

**AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT
OF POLICING IN REMOTE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA**

**By
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MARCH 2007**

The Hon Mal Brough MP
Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I have pleasure in providing my *Assessment of Policing in Remote Indigenous Communities* which is part of a package of measures agreed to by the Australian Government following the Intergovernmental Summit on Violence and Child Abuse in Indigenous Communities in Canberra on 26 June 2006.

The report has been prepared following extensive consultations with the police services of Queensland, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia in addition to police unions and associations and other key individuals.

The report indicates that there are a considerable number of priorities for policing within remote indigenous communities which the jurisdictions and the Australian Government need to contemplate in continuing to enhance conditions in those communities. That will clearly require on-going discussions with jurisdictions to ensure that assistance by the Australian Government is well directed.

I wish to acknowledge the assistance provided by the staff of the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination and my colleagues at the Canberra office of Ernst & Young for their support and contributions during this project.

I thank you for the opportunity to undertake this task and wish all parties every success in enhancing the quality and level of policing in remote indigenous communities throughout the relevant jurisdictions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John G Valentin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John G Valentin APM

March 2007

Contents

Introduction.....	2
Methodology	3
Reading the Tables	5
Qualifications and Limitations.....	6
Assessment	7
Operational Police to Population Ratios – across jurisdictions and within remote communities	8
South Australia	8
Queensland	10
Northern Territory	12
Western Australia.....	15
Recommendations.....	18

Introduction

The *Assessment of Policing in Remote Indigenous Communities* is part of a package of measures for which funding was committed by the Australian Government following the Intergovernmental Summit on Violence and Child Abuse in Indigenous Communities in Canberra on 26 June 2006. Those measures include \$40 million in capital assistance for police infrastructure and housing to assist to increase the permanent presence of police in agreed priority remote communities.

The objective of this review is to assess and report on the issues and priorities in policing remote indigenous communities. The information and findings are intended to assist the Australian Government understand the policing required to address law and order issues in specific remote areas and inform the development and implementation of measures to address those issues.

The Australian Government seeks to establish standards within remote communities comparable with elsewhere in Australia; that priorities such as health, housing and education are sustainable and to ensure that the investments of governments in those communities are protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

A permanent police presence is considered a key mechanism through which stability within communities can be achieved and the continuity of other government services is more likely to occur and be sustained. The provision of police services is the responsibility of the States and Territories and demand to extend those services into further remote communities frequently exceeds available resources, thus the offer of assistance by the Australian Government.

Remote areas of Queensland, the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia were selected for the review and relevant information was sought from police services, police unions and other key individuals.

Jurisdictions advised the review of their priorities, some of which fall outside the parameters of the Australian Government's commitments. While those priorities are acknowledged this review looks beyond those priorities to ask the question 'why not' of other remote communities where police services appear to be minimal or non-existent. The review seeks to identify gaps and highlight areas of need for bi-lateral discussions with jurisdictions to achieve agreed positions about Australian Government assistance.

Methodology

The review was required to:

- quantify and assess the nature and extent of the current police presence in remote indigenous communities;
- identify and describe gaps with respect to current and emerging priorities, needs and expectations; and
- include consideration of factors such as population, remoteness, rate of crime, other local circumstances and any other relevant issues.

Remote communities were selected against the following criteria:

- Classified as either *Remote* or a *Very Remote* on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA)
- Have a population of over 200 people based on the Community Housing Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS)
- Are inhabited or intended to be inhabited predominantly (i.e. greater than 50% of usual residents) by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples (based on the CHINS survey).

Population statistics from CHINS and from jurisdictions have been verified and adjusted as required by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Indigenous Coordination Centres. Because of the mix of data sources, the figures can only be considered as indicative of the current populations of the communities or regions.

Jurisdictions were asked to provide data which would enable the terms of reference of the review to be met. Following the provision of initial data further information was sought including the number of police in each community, within 30 and 75 kilometres. While Western Australia and South Australia responded Queensland and the Northern Territory only provided limited data, the remainder of which was obtained from public sources where available.

South Australia provided generic crime data in relation to remote areas while Western Australia data is expected to be provided later. Neither the Northern Territory nor Queensland provided crime data. There are no independent sources of crime rates at the community level. Because of those inconsistencies, crime data (where provided by jurisdictions) has not been incorporated into the assessment and 'demand' for police services in remote communities has not been measured.

Available data was mapped to tables for each jurisdiction, identifying the remote community, population, numbers of police within the community, numbers of police within 75 kilometres, the implied police requirement for that community based on an existing police to population ratios for indigenous communities in the jurisdiction, implied police required using the highest police to population ratio of the four jurisdictions (Western Australia) and the priorities nominated by the jurisdictions.

