanctions, misconduct will result in the cancellation of bus passes for varying periods, with a permanent ban for serious offences. Police action will be taken against children who behave dangerously or destructively, and cautions or counselling have been recommended for less harmful behaviour (Minister for Transport, 1995).

The Committee believes that crime prevention strategies should continue to be considered in the provision of transport services.

While offence data used by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics do not provide any reliable information on the identity of the assault offenders, the *Crime on the Rail System* report notes that the NSW Transit Police have attributed a large proportion of assaults on the rail system to youths (Jochelson, 1994:26). A significant proportion of assaults were found to be alcohol-related, most commonly late at night or in the early morning. The report suggests this presents a policy dilemma in that while the public are encouraged to use public transport rather than drink and drive, the congregation and interaction of people under the influence of alcohol may increase the incidence of assault and other crimes (Jochelson, 1994:26).

The Committee believes, however, initiatives which increase the use of public transport are also valuable in reducing crime. Young people should be encouraged to utilise public transport to increase their access to venues providing recreation and leisure options, and reduce the risk of drink-driving and road accidents. The Committee believes pricing policies should continue to encourage young people to use public transport.

RECOMMENDATION 172

That the Minister for Transport continue to ensure

- **crime prevention strategies are considered in the provision of transport services; and**
- **pricing policies encourage young people to use public transport.**

13.3 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Briefing papers supplied to the Committee from the NSW Police Service suggest large high-rise style housing developments concentrating thousands of residents from low socio-economic groups appear to encourage violence and crime and may lead young people to form gangs for peer approval and individual survival.

The Committee believes the Minister for Housing should continue to pursue a policy of integrating public housing into the broader community. The Committee believes it essential that access to adequate indoor and outdoor facilities is provided for young people in housing estates, and families with young people are housed in areas with adequate facilities for young people. The Committee believes these considerations must be given prominence in the

planning of any new public housing developments. This concern is also reflected in the Committee's key recommendation regarding the review of state planning provisions (Recommendation 29).

The submission from the Wollongong Youth Refuge Association Incorporation recommends increasing stock and access to public and community housing for youth and families (Submission 19). The Committee believes strategies for increasing the access of young people to public housing should be examined, and increased funding should be allocated from the housing budget specifically for the purpose of housing young people, such as for the development of special purpose-built housing for single unsupported young people. The Committee is aware of past developments in the style of boarding houses with shared facilities which may be suitable for this purpose.

RECOMMENDATION 173

That the Minister for Housing pursue a policy of integrating public housing into the broader community, both in new and existing housing developments.

RECOMMENDATION 174

That the Minister for Housing ensure consideration is given to

- **providing access to adequate indoor and outdoor facilities for young people in housing estates; and**
- **housing families with young people in areas with adequate facilities for young people.**

RECOMMENDATION 175

That the Minister for Housing examine strategies for increasing the access of young people to public housing, including special purpose-built housing for single unsupported young people.

13.4 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The need for counselling services for young people was stressed by a number of witnesses appearing before the Committee. The Committee was informed that requests for counselling at Community Health Centres have resulted in long waiting lists (Condonis Evidence, 29.08.94).

The Committee heard that few health and counselling resources are available to young people in the 18 to 24 year age group who may be perpetrators of violence:

If they have a drug and alcohol problem they will go to a drug and alcohol centre for that. They will not necessarily be seen for the violence. They could go to Relationships Australia if they could pay. Most of these young people cannot pay. Centacare offers some services, but they are minimal and tend to focus on the under sixteens, as most adolescent services do (Condonis Evidence, 29.08.94).

The Committee believes the availability of counselling at Community Health Centres for young people aged 18 to 24 years should be reviewed, particularly for the perpetrators of violence.

The Wollongong Youth Refuge Association Incorporation claimed the NSW Health Department provides inadequate resources for sexual assault, drug and alcohol, mental illness and crisis and long term support services, and recommends increased resources to the community sector for these purposes (Submission 19). The Committee believes adequate funding levels should be provided for these services.

RECOMMENDATION 176

That the Minister for Health review the availability of counselling at Community Health Centres for young people aged 18 to 24 years, particularly the perpetrators of violence.

RECOMMENDATION 177

That the Minister for Health ensure adequate funding levels are provided for sexual assault, drug and alcohol, mental illness and crisis and long term support services for young people.

