

## **POLICE/ETHNIC YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE**

*Produced by the National Police Ethnic Advisory Bureau*

### **Review of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Post Summit Strategic Planning Teams Forum Adelaide 23-24 November 1998**

The main aim of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Post Summit Strategic Planning Teams Forum was to critically review the current status of the State/Territory Support Implementation Teams and to develop future directions.

It was evident from both youth and police sector members that enthusiasm for the 'team' concept has been flagging for some time. A number of reasons were given for this situation not least of which was that the Teams could have complemented existing youth policing structures more effectively.

Several delegates highlighted the fact that many ethnic youth initiatives had been and are currently implemented by police services with appropriate structures already in place. The Bureau's report, based on a national survey, also indicated that the majority of the recommendations had been implemented across police jurisdictions in Australia. Given these developments, it was evident that a change in direction was

needed. Delegates unanimously agreed that a more flexible strategy which would actively promote partnerships while allowing for regional differences and adding value to existing structures should replace the 'Teams' concept.

The new strategy which was recommended by the Forum to replace the State/Territory Implementation Support Teams is the **Police/Ethnic Youth Partnership**. The role of this partnership is:

- i) to promote proactive and developmental activities relevant to ethnic youth/police relations;
- ii) to manage crisis events and emerging issues;
- iii) to promote partnerships between police, ethnic young people and the non government community sector;
- iv) to publicise State/Territory activities and highlight 'good practice' models.

The main feature of the new partnership concept is that it no longer solely relies on a two-member Team but will tap into the most effective locally based networks. These will identify issues of concern and 'best practice' models.

### ***Police/Ethnic Youth Partnership Progress Reports***

Two recommendations which emerged from the Forum (recommendations 5 and 5a) required that partnerships commit to twice yearly reports to the NPEAB and that the first report should include a description on the local mechanism and work plan to be adopted for 1999.

The Bureau acknowledges with thanks the reports submitted by all Partnerships. The responses, however, showed great variation in the interpretation of what was expected from the Partnerships. It would appear, therefore, that guidelines defining work plans and partnership mechanisms would go a long way to ensure uniform treatment of the recommendations.

By way of developing the abovementioned guidelines, the QLD Police/Ethnic Youth Partnership project may serve as an example for this purpose.

### ***QLD PARTNERSHIP REPORT***

The QLD Police/Ethnic Youth Partnership (PEYP) decided that the most effective way forward was to trial a community development process in one location in Queensland. It was also agreed that reporting and evaluation mechanisms should be employed as part of the trial initiative so similar processes could be implemented in other regions across Queensland. An important factor in the development of the partnership was

a renewed commitment to enhance relations between police and ethnic youth.

It was decided to extend the trial initiative to include **all** young people and not just those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. It is believed that this is a more comprehensive and holistic approach to the issue of enhancing relations between police and all young people, irrespective of background. It is recognised however, that intensive work needs to be done to enhance relations between ethnic youth and police and this will not be overlooked in the trial initiative.

A meeting was held on 27 January 1999 at Inala to investigate the feasibility of conducting a trial there. The purpose of the meeting was to bring key stakeholders, including police and youth workers, together in the Inala area to discuss local strategies designed to build better relations between police, ethnic and Indigenous young people.

At the meeting it was agreed that the proposed partnership would assist in addressing youth issues at Inala. Instead of creating yet another committee and duplicating issues, it was resolved that the project could become part of the recently formed Inala Community Advisory Group (CAG). Many of the Inala CAG members were present at this meeting and advised that the CAG

goals would be compatible to those of the PEYP:

- to promote community ownership and responsibility for local crime prevention responses;
- to develop a coordinated approach to the delivery of local crime prevention activities;
- to enhance cooperation and elicit support from local agencies in the implementation of crime prevention activities and strategies; and
- to help create a safe and supportive physical and social environment for the community within the region through the identification and implementation of strategies which address the needs of young people and prevent crime.

At the next Inala CAG meeting on 28 January 1999, which was attended by John Bamborough and Inspector Terry Tyler, CAG members agreed that the proposed PEYP trial at Inala become a sub-committee of CAG. It was also agreed that the trial project Inala "Police Youth Partnership" (PYP) meetings be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month and would address **all** youth issues including indigenous issues.

The first formal meeting of the Inala PYP was held on Thursday 27 February 1999, at the Inala Youth Service at which time membership, terms of reference, structure, process and evaluation of the project were discussed in detail.

Terms of reference for the Inala PYP are now being developed which will reflect the NPEAB Youth Summit's recommendations and Queensland PEYP workplan.

A representative on the Inala PYP is making an application for a 'Community Service Grant' with the Queensland University of technology to evaluate the Inala PYP project over the twelve month trial.