The 'implied numbers of police' are based on current police establishment numbers for remote indigenous communities as a ratio of the populations of those communities for each of the jurisdictions. 'Implied numbers of police' serves to highlight the current differences across jurisdictions, noting that Western Australia appears to have the highest police to population ratios in remote communities.

Communities in each jurisdiction were ranked on the tables by largest to smallest population, into three priorities:

- Category 1 - no police presence within the community or within 75 kilometres.
- Category 2 - no police presence within the community but police within 75 kilometres.
- Category 3 - a police presence exists within the community.

The largest population was selected as a key consideration as generally the larger the population the greater the propensity for community disorder and crime. Greater importance is given to those communities without a police presence or without a police presence within 75 kilometres.

The resultant indicators of 'Implied Police Numbers Required' against each remote community are those which could be reasonably expected to apply if a permanent police presence was to be established in that location, using apparent present staffing ratios for jurisdictions.

Reading the Tables

Category ranking and definition	
Category 1	No police presence within the community or within 75 kms
Category 2	No police presence within the community but within 75 kms.
Category 3	A police presence exists within the community.

Column Headings	Descriptions
Implied police required using jurisdictional police to population ratio	Police Numbers which could be expected to reasonably apply to that community using apparent present staffing ratios for jurisdictions.
Implied police required if highest jurisdictional police to population ratio used	Police Numbers which could be expected to reasonably apply to that community using apparent present staffing ratios of Western Australia
Nominated by jurisdiction as priority	Location identified by police jurisdiction for new or enhanced infrastructure

Qualifications and Limitations

The available data has been used to identify a range of priority remote communities for the purposes of discussions between the Australian Government and relevant jurisdictions. The data is drawn from a variety of sources with differing bases thus the implied number of police for any nominated community can only be an indication of requirement. In the absence of complete and consistent data sets from each of the jurisdictions the assessment is reliant on mixed data which was originally collected for different purposes. The accuracy of information drawn from public sources cannot be verified and may vary from other data sources.

In the absence of consistent and complete crime data or other indicators of community dysfunction, no measure of ‘demand’ has been developed for police services in those communities. The available data does not enable any measure of the ‘effectiveness’ of the current policing arrangements within those communities.

The method used to obtain the ‘Implied Police Numbers Required’ against each community is based on establishment numbers and does not take account of staffing policies, prevailing or emerging police service delivery arrangements or considerations of the strategic positioning of police. The actual numbers of police available for duty at those communities is a constant variable. The ‘implied numbers of police’ does not measure efficiency or effectiveness nor does it represent ‘best practice’ in police standards for those communities.

The data does not reflect the significant difficulties for police in endeavouring to meet the demands and expectations of remote indigenous communities nor the additional resources which jurisdictions provide to communities in extraordinary circumstances.

Assessment

Each of the jurisdictions provided their preferred options for enhancing policing in remote indigenous communities. Logically, enhancements in the provision of government services are more likely to endure where there is a permanent police presence in those communities or a sufficiently proximate police presence so as to ensure that agencies can provide their services within a relatively secure environment.

Accordingly as a reference framework this review considers it appropriate to assess and prioritise proposals which:

- reflect equity in the provision of police services across communities
- will lead to an expansion of the permanent presence of police into further remote indigenous communities (using population size as a guide);
- will enhance current initiatives within remote communities which require further support; and
- are matters where the Australian Government can assist

On the available data the nominated priorities of jurisdictions generally fail to demonstrate equity of provision of police services across communities. While the validity of the jurisdiction's nominated priorities is not at issue, the relative importance of those to other potential priorities remains unclear on the information provided to date.

Other possibilities in each jurisdiction need to be appropriately assessed before any clear order of priority can be determined. That process will necessitate greater participation by some jurisdictions with the Australian Government than evidenced during the course of this review.

As an alternative approach, the data which has been collected has been used to develop jurisdictional tables, ranked as described previously and taking account of the above reference framework. Those tables provide a starting point for discussions through which to understand the 'why-not' questions for those communities which have not been identified by jurisdictions as priorities and thus better inform the Australian Government on policing requirements to address law and order issues in specific communities.

