

**Magistrate Sue Gordon**, former Chairperson of the Inquiry into Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities (known as the Gordon Inquiry) recently said:

*“The ongoing work by government agencies in relation to the recommendations of the Gordon Inquiry shows the commitment of Senior Management to improving services to Aboriginal people, none more so than both the Department for Community Development and Western Australian Police Service (WAPS) who have sought my involvement to speak to newly recruited officers and, in the case of the WAPS involvement, in interviews of officers for the first three Multi-functional Remote Policing Facilities of Warburton, Balgo and Kalumburu, but also into the content of their in-service course now underway.”*

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## Where can I get more information?

Further information can be obtained through:  
**State Law Publisher (9321 7688) for publications of reports:**

- **Putting the Picture Together (Inquiry Report)**
- **Putting People First (Government’s Response)**
- **Update Progress Reports**

**Website:** [www.gordonresponse.dpc.wa.gov.au](http://www.gordonresponse.dpc.wa.gov.au)

or by contacting:

**Gordon Implementation Secretariat  
Department of the Premier & Cabinet  
15th Floor  
197 St George’s Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000**

**Phone: (08) 9222 9034 • Fax: (08) 9222 9509**

# Violence and Abuse is NOT OK!

## Putting People First

Government’s response  
to the Gordon Inquiry into  
family violence and child  
abuse in Aboriginal  
communities.



# What is the Gordon Inquiry?

The State Coroner's report in November 2001 on the death of a teenage Aboriginal girl at the Swan Valley Nyungah Community is a chilling account of a young person's tragic life. In her short life this young girl encountered sexual violation and other forms of violence, and the ravages of alcohol and substance abuse. In desperation, and despite contact with several Government agencies, she died in tragic circumstances at the age of 15.

Coroner Hope commented that this story is by no means unique and that sexual abuse of children is endemic in Aboriginal communities throughout Western Australia.

In the aftermath of the Coronial Inquest the Government moved quickly to establish a formal inquiry to provide advice on how best the Government should deal with widespread sexual abuse and violence within Western Australia's Aboriginal community.

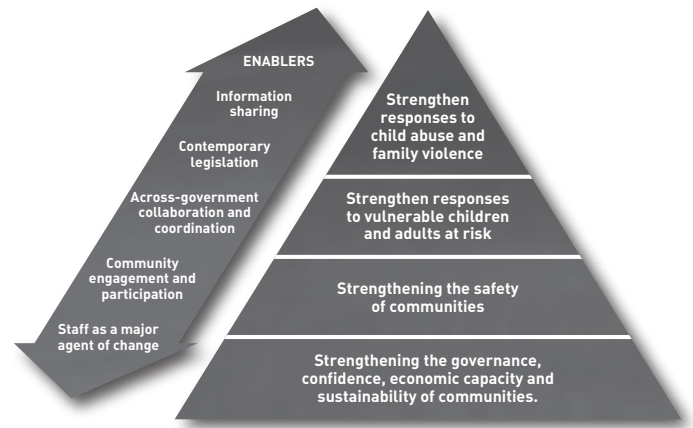
On 15 January 2002, the Premier appointed Magistrate Sue Gordon, Hon. Kay Hallahan and Mr Darrell Henry to inquire into the response by Government to reports of child abuse and family violence in Aboriginal Communities.

The **Gordon Inquiry** ran for 6 months, heard from 45 witnesses and produced a report totalling 642 pages with 197 recommendations.

# What is the Government doing about it?

Upon receiving the Gordon Inquiry Report, the Government formed a Taskforce that prepared a response.

**The Response** included \$75million over 5 years, a commitment to do things differently and a committed focus on working with Indigenous people to create change.



The Government has committed to:

- 25 additional Child Protection Workers.
- 14 Aboriginal Support Workers.
- 8 Specialist Child Protection & Family Violence Officers.
- Development & establishment of a Perpetrator Program.

Expansion of the:

- Strong Families Program.
- Child Protection Unit at Princess Margaret Hospital.
- Sexual Assault Service and complete relocation.
- Victim Support and Child Witness Services.

The Government is committed to breaking down systemic barriers to enable more effective service delivery. Key initiatives include:

- The Children and Community Development Bill.
- Amendments to the Health Act.
- Child Death Review Committee.
- Developed the Human Services Directors' General Group to coordinate interagency responses.