



THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Social Awareness Advisory Committee considers child protection, dangerous drugs, counselling and breath testing

The Social Awareness Advisory Committee, which is made up from members of the community who are concerned with social issues, meets each month to make recommendations and monitor the progress of issues within the community.

The Committee dealt with a number of significant issues at its most recent meeting, including the following:

- The committee noted that the provision of **roadside breath testing** would be passed into law on gazettal in the near future. This had been a matter that the Committee were particularly keen to see adopted, as they had been proactive for its introduction.
- The appointment of a **new counsellor** was announced. The successful applicant will be on island prior to the departure of the current counsellor Kathryn Parle on 9 May 2009. This completes a recruitment process done in conjunction with Gerard Byrne of the Salvation Army, Sydney.
- **Dangerous drugs legislation** is currently being drafted as part of the justice package of legislation and a draft Bill should be available soon.
- **Child protection legislation** – it was noted that public comment has been invited until the end of April 2009 on the proposed Child Welfare Bill. Persons who wish to access the draft Bill may do so by viewing it at www.info.gov.nf. Comment in respect of this Bill can be sent to the Community Services Manager, Kingston, Norfolk Island, 2899 or emailed to ikey@admin.gov.nf

The above are just some of the issues that were dealt with by the Social Awareness Advisory Committee. Any members of the community who would like to be part of this Committee or who would like to know more information are encouraged to contact Allen Bataille on ph: 23691 in the first instance.

18th March 2009