



NORFOLK

ISLAND

THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Social Awareness Advisory Committee latest news

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.

Issues discussed at the most recent meeting of the Committee included:

- **The Counsellor** Barbara Shelley continues to provide an important service to the community as well as regular reports to the press on social issues. This is a free service to members of the public who can contact the counsellor on phone 23191 or 50246.
- **Child protection legislation** – Comments in respect of the legislation were provided to the Minister for Environment Education and Social Welfare from the Committee. The legislation has since been passed and it will now be necessary for a person to be appointed as the Child Welfare Officer under the Act.
- **H1N1 Influenza virus** – the Committee was advised that measures have been put in place by the Norfolk Island Government in accordance with World Health Organisation protocol to deal with containing any outbreaks of the disease. As individuals it is important that personal hygiene such as washing of hands be maintained to restrict or reduce the spread of the disease.
- **Liquor sales** - The Committee has been active over the last few weeks in providing comment for the Minister for Commerce and Industry in respect of the proposed amendments to the *Liquor Act 2005* which would allow for the issue of up to 2 importer packaged liquor licences. The Committee has opposed the sale of the liquor bond from the Administration of Norfolk Island based on a number of social issue concerns.

The above are just some of the issues that were dealt with at a recent meeting. Any member of the community who would like to be part of this committee or who would like to know more information is encouraged to contact Allen Bataille on ph: 23691 in the first instance.

5 October 2009