Police to population numbers in remote communities have been compiled against 'whole of jurisdiction' ratios for the jurisdictions. The following table indicates that remote indigenous communities are in most jurisdictions apparently better served on a police to population ratio however that does not take account of the actual numbers of police at specified locations, the absence of an 'overlap' of police capability (as occurs in urban areas) or time and distance factors involved in providing additional police to a remote community. For consistency purposes, 'Aboriginal Community Police' numbers in the jurisdictions have not been taken into account because of the variations between jurisdictions in their roles and functions. Absolute police numbers can also be misleading: two police in a remote community engaged on a protracted matter effectively results in there being no police available to respond to other matters.

Operational Police to Population Ratios – across jurisdictions and within remote communities

	Population (1)	Police Total (2)	Operational Police Percentage (3)	Operational Police Totals (4)	Operational Police to Population Ratios across Jurisdiction	Operational Police to Population Ratios in Indigenous Remote Communities (5a,b)
South Australia	1,542,033	4087	90.6	3703	1:416	1:216
Queensland	3,963,968	9378	79	7409	1:535	1:271
Northern Territory	202,793	919	84.5	777	1:261	1:311
Western Australia	2,010,113	5183	84.9	4400	1:457	1:172

Notes:

- (1) Australian Bureau of Statistics 2005
- (2) 2005/06 Annual Reports of Police Services
- (3) 2005/06 Productivity Commission Report on the Provision of Government Services
- (4) Calculated number of operational police directly providing services to the community (police total multiplied by percentage of operational police)
- (5)
 - a. Indigenous communities have a resident population over 50 % indigenous people.
 - b. Population figures are from Community Housing Infrastructure Needs Survey 2001, FaCSIA ICC inputs and jurisdictional submissions.

South Australia

The key priorities nominated by South Australia are:

- Replacement police stations and cell facilities at Amata, Ernabella and Yalata
- Provision of residential accommodation for four police officers at Umuwa
- Provision of office and administration facilities at Umuwa and Murputja.
- Construction of vehicle and equipment compounds at Umuwa and Murputja

Against the reference framework, the review believes the Australian Government's priority should be the provision of residential accommodation for police at Umuwa, which will lead to an expansion of the permanent presence of police in nearby remote indigenous communities.

South Australia Police have identified four additional police officers for deployment to the APY Lands but are presently inhibited by the lack of accommodation. As a practice South Australia Police do not accommodate police within indigenous communities but place them at two separate locations some distance from the communities.

The following table provides an analysis of police numbers throughout the relevant remote areas, of implied police numbers using present staffing averages and a comparison if Western Australia Police ratios are used.

Community	Population (1)	Police within community	Police within 75kms	Implied police required using jurisdictional police to population ratio	Implied police required if highest jurisdictional police to population ratio used	Nominated by jurisdiction as priority
Amata	300	0	N	1.4	1.7	
Mimili (Everard Park)	250	0	N	1.2	1.5	
Pukatja (Ernabella)	310	0	Y	1.4	1.8	*
Kaltjiti (Fregon)	300	0	Y	1.4	1.7	
Indulkana	250	0	Y	1.2	1.5	
Pipalyatjara	200	0	Y	0.9	1.2	
Yalata	200	2	Y	0.9	1.2	*
Murputja (2)	124	4	Y	0.6	0.7	*
Umuwa (2)	30	4	Y	0.1	0.2	*

Notes:

- (1) All population figures are estimates based on underlying CHINS data sources and adjusted through local knowledge, recognising significant fluctuations in population numbers over time and rounded to the nearest 10. State/Territory population data used where provided.
- (2) Communities with populations under 200 were retained as they represent police centres servicing the APY Lands, reflecting current SA Police policies.

While the jurisdiction's priorities are reflected in that analysis, the policing arrangements for other communities need to be better understood, particularly the present practice of not accommodating police within specific communities. For example, from the table it would be reasonable to expect Mimili and Amata to each be permanently staffed by at least two police respectively in view of their respective populations. The data also suggests an imbalance in police numbers in other communities.

The dimensions of policing those remote communities, including environmental factors such as distance, topography, response times to communities, crime rates and trends, cultural nuances and behaviours and the attraction and retention of police staff, necessitate that discussions will be necessary on the widest possible range of options to identify sustainable improvements in the long term policing arrangements for all of those communities.

Queensland

The key priorities nominated by Queensland are:

- A suitable aircraft, located permanently in the Torres Strait, to deliver police services to all communities of that region;
- Additional police stations and housing for the expansion of police in indigenous communities, particularly in the Torres Strait.
- That police 'lock-ups' located in various remote communities are brought to contemporary standards.

Against the reference framework and in view of the limited information provided but cognisant of recent events in Queensland, the review believes the Australian Government's priority should be the provision of additional police stations and residential accommodation in Aboriginal communities through which an expansion of the permanent presence of police in those and nearby communities can be achieved.

