



New South Wales Department of  
**Aboriginal Affairs**

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House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs  
R1 Suite 116  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dewar,

I refer to the proof copy of the verbatim transcript of the Committee's public hearing of Tuesday 8 April 2003 into Capacity Building in Indigenous Communities and the three questions on notice taken by the Director General of this Department, Andrew Cappie-Wood.

Following is information in response to those questions.

**Did any of the money from the Commonwealth Tough on Drugs policy make its way into the NSW jail system or the Aboriginal justice system?**

The NSW Attorney Generals Department has advised that no money has been provided for custodial programs. Money has been provided to a range of Aboriginal drug treatment providers, many of whom provide services to clients involved in the justice system. Further, no money has been provided to the Aboriginal justice system.

The NSW Department of Corrective Services has advised that no money from the Tough on Drugs policy has been provided to the NSW jail system.

**Is there still only one surveyor for land claims made under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and if so, is anything being done to deal with this?**

There is still only one surveyor for all Aboriginal land claims in NSW. However, in recognition of the need to clear the backlog of land claims the Department of Lands, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Registrar, NSW Land Rights Act and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council have agreed to work together to prioritise the land claims.

To assist this process the Heritage and Culture Cluster Group, as part of the Aboriginal Affairs Plan, have agree to form a working party to conduct an audit of all outstanding claims to assess their status and any impediments to clearance.

**People on Work for the Dole or Newstart allowance are able to receive travel concessions while Aboriginal people on CDEP programs cannot.**

CDEP, Work for the Dole and Newstart are all Commonwealth programs. The NSW government has no responsibilities in these areas. Further information should be sought from the appropriate Commonwealth Department.

Yours sincerely



Ivan Simon  
**A / Deputy Director General**

24 September 2003