13.5 AREA ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Area Assistance Scheme commenced in 1979 with the funding of the Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme. The program was extended in 1985 to include the Hunter, Central Coast, Illawarra and Macarthur regions, with the North Coast included in 1990. The Area Assistance Scheme aims to redress inequalities in the distribution of human services in areas experiencing rapid population growth, high unemployment or isolation by regional committees advising the Minister on the allocation of funds to community groups. An amount of \$6.96 million was allocated for 1994-5.

The Area Assistance Scheme has been evaluated as a successful and valuable scheme for providing the community with new services, needs identification and growth in the community sector.

An initial period of funding is provided to projects by the Department of Planning, with other departments such as the Department of Community Services encouraged to fund the projects

on a recurrent basis with pick-up funding provided by Treasury. The time for which pick-up funding is available is limited, requiring Departments to fund projects from their own budget or terminate funding. The Committee was informed that many Departments are now reluctant to sponsor new projects under the Area Assistance Scheme because they will be left with the unpopular responsibility of de-funding the projects (Submission 19). The Committee believes this limitation on the availability of pick-up funding for Departments sponsoring projects under the Area Assistance Scheme should be reviewed.

The Wollongong Youth Refuge Association Incorporation has contended that the Area Assistance Scheme is one of the few schemes where services aimed at young people, violence prevention and education could be developed. They recommended that the Scheme be expanded to ensure ongoing funding for projects identified as providing effective service delivery (Submission 19).

RECOMMENDATION 178

That the Treasurer review the limitation on the availability of pick-up funding for Departments sponsoring projects under the Area Assistance Scheme.

13.6 YOUTH AFFAIRS

The Office of Youth Affairs was disbanded after the March 1995 elections. Its policy and programs responsibilities were split between the Youth Branch of the Cabinet Office (policy) and the Youth Program Unit of the Department of Training and Education Coordination (programs). Ministerial responsibility for youth affairs now lies with the Premier with the Minister for Education and Training also taking on responsibilities as Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth Affairs. The administration of the Youth Advisory Council Act has been transferred from the Minister for Education to the Premier.

The Committee considers the closure of the Office of Youth Affairs to be a very retrograde step. Not only are members concerned with the messages the closure sends to the youth of the state, but they are not satisfied the new arrangement, that splits the coordination of policy and programs, will be appropriate. The Committee therefore calls for the re-establishment of the Office of Youth Affairs with an emphasis on fostering community involvement and empowerment of young people.

RECOMMENDATION 179

That the Premier re-establish the Office of Youth Affairs as a matter of urgency and ensure it is sufficiently resourced to meet its objectives fully.

13.7 INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

13.7.1 Community Youth Support Taskforce

During the course of the Inquiry, the Committee heard evidence from the Chairperson of the Community Youth Development Taskforce and the Co-ordinators appointed in Moree, Walgett and Marrickville.

The Community Youth Support Taskforce was established by the Premier in 1993 in response to concern over young people engaging in unsupervised activities late at night in a number of communities. The Premier had received depositions on this issue from the towns of Moree, Walgett and Bourke. The Taskforce determined to develop strategies for application in both rural and urban areas, and selected Moree, Walgett and Marrickville as pilot areas for detailed investigation and the exploration of appropriate initiatives (NSW Social Policy Directorate, 1993:2).

While there was significant public concern over youth lawlessness, the Committee was informed that only two incidents of bashings had come to the attention of the Taskforce (Schwager Evidence, 29.07.94).

The Taskforce recommended the establishment of Community Youth Co-ordinating Committees as a two year pilot initiative in the three communities to identify and develop a community plan of action. The plan aims at motivating young people, involving them in the community, identifying core perpetrators and working together with those young people and their families to encourage behavioural change (Schwager Evidence, 29.07.94).

Area co-ordinators have been appointed to develop the co-ordination and resource sharing for an agreed program of action for young people. Regional Project Support Groups comprising regional directors of Departments have also been created to respond to the priorities of the Co-ordinating Committees.

The Committee was informed this approach inverts the traditional model by which government services are delivered, with Chief Executive Officers at the top, a middle layer of regional directors and a range of departments delivering core services to the community. It was suggested the traditional approach is inappropriate in areas with a small population base and results in wastage (Schwager Evidence, 29.07.94).

One witness questioned whether the appointment of full-time co-ordinators is the best use of resources to address youth services. While recognising the need for increased co-ordination, he suggested the appointment of part time co-ordinators with funds allocated to activities and programs would be preferable (Acheson Evidence, 01.11.93).