The following table provides an analysis of police numbers throughout the relevant remote areas, of implied police numbers using present staffing averages and a comparison if Western Australia Police ratios are used.

Community	Population (1)	Police within community (2)	Police within 75kms	Implied police required using jurisdictional police to population ratio	Implied police required if highest jurisdictional police to population ratio used	Nominated by jurisdiction as priority
Gununa (Mornington Is.)	1100	n/p	N	4.1	6.4	
Mer Islands	600	n/p	N	2.2	3.5	
Saibai Island	430	n/p	N	1.6	2.5	
Yam Island	400	n/p	N	1.5	2.3	
Boigu Island	350	n/p	N	1.3	2.0	
Yorke Island	300	n/p	N	1.1	1.7	
Mapoon (Marpuna)	260	n/p	N	1.0	1.5	
Warraber Island	250	n/p	N	0.9	1.5	
Coconut Island	200	n/p	N	0.7	1.2	
Badu Island/ Moa Island	1650	0	Y	6.1	9.6	*
Bamaga	1500	n/p	Y	5.5	8.7	
Coen	300	n/p	Y	1.1	1.7	
Mabuiag Island	290	n/p	Y	1.1	1.7	
Old Mapoon	200	n/p	Y	0.7	1.2	*
Palm island	3500	16	Y	12.9	20.3	
Yarrabah	2120	8	Y	7.8	12.3	
Hopevale	1300	2	Y	4.8	7.6	
Aurukun	1300	8	Y	4.8	7.6	
Kowanyama	1200	8	Y	4.4	7.0	
Doomadgee	1180	9	Y	4.4	6.9	
Cherburg	1120	6	Y	4.1	6.5	
Woorabinda	960	5	Y	3.5	5.6	
Lockhart River	700	2	Y	2.6	4.1	*
Pormpuraaw	700	2	Y	2.6	4.1	*
Injinoo	500	2	Y	1.8	2.9	
Wujal Wujal	385	2	Y	1.4	2.2	*
Umagico	220	2	Y	0.8	1.3	

Notes:

- (1) All population figures are estimates based on underlying CHINS data sources and adjusted through local knowledge, recognising significant fluctuations in population numbers over time and rounded to the nearest 10. State/Territory population data used where provided.
- (2) Policing numbers are incomplete. Only those figures provided are indicated in the table
- (3) 'n/p' indicates data not provided

While incomplete, the data suggests there are a number of communities where a demand for a police presence may exist and where indicatively it would be reasonable to expect 2 -3 police to be permanently stationed. However in the absence of comparisons of crime levels and trends between the Torres Strait Islander and the Aboriginal communities, but cognisant of recent well publicised events, the communities of Hopevale, Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw, Injinoo and Yarrabah potentially represent a high priority for additional police capability than those nominated to the review, including in the Torres Strait. There are other Aboriginal communities which should also receive further consideration. The apparent imbalances in police numbers in some communities need to be better understood.

The present numbers of police appear to be insufficient given the histories of dysfunction and tension evident in a number of the Aboriginal communities. The demands on police, such as requirements to service Alcohol Management Plans, can render small numbers of police ineffective in those communities: as evident in other jurisdictions, two police engaged on a protracted matter renders the community without effective policing for the duration of that matter.

The jurisdiction's priorities reflected within that analysis indicate that the policing requirements for a number of other communities need to be clarified in order to place the nominated priorities into perspective and to determine where Australian Government assistance might be appropriate.

Northern Territory

The key priorities nominated by the Northern Territory are:

- Construction of a police station, accommodation and infrastructure at Galiwinku (Elcho Island)
- Construction of a police station, accommodation and infrastructure at Ramingining, noting its proximity to Milingimbi thus enabling enhanced policing to that community
- Construction of a police station, accommodation and infrastructure at Alpururulam (Lake Nash)
- Construction of a police station, accommodation and infrastructure at Urapuntja (Utopia)
- Construction of police facilities for Aboriginal Community Police Officers at Milikapiti (Tiwi Islands)

Each of those priorities accords with the reference framework suggested by this review for Australian Government assistance.

The following table provides an analysis of police numbers throughout the relevant remote areas, of implied police numbers using present staffing averages and a comparison if Western Australia Police ratios are used.

