



THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

News from the 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 relevant issues within the community.

At its May meeting, the Committee considered a number of matters and received reports on related areas, including the following:

- **New generalist counsellor:** The recently appointed counsellor Barbara Shelley has commenced duties from the hospital with effect from 21 May 2009 and the Committee looks forward to working with her during her time in Norfolk Island.
- **Visit of Dr Alex Curry:** Also visiting during the week is Dr Alex Curry, Christian educator, author and youth affairs counsellor, who will be conducting stress and crisis management seminars as well as personal counselling sessions. These are free services sponsored by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Any enquiries concerning the visit of Dr Curry can be made by contacting George or May Porter on phone number 22201.
- **Child protection legislation:** Comments in respect of the legislation were provided to the Minister for Environment, Education and Social Welfare from the Committee. The Minister will be taking these and other comments provided to her into consideration when she tables the legislation in the Legislative Assembly.
- **H1N1 influenza virus:** The Committee was advised that a special task force has been created by the Norfolk Island Government and that measures have been put in place in accordance with World Health Organisation protocol to deal with containing any outbreaks of the disease. For individuals, it is important that personal hygiene such as washing of hands be maintained to restrict or reduce the spread of the disease.

The above are just some of the issues that were dealt with by the Social Awareness Advisory Committee at its recent 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 May 2009