A Monitoring Group comprised of Taskforce representatives of a number of government departments is monitoring the implementation of Taskforce recommendations and reporting to the Premier.

The Committee was informed, by the local co-ordinators, of a number of initiatives that have involved government agencies, both at Commonwealth and State levels, responding to

community pressure by working together to meet common goals. The Nardoola project, for example, involves a property outside Moree owned by the local Aboriginal land council and not being utilised. At a public meeting on youth violence in 1993, a suggestion was put forward that the property could be utilised for a project involving young offenders. The Department of Juvenile Justice is to contribute to the establishment costs, with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission contributing to the development and construction of housing and facilities.

The Department of Housing and TAFE have been working together under an agreement for Aboriginal housing programs, and TAFE students will be involved in construction. The federal Department of Employment, Education and Training will be involved in landscaping and will work with TAFE to develop courses for residents. A management committee will be formed which will include Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal, government and non-government representatives (Green Evidence, 29.07.94).

The Committee believes that NSW Government agencies should support the Community Youth Support initiatives in Moree, Walgett and Marrickville as models for interagency co-operation. The Committee also believes that, dependent on the evaluation of the operation of the initiatives, they should be extended to other areas of the state.

The Committee recognises that an integrated approach to dealing with violence in the community is essential.

RECOMMENDATION 180

That NSW Government agencies support the Community Youth Support initiatives in Moree, Walgett and Marrickville as models for interagency co-operation and, dependent on the evaluation of the operation of the initiatives, they be extended to other areas of the state.

13.8 COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Peter West, a senior lecturer in education at the University of Western Sydney, has suggested that a series of programs is required to model appropriate behaviour for boys, including a campaign similar to "Real Men Don't Bash or Rape Women", using popular, identifiable men. In his opinion, boys need to be encouraged to reduce risk-taking behaviour and to express emotions (West, 1994:9).

Community education to combat violence against homosexuals and lesbians has also been supported in evidence to the Committee. The submission from the Gay Services Committee of the University of New South Wales Student Guild recommends a state-wide advertising campaign on the value of diversity in our society (Submission 40). A campaign of this nature could also be directed at protecting other minority groups.

The Committee believes it would be appropriate for the new Juvenile Crime Prevention Unit in the Attorney General's Department to implement public education campaigns of this nature. Such campaigns should target boys and young men and encourage non-violent conflict resolution and non-sexist and non-violent relationships. Such campaigns should also condemn violence against minority groups.

RECOMMENDATION 181

That the Attorney General ensure the responsibilities of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Unit include the development of public education campaigns targeting boys and young men and

- **encouraging non-violent conflict resolution;**
- **encouraging non-sexist and non-violent relationships; and**
- **condemning violence against minority groups.**

13.9 CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS

- The Committee is aware that many offenders have a history of contact with the welfare system. Services provided by the **Department of Community Services** to young people in care, who are in supported accommodation or who have experienced various forms of abuse are therefore relevant to the violence prevention. Programs at Ormond and Minali addressing the needs of young people with acting-out or violent behaviour must be maintained. Case audits should be closely monitored to ensure all needs are met by future services under the substitute care reforms, and an evaluation should take place after three years. There must be a continuum of services for young people in supported accommodation, recognising that the primary needs of these young people include long-term secure accommodation, reintegration into the education system and drug and alcohol counselling. The needs of young people under sixteen, either accompanying their parents or entering supported accommodation alone, must be met.
- The Department of Community Services' responsiveness to allegations of physical **abuse** should be reviewed. The feasibility of establishing a specialist unit in the Police Service to ensure abused children are appropriately dealt with and response times are improved should be examined.
- Crime prevention strategies should continue to be considered in the provision of **transport services**. Pricing policies should continue to encourage young people to use public transport to increase their access to venues providing recreation and leisure options, and reduce the risk of drink-driving and road accidents.

