



THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Counselling, child protection and safe houses among issues at Social Awareness Advisory Committee

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:

- **New generalist counsellor** - The appointment of new counsellor Barbara Shelley will now be effective from Thursday 21 May 2009. The Committee looks forward to meeting with her and progressing the social issues of the island. It also appreciates the work of the outgoing Counsellor in Kathryn Parle and wishes her well for the future. The Committee acknowledges the dedication and high standard of service that she has provided to both the community and the committee in the three years that she has been in Norfolk Island.
- **Child protection legislation** – The Committee was satisfied with the draft legislation although there were issues raised in respect of the application and future resourcing of the legislation. Comment has been sought from a number of sources by the Minister Vicky Jack, which are required to be submitted before 30th April 2009.
- **Safe houses** – the need for the provision of safe houses for those in crisis was raised and the requirement for a protocol to be established is being addressed.

The above are just some of the issues that were dealt with by the Social Awareness Advisory Committee at its April meeting. 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 phone 23691 in the first instance.

22 April 2009