

Summary of issues for consideration

- Issue for consideration 1 – Delivery : Federal funding** 45
Although the majority of Aboriginal people in Australia reside in New South Wales, this is not reflected the level of Federal funding received by New South Wales. This impacts on the State's ability to implement priorities under the Federal-State Overarching Agreement on Aboriginal Affairs 2005 – 2010, the New South Wales State Plan and the Two Ways Together Plan.
- Issue for consideration 2 – Delivery: responsibility** 54
The need for greater clarity in who has the overall leadership and responsibility for defining the performance indicators and delivering priorities under the New South Wales State Plan and Two Ways Together Plan, and how this leadership is translated into meaningful, measurable outcomes that are accepted by the Indigenous community, will be further considered in the Final Report.
- Issue for consideration 3 – Delivery: short term funding** 59
The Committee will look at the effectiveness and assessment of funding programs that are temporary and intermittent in nature.
- Issue for consideration 4 – Delivery: funding to communities** 67
The Committee will examine the issue of the provision of funding to community-controlled services and services which are delivered in partnership with the Indigenous community.
- Issue for consideration 5 – Delivery: representation** 72
The Committee will investigate further the issue of independent body for Indigenous representation.
- Issue for consideration 6 – Delivery: *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*** 80
The Committee will follow with interest the second round of amendments to the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW), due to be introduced into Parliament in late 2008. The Committee will examine the need for an appropriate ongoing review mechanism, including the issue of the separation of regulatory and assistance functions of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council.
- Issue for consideration 7 – Environment and infrastructure: funding** 87
The Committee will examine the need for ongoing funding for environmental health programs after funding for the Aboriginal Community Development Program ends in 2009.
- Issue for consideration 8 – Environment and infrastructure: essential services** 92
The effective provision of essential services including water, sewerage and waste collection in Aboriginal communities that are not serviced by local government will be considered.
- Issue for consideration 9 – Environment and infrastructure: Internet** 93
The provision of accessible Internet to Aboriginal communities will be considered.
- Issue for consideration 10 – Environment and infrastructure: drivers licenses** 99
The Committee will consider the appropriateness of driver training programs aimed at assisting members of the Aboriginal community to obtain drivers' licenses.
- Issue for consideration 11 – Environment and infrastructure: transport** 99
The Committee will consider the need for a coordinated approach to identify communities' transport requirements and tailor additional services to meet those needs.

- Issue for consideration 12 – Environment and infrastructure: reporting and accountability** 100
The Committee will examine mechanisms for improving the reporting and accountability processes for community organisations.
- Issue for consideration 13 – Health and wellbeing: family** 105
To help support and strengthen families in Aboriginal communities, the Committee will consider opportunities to bolster existing men's and women's groups, and appropriate programs to assist parents, in particular young parents.
- Issue for consideration 14 – Health and wellbeing: child sexual abuse services** 108
The Committee will seek evidence of the appropriate levels of funding and services to reduce the incidence of and ameliorate the effects of child sexual abuse, including the implementation of the interagency plan in response to the *Breaking the Silence* report.
- Issue for consideration 15 – Health and wellbeing: child sexual abuse data** 108
The Committee will review the methodology used to record the incidence of child sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities. The review will consider the existing arrangements used with respect to data collection and examine how it can be refined and improved.
- Issue for consideration 16 – Health and wellbeing: services** 118
The effective provision of health services is a key issue in addressing the lifetime expectancy gap. The Committee will examine possible improvements to service delivery and opportunities to work in partnership with Aboriginal communities.
- Issue for consideration 17 – Health and wellbeing: measurement** 119
The Committee believes that the measurement of health priorities and the associated programs should be a key element of the New South Wales Government's health strategy for Indigenous communities. The Committee will examine the need for more comprehensive measurement of health outcomes for Indigenous people.
- Issue for consideration 18 – Government-organisation relationships** 120
The Committee intends to examine the issue of improving the relationship between government and non-government services in more detail.
- Issue for consideration 19 – Health and wellbeing: training and scholarships** 123
The Committee will review the adequacy of training and scholarships for Indigenous health workers in more detail.
- Issue for consideration 20 – Education: literacy and numeracy** 140
The Committee notes that there has been some improvement in the literacy and numeracy levels of Aboriginal students in New South Wales, however we remain concerned that these levels require significant improvement in order for Indigenous students to meet the national benchmarks. The Committee will examine the efficacy of strategies to address literacy and numeracy rates of Indigenous children and the adequacy of funding.
- Issue for consideration 21 – Education: expanding success** 144
There are many successful initiatives undertaken by government to improve educational outcomes for small numbers of Indigenous students. The Committee will examine how these programs can meet a larger number of students and improve the outcome for Indigenous people as a whole.
- Issue for consideration 22 – Education: long term services** 148
The need to provide and fund long-term services with Indigenous specific focus and the necessary funding will be considered.

