

Office of the Chief Commissioner

52145/194

10 July 2020

Mr Alex Greenwich, MP
Member for Sydney
Ground Floor, 21 Oxford St
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Sent via email: sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Greenwich,

Thank you for your letter of 9 July 2020. I advise the Commission has in the past and is presently overseeing NSW Police Force responses to complaints involving their interaction with members of the Aboriginal community. The Commission does communicate directly with the Aboriginal community, particularly through the Aboriginal Legal Service, to ensure everyone is aware we are here to see the Police behave appropriately when dealing with the Indigenous community.

Of course our mandate is to ensure the Police behave appropriately with all members of the community, particularly any group that might be considered vulnerable. We normally have a community liaison officer whose function is to educate the community generally about our role and in particular to communicate that to more vulnerable members of the community. At present that position is vacant, but I hope to remedy that soon.

The trigger for our involvement in any particular case is usually by way of a complaint received. Sometimes that comes from the individual concerned and sometimes from a member of the community who is aware of a particular incident.

As a Member of Parliament I expect complaints are made directly to you. I would be grateful if you could pass on those complaints to the Commission. All complaints are examined by this Commission or the Police. If the Police are dealing with the complaint, we oversight the actions they are taking.

If you have any particular matters in mind, please let us know what they are.

Yours sincerely,



The Hon R O Blanch AM QC
Acting Chief Commissioner