- **Public housing** should be integrated into the broader community. Access to adequate indoor and outdoor facilities must be provided for young people in housing estates, and families with young people housed in areas with adequate facilities for young people. Strategies for increasing the access of young people to public housing, such as special purpose-built housing for single unsupported young people, should be examined.
- The availability of **counselling** at Community Health Centres for young people aged 18 to 24 years should be reviewed, particularly for the perpetrators of violence.
- The limitation on the availability of pick-up funding for Departments sponsoring projects under the **Area Assistance Scheme** should be reviewed.
- The closure of the **Office of Youth Affairs** has been a retrograde step, and it should be re-established as a matter of urgency and sufficiently resourced to meet its objectives of providing a voice for and empowering young people in the community.
- An integrated approach to dealing with violence in the community is essential. The Community Youth Support initiatives in Moree, Walgett and Marrickville should be supported as models for **interagency co-operation**. Dependent on the evaluation of the operation of the initiatives, they should be extended to other areas of the state.
- The new Juvenile Crime Prevention Unit in the Attorney General's Department should implement **public education campaigns** targeting boys and young men and encouraging non-violent conflict resolution and non-sexist and non-violent relationships. Such campaigns should also condemn violence against minority groups.

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APPENDIX ONE
SUBMISSIONS

- **Anscombe, Mr W** School of Humanities and Social Science, Charles Sturt University

 - **Backhouse, Ms GM**
 - **Bahari, Ms M** Youth Services Development Officer, Youth Action & Policy Association - Western Sydney Project
 - **Barbeler, Ms V** Australian Lesbian Youth Coalition
 - **Baxter, Mr D** Executive Director, AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc (ACON)
 - **Bertagnolli, Fr F** Director, Boys' Town
 - **Bowie, Mr V** Lecturer, Department of Youth Work and Justice Studies, University of Western Sydney - Macarthur
 - **Bowles, Mr B R** Vice Chairman, Western Suburbs Division, Real Estate Institute of NSW

 - **Byrnes, Ms J**

 - **Campey, Mr B G** Careers Adviser, Alstonville High School
 - **Carpenter, Mr K** District Guidance Officer, Oatlands Learning Difficulties Centre
 - **Clay, Ms N** Co-ordinator, Wollongong Youth Refuge Association Incorporation
 - **Cunningham, Ms M** Director, Rosemount Youth and Family Services Inc.
 - **Cureton, Mr W H** Regional President, Southern Metropolitan Region, The Registered Clubs Association of New South Wales

 - **Denborough, Mr D** Men Against Sexual Assault (MASA)

 - **Eros Foundation**

 - **Fairlie, Mr D** President, The Law Society of New South Wales
 - **Falk, Mr B** Publisher, *District News*
 - **Finnie, Mr J H** Christian Science Committee on Publication for New South Wales

 - **Gartland, Mrs G**
 - **Goldsmith, Mr J**
 - **Goth, Mrs R** Deputy Chairperson, Prison Fellowship New South Wales
 - **Grant, Mr B** Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project
 - **Grant, Mr G** Picton High School
 - **Griffin, Ms J**
 - **Grunsell, Ms L** Secretary, School Psychologists Australia (Inc)

 - **Hampton, Mr A**
 - **Hancock, Mr G**
 - **Handley, Mr R** South Coast Wilderness Enhanced Program, NSW Department of School Education
 - **Hatswell, Ms J** Training and Development Officer, Australian Guidance and Counselling Association
-

- **Hickman, Sergeant P J** NSW Police Service
- **Hodges, Mr W M**
- **Hua, Mr M** Gay Services Committee, University of New South Wales
Student Guild
- **Huntley, Ms S** Social Worker
- **Hunter Regional Student Representative Council**

Lachlan Cornford
Krystal Evans
Jane Goldman
Belinda Gould
Bernard Gresser
Jaynie Slee
- **Hurstville Boys' High School**
- **Jablonka, Mr J** Street Worker, Wentworthville Youth Service
- **Jenkin, Ms J B** Lecturer - Special Education, School of Education & Language Studies, University of Western Sydney - Macarthur
- **Le, Hien** Vietnamese Youth Policy Development Officer, Vietnamese Australian Welfare Association (VAWA)
- **Lovett, Mr K** Lesbian and Gay Solidarity
- **Ludbrook, Mr R** Director, National Children's & Youth Law Centre
- **Macquarie Fields High School**

Brant Appleyard
Anthony Barthelmess
Terille Bourke
Susie Chua
Luke Rodoreda
Natalie Short
Anna Vukojevic
Natasha Williams
Janine, Joanne, Jodie, Kimberly, Marissa, Rebecca, and Students from Years 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12
- **Marist High School Kogarah, Year 9**