- Issue for consideration 23 – Education: mentoring** 156
Establishing links with family and community and culturally appropriate mentoring programs in order to encourage students in their education and support students in their endeavours at all levels of attainment will be investigated further.
- Issue for consideration 24 – Education: role models** 165
The importance of employing Indigenous staff as teachers and role models is apparent however there is a need to address the attainment levels of current and future students so that this can occur.
- Issue for consideration 25 – Employment: service delivery** 177
The Committee will review appropriate service delivery models to effectively address obstacles to Indigenous employment.
- Issue for consideration 26 – Employment: funding** 185
The Committee will examine the funding of employment programs to ensure skill development and retention rates.
- Issue for consideration 27 – Employment: job compacts** 187
The Committee notes that the changes to the CDEP scheme, the strengthening of the STEP program and Job Compacts are all relatively new. The Committee will revisit these schemes, when the Job Compacts are finalised and there is data available on their initial impact and progress towards addressing Indigenous employment issues.
- Issue for consideration 28 – Employment: mentoring** 192
Given the volume of evidence supporting mentoring programs and their effectiveness in gaining and retaining Indigenous employees, the Committee will consider how mentoring can be incorporated into a variety of programs aimed at addressing Indigenous disadvantage.
- Issue for consideration 29 – Employment: corporate role** 194
The Committee heard examples of businesses overcoming their skills shortages through employment and training schemes targeted at Indigenous workers. The Committee will further consider the strengthening of the relationship between corporations and Indigenous communities.
- Issue for consideration 30 – Employment: elders role** 195
Inquiry participants recognised the important role played by Indigenous elders and their communities in providing support for Indigenous employment and youth programs. The Committee regards the building of trust and respect between Indigenous communities, government, and prospective employers as critical to the provision of Indigenous employment opportunities in the long-term.
- Issue for consideration 31 – Employment: reassessment** 197
It is evident from the statistics that current policies and/or initiatives have not been enough to make substantial inroads into Indigenous unemployment. The Committee will examine reasons for this, including the limited time frame, education levels and early disengagement of Indigenous students in the educational process.
- Issue for consideration 32 – Housing: funding** 207
An issue for further consideration will be the equitable distribution of funds and coordination of programs for social housing in New South Wales between urban, regional and rural areas, to better address unmet housing needs of Indigenous people.

- Issue for consideration 33 – Housing: regulations** 213
The Committee considers that the regulatory requirements for community housing providers should be reviewed, in order to facilitate the provision of community housing to the Aboriginal community.
- Issue for consideration 34 – Housing: participation** 217
The Committee will examine the issue of community participation in the housing design and delivery process.
- Issue for consideration 35 – Housing: overcrowding** 220
Overcrowding is a fundamental problem within the Indigenous community. The Committee highlights the need for various providers and funding programs to work together strategically to provide affordable, appropriate housing for Indigenous people.
- Issue for consideration 36 – Housing: affordability** 224
The Committee believes that housing affordability is a fundamental obstacle to addressing the housing needs of the Indigenous community. The Committee will examine mechanisms to increase the availability of affordable housing.
- Issue for consideration 37 – Housing: maintenance** 225
The Committee is concerned that, given the demand for housing and consequent overcrowding and health issues, that funding for necessary maintenance of properties is provided.
- Issue for consideration 38 – Justice: priorities** 235
The Committee believes that the lack of Aboriginal specific criminal justice priorities in the New South Wales State Plan needs to be addressed.
- Issue for consideration 39 – Justice: Aboriginal Justice Plan** 237
The successful implementation of the Aboriginal Justice Plan is being hindered by the lack of clarity surrounding its current status and relevance to the New South Wales State Plan. The Committee will consider further the status of the Aboriginal Justice Plan and its proper implementation.
- Issue for consideration 40 – Justice: support for offenders** 248
There is a significant lack of support services for Aboriginal offenders, whilst in custody, prior to release, after release and in relation to drug and alcohol services. The Committee is concerned about this lack of appropriate service provision for Aboriginal offenders and will examine relevant initiatives.
- Issue for consideration 41 – Justice: community-based sentencing** 252
The Committee will consider the accessibility of community based sentencing options to Aboriginal offenders.
- Issue for consideration 42 – Justice: circle sentencing** 254
The Committee is concerned that there are insufficient resources available for Circle Sentencing courts and highlights this issue for discussion.
- Issue for consideration 43 – Justice: diversions** 260
Evidence suggests that juvenile diversions are less likely to be granted to Aboriginal young offenders than to non-Aboriginal young offenders. The Committee will consider the availability and use of diversions for young Aboriginal offenders in the Final Report.

Issue for consideration 44 – Justice: mental health**264**

Evidence suggests that some Aboriginal offenders with a mental health disorder are being incarcerated due to a lack of adequate mental health services. The Committee is concerned about the wellbeing of these offenders.

Issue for consideration 45 – Justice: underreporting**268**

The ability to address family violence and child sexual abuse issues is impeded by the high level of underreporting of these incidents by Aboriginal communities. The Committee will examine reasons behind under-reporting of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Consideration will also be given to the level of government support for Aboriginal police officers and ACLOs. The Committee will examine the efficacy of early intervention programs targeted at male perpetrators.