The Assistant Commissioner of the Brisbane Metropolitan South Police Region has approved that the PYP trial project proceed at Inala with support from the Officer in Charge of Inala Station, Police Liaison Officers and other local police.

If after evaluation of the twelve month trial, the process and framework used in Inala proves successful, a similar trial may be considered in other locations.

### ***Police/Ethnic Youth Partnership QPS Work Plan***

#### **STEP 1**

- Develop a strategy to link stakeholders in targeted regions.
- Connect youth workers and police stakeholders in targeted locations with the aim of opening up dialogue relating to issues, priorities, needs and barriers to the development of better relations between police, non-English Speaking Background (NESB) and Indigenous young people.

#### **STEP 2**

- Investigate the feasibility of a trial in the Inala area by March 1999.

- Trial for 12 months.
- Document the process and framework used to connect stakeholders and any outcomes.
- Evaluate.

### STEP 3

- Trial in a regional community such as Cairns to see if distance is a barrier to the development of similar processes implemented in Inala.

### STEP 4

- Youth sector and non-English speaking background Youth Issues Network (NESBYIN) to work collaboratively with QPS in the development of a youth policy.
- Youth sector and NESBYIN to input QPS draft anti-racism policy.
- Explore the media issue more closely with QPS to look at ways in which we can begin to portray more positive images of NESB and Indigenous young people through the media.
- Develop strategies to promote NESBYIN and the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland in QPS.
- Explore systemic/long-term cross-cultural youth work training strategies for police officers in QPS.

The Bureau wishes to thank the Queensland team representatives, Senior Sergeant Lilian Bensted, Cultural Advisory Unit, Office of the Commissioner, Mr John Bamborough, Youth Affairs Network Queensland (YANG). Assistance is being provided by Ms Sue Linde, Youth and Community Combined Action Program (YACCA) of Inala and Mr Rino Randazzo, Youth Advocacy Centre and Police Ethnic Advisory Group member.

### **Summit Steering Committee Meeting Melbourne 13 May 1999**

The Summit Steering Committee Meeting, held at the NPEAB office, was attended by Ivan Kolarik, Executive Director NPEAB, Hass Dellal, Executive Director AMF, Rita Faelli, Research Officer, NPEAB, Carmel Guerra, Coordinator EYIN, Chief Inspector Rod Norman, Officer in Charge, Youth Advisory Unit, VIC Police.

The focus of the meeting was to develop guidelines for reporting mechanisms which reinforce the four Partnership goals (see page 1).

It is anticipated that the guidelines will not only assist Partnerships with their reporting systems but will also provide a uniform reporting method across States/Territories. This is critical for systematic dissemination of information and for identification of 'good practice' models.

The reporting guidelines (see attachments) address each of the four goals separately. Partnerships should complete only those forms which are relevant to their project(s) and/or event(s). However, both completed projects/events and those **still in progress** should be included. An example has been provided.

We hope that the provision of the guidelines will assist Partnerships by focusing on key factors such as strategies, objectives and outcomes.

### ***Feedback from the Commissioners' Conference***

The 1999 Commissioners' Conference considered the Bureau's report on police/ethnic youth relations which is a standing item on the Commissioners' Conference agenda. As a result, they resolved to endorse the Bureau's recommendation that the concept of State/Territories Implementation Support Teams be replaced by the newly established Police/Ethnic Youth Partnership.

### ***Media Portrayal of Ethnic Youth***

The recent Summit Steering Committee Meeting also addressed Recommendation 4 arising out of the Adelaide Forum dealing with positive media portrayal of ethnic youth.

A possible approach to this issue could be to link into the forthcoming National Refugee Week (11 -17 October, 1999) organised by AustCare. The idea is to promote good relations between police and ethnic youth through highlighting "good news" stories.

This strategy, if implemented, will require solid input from all partnerships to supply the Bureau with appropriate examples, including press releases. This will enable the Bureau to coordinate a national approach to this task.

Preliminary discussions with AustCARE have been held and it is yet to be established whether the theme of this year's refugee week -

"Clearing Landmines" would lend itself to the effective implementation of this task. In the meantime, we would welcome any suitable material regarding stories you would like to promote to be sent to the Bureau. In addition, should you have any suggestions as to other promotional strategies, please inform us as soon as possible.

### ***Next Partnership Strategic Planning Forum***

The next Forum should be held in parallel with the last meeting of the Bureau's Advisory Panel for this year. This will probably be held towards the end of the year. You will be advised of the date and venue as soon as these are available.

### ***Next Partnership Reports***

You are reminded that the next Partnership reports are due on **01 October, 1999**. This will allow the Bureau enough time to analyse all reports and to prepare a comprehensive presentation at the next Forum.

Please remember that your reports should be presented using the format in the attached guidelines.

### ***Keep in Touch***

We welcome any suggestions and/or contributions regarding this Newsletter which can serve as an important vehicle for dissemination of information.