Anthony Barbuto
Steven Botterill
Justin Brown
Pino Diloris
Neil Gillett
Brad Hales
Joshua Hasham
Gavin Jennings
Neil Gillett
Paul Leahy

Mark Kohoury
Shane Kouros
Mark Melek
Marc Napoli
Michael Ongkowidjaya
Michael Sanchez
Peter Taouk
Fabiano Truglio
Chris Ward

- **MacKnight, Mr I B**
- **Malak, Ms M** Youth Pilot Project, South West Region, Department of Social Security
- **McNair, Mrs S**
- **McPhillamy, Ms P**
- **McRay, Mr P**
- **Michel, Mrs M** Correspondence Secretary, Quota Club of Bathurst Inc
- **New South Wales Youth Advisory Council**
- **Nguyen, Mr C** Street Worker, Bankstown Multicultural Youth Services
- **O'Brien, Mr R**
- **O'Grady, The Hon P** Member of the Legislative Council
- **Paul, Mrs J**
- **Phan, Ms C** Multicultural Youth Activities Groups
- **Re, Mr D** Secretary, Lawyers Reform Association
- **Riggs, Ms P**
- **Shannon, Ms C**
- **Stuart, Mr G** Youth Development Officer, Community Youth Development Project
- **Ta'ala, Mr J** Street Worker, Bankstown Multicultural Youth Services
- **Tunstall, Mr A** Vice President, International Amateur Boxing Association
- **Van de Ven, Mr P** School of Educational Psychology, Measurement and Technology, University of Sydney
- **Wadeson, Ms P** General Manager, The Peer Support Foundation Limited
- **Waide, Mr M**
- **Women's Action Alliance (NSW)**
- **Women's Electoral Lobby (NSW)**
- **Young Women's Electoral Lobby (NSW) Group of Women's Electoral Lobby**
- **Youth Worker** Holroyd City Council
- **Zeltins, Mr R**

APPENDIX TWO

WITNESSES AT HEARINGS

Mr Richard Acheson	Manager, Community Development, Marrickville Council
Dr Christine Alder	Senior Lecturer, Department of Criminology, University of Melbourne
Mr Bill Anscombe	School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Charles Sturt University
Mr Roy Atkinson	Assistant Manager, Kings Cross Adolescent Referral & Support Service
Ms Beverley Baker	Publicity Officer, Federation of Parents & Citizens Associations (NSW)
Ms Ian Baker	Director, Policy and Programs, Catholic Education Commission of NSW
Mr Anthony Bendall	Member, Legal Working Group, AIDS Council of NSW
Ms Leanne Berry	Young Womens' Electoral Lobby
Dr Judith Bessant	Lecturer, School of Social Science, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne
Mr Ross Black	Principal, Rivendell School
Mr Rod Blackmore	Senior Children's Magistrate, Bidura Children's Court
Dr Ken Boston	Director-General, NSW Department of School Education
Mr Vaughan Bowie	Lecturer, Department of Youth Work and Justice Studies, University of Western Sydney, Macarthur.
Mr Tony Branigan	General Manager, Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations
Ms Roslin Brennan	President, Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations (NSW)
Mr Ian Brodie	Co-convenor, Gay and Lesbian Teachers and Students Association
Ms Janelle Brown	Supervisor, Community Development Employment Project, Orana Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Mick Brown	Chairman, Orana Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Shane Brown	Co-ordinator and Senior Youth Worker, South Sydney Youth Services
Ms Joan Byrne	Independent Teachers Association
Mr Shaun Carey	Year 11, Campbelltown Performing Arts High School and Representative of Youth and the Law Project
Mr Ken Carpenter	President, School Psychologists Australia (Inc)
Ms Violet Carr	Wellington Juvenile Justice Panel
Mr Michael Chaaya	Youth Advisory Council
Mr Terry Chapman	Executive Director, Association of Independent Schools of NSW
Ms Narelle Clay	Co-ordinator, Wollongong Youth Refuge Association Incorporation.

