

# INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Communiqué

7 June 2002

The Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee (IAAC), comprised of heads of key State government agencies and the ATSIC State Council, and chaired by the Hon Alan Carpenter, Western Australian Minister for Indigenous Affairs, met with the Hon Philip Ruddock, Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Affairs on 7 June 2002 and agreed on ways of joining up Commonwealth, State and ATSIC efforts to address the needs of Indigenous people in Western Australia.

The parties agreed to pursue a whole-of-government Indigenous community partnership approach focusing on achieving lasting results at the local level consistent with the Council of Australian Governments' National Reconciliation Framework.

As a means to achieve greater integration and effectiveness of services across governments, Minister Ruddock agreed to approach his Ministerial colleagues to seek their agreement for Commonwealth agencies to join the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee.

The Commonwealth and the State Government, working with ATSIC, agree on key issues for a collaborative approach to improve economic and social outcomes for Indigenous people in Western Australia. Key issues are: local and regional approaches; improved Indigenous governance; more effective government coordination; partnerships between Indigenous communities, government and the business sector; and the development of agreed benchmarks and indicators on Indigenous disadvantage.

The collaborative approach will draw on headline and strategic change indicators being developed by the Ministerial Council on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs through the development of joint strategies around key areas for action including:

- Child development and growth
- Early school engagement
- Building on the strength of Indigenous community and culture
- Breaking the cycle of alcohol and substance abuse
- Functional and resilient families and communities
- Functional community infrastructure
- Family violence and personal safety

The parties agree that the task is challenging and will require capacity building to enable Indigenous people to participate on an equal basis as well as changing government practices in working with Indigenous communities.

Signed by:  Date: 7/6/02.

The Honourable P. Ruddock  
Commonwealth Minister of Indigenous Affairs

Signed by:  Date: 7/6/02

The Honourable Alan Carpenter MLA  
State Minister of Indigenous Affairs

Signed by:  Date: 7/6/02.

Mr Ian Trust, Chairperson  
ATSIC WA State Council