

NORFOLK ISLAND



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Social Awareness Advisory Committee established

The Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, the Hon Stephanie Jack MLA, announced today that the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Working Group (DAA) has resolved to expand its focus and to change its name to the Social Awareness Advisory Committee.

“The DAA group really started off to deal with substance abuse, particularly drugs and alcohol”, Mrs Jack said. “It has done an outstanding job and I thank all those members of the community who have contributed to its work over recent years”.

Mrs Jack said that the work of the committee has now expanded and deals with wider social issues. These include:

- drink driving;
- endorsement of Applied Suicide Intervention Training courses;
- child welfare issues;
- promotion of child immunisations; and
- promotion of healthy eating (there is shortly to be a poster competition for this).

The Minister said that the DAA was also largely responsible, together with the then Chief Minister Ron Nobbs, for the implementation of counselling services in Norfolk Island. She said that counselling is increasingly being accessed and is assisting those in need in the community. This service is provided in association with the Salvation Army in Sydney who have been very supportive of the Norfolk Island programme and of those who have been referred to their rehabilitation services.

The membership of the Committee was recently expanded and members of the public were invited to become involved through its monthly meetings. A number of persons took up that option and have joined what has now become the Social Awareness Advisory Committee. Mrs Jack said that if there are any other persons who would now like to indicate their availability to participate they should contact the Registrar, Allen Bataille, on 23691 or by email to ikey@admin.gov.nf.

Stephanie V Jack
Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare

24th August 2007