Ms Margaret Condonis	Manager, Adolescent Family Therapy and Mediation Service (RAPS)
Ms Marie Coussens	Policy Officer, Department of Juvenile Justice
Mr Phil Cross	President, NSW Teachers' Federation
Mr William Cureton	Secretary/Treasurer, Southern Metropolitan Region, Registered Clubs Association of NSW
Mr Mark D'Astoli	Youth Advisory Council
Mr David Denborough	Men Against Sexual Assault (MASA)
Mr Mark Dennis	Solicitor, Western Aboriginal Legal Service
Mr James Dibble, AM, MBE	Chairman, The Peer Support Foundation Limited
Ms Marg Edwards	Co-convenor, Gay and Lesbian Teachers and Students Association
Ms Claire Edwards	Youth Advisory Council
Senior Sergeant Ian Fitzsimmons	Station Controller, Dubbo Police Patrol, NSW Police Service
Ms Leonie Funk	Social Worker, Come-in Youth Resource Centre
Ms Mary Ghaleb	Youth Advisory Council
Ms Margaret Gleeson	Co-ordinator, Community Youth Support Taskforce, Walgett
Ms Unis Goh	Acting Manager, Care & Protection Directorate, Department of Community Services
Ms Jenny Grant	Senior Parenting Consultant, Tolland Parents as Teachers Program
Mr David Green	Youth Co-ordinator, Community Youth Taskforce, Moree
Ms Lenore Grunsell	Secretary (and School Counsellor), School Psychologists Australia (Inc)
Mr Ray Handley	Head Teacher, South Coast Wilderness Enhanced Program, NSW Department of School Education
Ms Chastity Harris	Come-In Youth Resource Centre
Ms Judy Hatswell	Training and Development Officer, Australian Guidance and Counselling Association
Ms Suzi Hewlett	Executive Officer, Youth Action and Policy Association (NSW) Inc
Ms Cathy Hickey	Independent Teachers Association
Sergeant Phillip Hickman	Former Team Leader, Transit Crime Unit, Tactical Intelligence Group, NSW Police Service
Ms Leora Hirsch	Co-ordinator of Street Work Program, Barnardo's
Detective Tony Holmes	Broken Hill Patrol, NSW Police Service
Mr Ron Hurley	President, NSW Secondary Principals' Association
Mr John Jablonka	Street Worker, Wentworthville Youth Centre
Mr Ian Jackson	Education Officer, Parramatta Catholic Education Office
Mr Peter James	NSW Secondary Principals' Association
Ms Tanya Jeffcoat	Young Women's Electoral Lobby
Ms Jean Jenkin	Lecturer (Special Education), University of Western Sydney, Macarthur

Mr Warren Johnson	Executive Officer, Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations (NSW)
Mr Alec Jones	Psychologist
Mr John Jones	Participating Parent, Tolland Parents as Teachers Program
Ms Valerie Joy	Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)
Mr Seng Kaing	Multicultural Youth Activities Group
Mr Wayne Karelle	Deputy Director, Registered Clubs Association of NSW
Mr Tim Keogh	Director of Psychological Services, Department of Juvenile Justice
Mr Keith Kerr	Executive Director, Registered Clubs Association of NSW
Dr Nick Kowalenko	Director, Arndell School for for School Purposes and Acting Head Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Royal North Shore Hospital
Ms Liz Layton	President, "LISTEN ... to the music of your children"
Mr David Leary	Assistant Director, Come-in Youth Resource Centre
Ms Estelle Leonard	Wellington Juvenile Justice Panel
Mr Lou Lewis	Member, NSW Boxing Authority
Ms Sandy Lindeman	Adolescent and Family Counsellor, Dubbo Community Services Information Neighbourhood Centre
Mr Robert Ludbrook	Director, National Children's and Youth Law Centre
Ms Maria Macek	Psychologist, Wagga Wagga Community Health Centre
Ms Mary Malak	Youth Pilot Project, Department of Social Security
Ms Anne Malcolm	Acting Executive Director, AIDS Council of NSW
Ms Gordana Marin	Acting Manager, Codes and Conditions Section, Australian Broadcasting Authority
Mr Andrew Marsden	Community Re-integration Project Officer, Youth Action and Policy Association
Mr Ken Marslew	President, Enough is Enough
Ms Cathie McDonald	Participating Parent, Tolland Parents as Teachers Program
Ms Merrilyn McPherson	Australian Guidance and Counselling Association
Mr Ian Morris	Country Vice President, Federation of Parents & Citizens Associations (NSW)
Ms Michelle Newman	Community Safety Project Officer, Marrickville Council
Mr Cuong Nguyen	Vietnamese Street Worker, Bankstown Multicultural Youth Centre
Mr Shaun O'Dwyer	Men Against Sexual Assault (MASA)
Ms Be Be On	Welfare Worker, NSW Indo-China Chinese Association
Ms Lesley Osborne	Acting Director, Program Services Branch, Australian Broadcasting Authority
Mr Greg Packer	Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Riverina Health Service
Mr Garry Page	Manager, Western Region, Department of Juvenile Justice
Ms Sue Pamment	Australian Guidance and Counselling Association
Mr Laurence Peckham	Manager, Orana Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Ken Pedler	Member, NSW Boxing Authority
Ms Margaret Pickering	Committee Member (and District Guidance Officer), School Psychologists Australia (Inc)

