



**Queensland
Government**

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Office of the
Director-General

Department of
**Local Government, Planning,
Sport and Recreation**

Mr Robert Needham
Chairperson
Crime and Misconduct Commission
GPO Box 3123
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Needham

Thank you for your letter of 17 April 2007 regarding the Inquiry into Policing in Indigenous Communities.

The Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (DLGPSR) provides financial assistance to Aboriginal and Island councils. Some of these funds are used by the councils to employ community policing officers.

From a law enforcement perspective, policing in Indigenous communities may be more effectively delivered by the Queensland Police Service rather than councils. This would improve the quality of policing and somewhat relieve councils' resource commitments, enabling them to discharge core responsibilities more effectively. In the context of the new reform program for local government in Queensland, there is now more emphasis than ever on councils performing core business in accordance with community expectations.

At the same time it is not envisaged that local government would withdraw from involvement in law and order issues. Local government has an important role in community welfare in a number of areas, including community safety, through corporate planning and associated programs.

As requested, DLGPSR will be happy to assist in publicising the inquiry through our contacts with councils and communities. Should you require any further information on this matter, please contact Mr Michael Clair, Senior Policy Officer, on telephone number 323 83587.

Yours sincerely


Michael Kinnane ESM FAIM
Director-General

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