



## THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORFOLK ISLAND

### MEDIA RELEASE

## December 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 to government and to monitor the progress of issues within the community.

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

- **Counselling:** The Counsellor Barbara Shelley continues to provide an important service to the community as well as regular reports to the press on social issues. The community is advised that this is a free service to members of the public who can contact the counsellor on phone 23191 or 50246.
- **Child protection legislation:** The legislation has been passed and it will now be necessary for a person to be appointed as the Child Welfare Officer under the Act.
- **Critical incident debriefing:** Recent incidents such as the aircraft ditching have highlighted the need for counselling and debriefing. It is understood that this and other related issues are being reviewed by the Disaster and Emergency Management authorities.
- **Guest speaker George Smith:** Committee members were pleased that George was able to attend a recent meeting to discuss his involvement with the youth of the Island over an extended period. George is currently the President of the P&C and assists in the operation of the Youth Centre as well as the Youth Assembly. His insight into the activities and concerns of Island youth was appreciated very much by the Committee. Any person who would be interested in addressing the Committee on an issue should contact Allen Bataille in the first instance.
- **New Police Sergeant:** It was also the first time that the Committee was able to welcome the new Sergeant Vince Pannell to the meeting and it looks forward to working with him during his period on the Island.

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 phone 23691 in the first instance.

8 December 2009