



MINISTER FOR FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES

09136

15 NOV 1989

Mr Reg Blanch
Director
Office of Public Prosecutions
Level 11
265 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Mr Blanch,

The NSW Sexual Assault Committee now reports directly to me and has recently prepared an annual report and detailed its priorities for the rest of 1989 and the following year.

The Committee is chaired by the Director of the Women's Co-ordination Unit and has both departmental officers and community service providers as its members. The Departments of Health, Police, Attorney-General's and Family and Community Services are represented.

I have reappointed the community representatives for a two year period and am writing to seek your support for Ms Margaret Cunneen to continue as a member of the Committee as a representative of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Ms Cunneen has provided invaluable expertise in the past, particularly in the area of legal advice and support for victims and their families.

I regard the Committee as a crucial way of alerting the Government to issues that affect victims of sexual assault and the services that are provided to assist them, as it combines both practical expertise and understanding of policy and legislation. Groups with particular needs such as women of non-English-speaking background and Aboriginal women are also represented. The role of the Committee will be particularly important with regard to proposed amendments to the sexual assault legislation and the implementation of the Victims of Crime Charter.

The Committee meets once every 2 months for 3 hours and secretariat support is provided by the Women's Co-ordination Unit. The next meeting is 19/1/90. I have attached the terms of reference of the Committee and a brief summary of its activities for your information and the most excellent pamphlets it has produced. I thank you for your continuing support in this difficult but important area.

Yours sincerely,

Virginia Chadwick

Encl.