

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL INCLUSION BOARD

Outcomes of the meeting of the Board on 27 January, 2010

Welcome and Chair's report

The Board:

- noted apologies from Tony Nicholson, Chris Sarra and Fiona Stanley
- noted the Chair's report on key discussions and developments since the 18 November 2009 meeting, including:
 - › the release of the Board's Annual Report, *Social Inclusion in Australia: How Australia is Faring* on 22 January 2010
 - › the Chair will present the report at the Social Inclusion Conference on 28 January 2010 and will be a guest on ABC Radio's *Conversation Hour* on Thursday 4th February to discuss the report
 - › the Chair's letter to the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM), the Hon Julia Gillard MP on meeting outcomes from the 26 August 2009 Board meeting
 - › Chair's letters have been provided to the Prime Minister supporting his apology to the Forgotten Australians and to the DPM and the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP on welfare conditionality
- Discussed press coverage of the Annual Report and strategies to improve public awareness and engagement in social inclusion issues.

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion and Social Inclusion Statement

The Board:

- noted the work being undertaken on the National Action Plan
- noted the Plan will aim to ensure that the Commonwealth, states and territories work better together, including by achieving improved social inclusion outcomes from existing policies and programs
- noted that it will be given an opportunity to comment on the draft Plan following a meeting between the Commonwealth, states and territories on 26 February 2010
- agreed to follow up with the Deputy Prime Minister on its previous recommendation to include a social marketing campaign in the Plan
- noted that the Australian Government's Social Inclusion Statement is due to be announced on 28 January 2010 by the Deputy Prime Minister at the Social Inclusion Conference in Melbourne. The Statement sets out the Government's approach to addressing disadvantage in Australia, including six main priority areas
- agreed that the Social Inclusion Unit will investigate the possibility of translating the web-based version of the Statement into other languages.

Work Planning

The Board:

- discussed its role in providing policy advice on areas agreed with the Deputy Prime Minister and monitoring and measuring social inclusion outcomes in Australia
- discussed its achievements to date and how these could be most effectively built on in 2010
- identified ten potential areas of focus for 2010 and agreed that the following five areas are of particular importance:
 - › addressing the challenges of locational disadvantage;
 - › breaking the cycle of disadvantage;
 - › ensuring particular groups are not excluded as the economy recovers;
 - › issues faced by disadvantaged youth; and
 - › race based discrimination
- agreed that the Chair will discuss these five topics with the DPM and seek her views on how these might be prioritised
- agreed to develop and discuss the specific details of projects for 2010 at the next Board meeting scheduled for 31 March 2010 in Sydney.

Administration and other business

The Board agreed:

- to meet on the following dates in 2010: 31 March (Sydney), 8 June (Alice Springs), 21 July (Townsville), 8 September (Mildura) and 9 November (Adelaide)
- that the annual *Social Justice Report 2009* prepared by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner will be circulated, which includes a recommendation that: *'the Australian Social Inclusion Board, supported by the Social Inclusion Unit, add justice reinvestment as a key strategy in the social inclusion agenda'*
- agreed that the Chair will share the outcomes of her meetings with relevant councils
- agreed that the Social Inclusion Unit will consider ways of including relevant departments that do not traditionally focus on social inclusion issues into the work being undertaken by the Board and ensuring that the Board's advice can be considered across the whole of government.