Mr Adrian Pisarski	Co-ordinator, Marrickville Community Youth Support Project
Professor Ken Polk	Reader, Department of Criminology, University of Melbourne
Mr Terry Purcell	Director, Law Foundation of NSW
Mr Tony Rae	Director of Management Consultancy, Association of Independent Schools of NSW
Mr Alan Raisin	Community Program Officer, SW Sydney Area Office, Department of Community Services
Ms June Richards	NSW Secondary Principals Association
Ms Valerie Richie	Young Womens' Electoral Lobby
Associate Professor Ken Rigby	Director of Institute of Social Research, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, University of South Australia
Ms Natalie Russell	Year 9, Picton High School and Representative of Youth and the Law Project
Senior Sergeant Neil Scarr	Wellington Police Patrol, NSW Police Service
Ms Jane Schwager	Executive Director, Social Policy Directorate
Ms Sonia Shay	Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Riverina Health Service
Ms Jan Shier	Director, Care and Protection, Department of Community Services
Ms Anna Seed	Program and Training Manager, The Peer Support Foundation Limited
Mr Rod Smith	Former Project Manager, Youth and the Law Project (YALP)
Mr John Stathers	Member, NSW Boxing Authority
Dr Warwick Stening	Member, Trauma Committee of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia
Ms Catherine Sterling	Parenting Consultant, Tolland Parents as Teachers Program
Ms Kerri Sutton	Secretary, "LISTEN ... to the music of your children"
Mr Kek Kong Tai	Co-ordinator, NSW Indo-China Chinese Association
Ms Joli Tie	Director, Policy, Research and Evaluation, Department of Juvenile Justice
Mr Ab Towney	Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer, Wellington Police Station
Mr Greg Tyrer	Psychologist, Department of Community Services, Dubbo
Mr Harley Ullrich	Cool Squad
Mr Paul van de Ven	School of Educational Psychology, Measurements and Technology, University of Sydney
Mr Paul van Reyk	Acting Co-ordinator, Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project
Superintendent Michael Vita	Acting Governor, Reception & Industrial Centre, Long Bay Correctional Centre
Mr Jan de Voogd	Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)
Ms Pam Wadeson	General Manager, The Peer Support Foundation Limited
Ms Esther Walsh	Independent Teachers Association
Professor Brent Waters	Director of Psychiatric Services, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney Ltd

Dr Don Weatherburn	Director, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
Mr Ben Weiss	Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)
Mr Paul West	Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer, Wellington Police Station
Dr Chris Wever	Child Psychiatrist, Rivendell Adolescent Unit and School
Ms Judith Wheeldon	Principal, Queenwood School for Girls
Ms Michelle Williams	Come-In Youth Resource Centre
Ms Joyce Williams	Wellington Juvenile Justice Panel
Ms Susan Wilson	Program Manager, Jasper Residential Unit, Centacare
Ms Di Winter	(District School Counsellor), School Psychologists Australia (Inc)
Sergeant Paul Woodward	Beat Police Supervisor, North Sydney Police Patrol

In Camera

The Committee heard evidence in camera from eight witnesses.

APPENDIX THREE

BRIEFINGS/VISITS

■ **Aboriginal Youth Forum**

Katy Brown
Matthew Coe
Willy Gordan
Maxine Hickey
Willy Robb

Co-ordinated by:

Jenny Anderson
Sue Holden

Juvenile Justice Worker, South Sydney Youth Services
Deputy Principal, Cleveland Street High School

■ **Boys' Town**

Father Denis Halliday
Joe Murik
Louise Single

■ **Campbell House SSP**

John Frew, Principal

Staff

Lyn Crighton
Tim Grew
Georgina Kennett
Peter Passaliokis

Students

Eric Faiai
Matthew Gibbons
Kristina Lennox
Jeff Spires

■ **Cobham Juvenile Justice Centre**

Superintendent Robert Ferguson

Manuel
Warren
James
Ben

■ **"The Cottage" Regents Park Public School**

Bruce Goudge, Principal

Staff

Adriana Cufre
Clare Hannagan
Joanne Heighes
Barney Potts

■ **Dubbo South High School**

John Summers, Principal

Staff

Brian Crispin
Kathy Crispin
Adrian Daley
Michael McCabe
Mary Powell

Students

Carolyn Boyd
Matthew Carr
Merryn Hampel
Ben Howey
Gareth Jones
Emma Long
Jennifer Lennox
Robbie Moore
Kristy Riley
Soli Sahukar

■ **Granville Boys' High School**

John Hardgrove, Principal
Kym Orman, Deputy Principal

Staff

Rosalie De Paoli
Don Hones
Tim Jones
Mona Mansour
Asuman Semel
Stephen Sergis
Louise Yeomans
Christina Ziolkowski

Students

Izzet Anmak
Ibrahim Anmak
Khalid Etri
Benyameen Issa
Jack Makhoul
Hadi Joweihan
Bhavin Patel
Pierre Sande
Michele Sarnelli
Hala Talanoa

■ **Hurstville Boys' High School**

Bob Ramsey, Principal

Students

Danny Abbas	Alex Kassem
Walid Awada	Paul Malekas
Mohammad Chahine	Matthew O'Reilly
Zoran Cirevski	Michael O'Reilly
Ty Cooper	Tarik Salame
Kareem Galal	Tom Taoube
Jarrad Harwood	Savas Topalidis
Adam Johnson	Fabrizio Uchino
Alex Karavias	

■ **Working Party on Hurstville Youth and Town Centre Project
His Worship the Mayor Councillor Bill Pickering**

Council Representatives

Councillor Dick Swanton
Kristi Curtiss
David Crane
Peter Jackson
Lynne George
Howard Wallace

**Working Group
Representatives**

Wendy Allerton
Mark Bailey
Sarah Bromley
Sgt Peter Cook
Barry Dunn
Paul Dwyer
Cherie Garvin
Katrina McKenzie
Nicole Scobie
Vicki Taranto

■ **James Busby High School**

Liz Donnan, Principal

Don White, Deputy Principal

Staff

Ross Barker
Kris Coury
Maria Hailo
Yvette Heyward
Margaret Hudson
Peter Minkow
Alan Schembri
Punu Sungaran

Students

Caroline Antwan
Roy Barbaro
Caroline Barton
Michael Hala
Lidia Ilieski
Joanne McCarthy
Raymond Nicholson
Michael Shaw
Tammie Styles
Leanne Weeks

■ **Koori-Matha Committee, Wellington**

Emma Austin
Kate Austin
Greg Carr
Fiona Gibbs
Jamie May
Adrian Toomey

Representatives from Wellington Aboriginal Health Centre

Jane Austin
Lee-anne Daley
Dianne Smith

■ **Liverpool West Public School**

John Hazell, Principal

Staff

Nicole Benson
Wendy Chisholm
Lisa James
Pauline Kotsellas
Trish Smith

Students

Melissa Denner
Jessica Fraley
Julia Iervasi
Justine Kasparian
Sasha Morris
Amanda Thompson
Andrew Tregonning

■ **Magpie Cottage, Lismore**

Jenny Rae, Administrator

■ **Menai Public School**

Trevor Somerville, Principal
Julianne Hughes, Deputy Principal

Staff

Zoe Owen
Narelle Purkiss

Students

Leigh Anderson
Emma Bray
Terry Chung
Laurent Ducasse
Candice Houda
Alexandra Jones
Daniel Walton
Alexandra Westley

■ **Mt. Druitt High School**

June Richards, Principal
Cathy Anderson, Grievance Officer

Students

Matin Baquayee
Susi Fiso
Emma Gadd
Mamoud Karanough
Finau Lumaava
Nader Mahud
Rachel Shackley
Sam Tautua
Kamilia Zraika

■ **New South Wales Department of Juvenile Justice**
Mr Carl Loughman, Assistant Director General

■ **New South Wales Department of School Education**
Ms Eleanor Davidson, Co-ordinator of Curriculum

■ **New South Wales Police Service**
Assistant Commissioner Ken Moroney
Executive Director, Education and Training Command

Chief Superintendent PW McKinnon
Commander, State Intelligence Group

Chief Superintendent P Clamp
District Commander, Prospect