Community	Population (1)	Police within community (2)	Police within 75kms	Implied police required using jurisdictional police to population ratio	Implied police required if highest jurisdictional police to population ratio used	Nominated by jurisdiction as priority
Galiwinku (Elcho Island)	2200	0	N	7.1	12.8	*
Numbulwar	1500	0	N	4.8	8.7	
Urapuntja (Utopia)	1000	0	N	3.2	5.8	*
Milingimbi	1000	0	N	3.2	5.8	
Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash)	738	0	N	2.4	4.3	*
Ramingining	730	0	N	2.3	4.2	*
Minyeri (Hodgson Downs)	650	0	N	2.1	3.8	
Walungurru	450	0	N	1.4	2.6	
Kaltukatjara (Docker River)	400	0	N	1.3	2.3	
Warruwi (Goulburn Is.)	380	0	N	1.2	2.2	
Yarralin	380	0	N	1.2	2.2	
Ampilatwatja	350	0	N	1.1	2.0	
Gapuwiyak (Lake Evella)	350	0	N	1.1	2.0	
Gulin Gulin (Bulman)	350	0	N	1.1	2.0	
Laramba (Napperby	300	0	N	1.0	1.7	
Minjilang	300	0	N	1.0	1.7	
Titjikala	250	0	N	0.8	1.5	
Canteen Creek	210	0	N	0.7	1.2	
Finke	200	0	N	0.6	1.2	
Yirrkala (The Mission)	900	0	Y	2.9	5.2	
Beswick	700	0	Y	2.3	4.1	
Milikapiti (Snake Bay)	700	0	Y	2.3	4.1	*
Santa Teresa	700	0	Y	2.3	4.1	
Umbakumba	470	0	Y	1.5	2.7	
Nyirripi	350	0	Y	1.1	2.0	
Mutitjulu	300	0	Y	1.0	1.7	

Community	Population (1)	Police within community (2)	Police within 75kms	Implied police required using jurisdictional police to population ratio	Implied police required if highest jurisdictional police to population ratio used	Nominated by jurisdiction as priority
Nganmarriyanga (Palumpa)	300	0	Y	1.0	1.7	
Yanyula	300	0	Y	1.0	1.7	
Watiyawana (Mt. Liebig)	280	0	Y	0.9	1.6	
Areyonga	250	0	Y	0.8	1.5	
Pmara Jutunta (Ti Tree)	230	0	Y	0.7	1.3	
Peppimenarti	200	0	Y	0.6	1.2	
Haasts Bluff	200	0	Y	0.6	1.2	
Jilkminggan	200	0	Y	0.6	1.2	
Wadeye	2500	8	Y	8.0	14.5	
Maningrida	2400	2	Y	7.7	14.0	
Oenpelli	1500	2	Y	4.8	8.7	
Nguiu (Bathurst Is.)	1500	2	Y	4.8	8.7	
Ngukurr (Roper River)	1300	2	Y	4.2	7.6	
Yuendumu/Yuelamu	1300	3	Y	4.2	7.6	
Lajamanu (Hooker Creek)	1000	2	Y	3.2	5.8	
Angurugu (Groote Eylandt)	900	13	Y	2.9	5.2	
Daguragu/Kalkaringi (Wave Hill)	750	2	Y	2.4	4.4	
Barunga	400	2	Y	1.3	2.3	
Naiyu (Daly River)	400	2	Y	1.3	2.3	
Pirlangimpi (Garden Point)	400	2	Y	1.3	2.3	
Willowra	350	2	Y	1.1	2.0	
Papunya	300	2	Y	1.0	1.7	
Ali Curung (Warribri)	280	2	Y	0.9	1.6	
Harts Range	250	2	Y	0.8	1.5	

Notes:

- (1) All population figures are estimates based on underlying CHINS data sources and adjusted through local knowledge, recognising significant fluctuations in population numbers over time and rounded to the nearest 10. State/Territory population data used where provided.

- (2) Policing numbers obtained from publicly available sources and adjusted based on local knowledge

While the analysis reflects that the jurisdiction's priorities fall within the highest ranked category of priorities, the incomplete data makes it imperative that a much better understanding is obtained of other potential priorities and the jurisdiction's staffing arrangements before the nominated priorities can be further evaluated. For example, in the absence of crime data the jurisdiction's proposals for Galiwinku and other communities appear to project under-resourcing considering the populations of those communities and the number of police which might reasonably be expected to be permanently stationed at those locations.

The communities of Numbulwar and Milikapiti are currently policed by Aboriginal Community Police Officers. While competent within their designated duties, this review does not consider them to be substitutes for fully qualified police and their deployment to communities without the support and supervision of fully qualified officers further exacerbates the under-policing of those communities. Both communities are a considerable distance from the nearest full police presence with a consequential diminution in the equity of the levels of those services. A similar imbalance is evident for Nguiu on the Tiwi Islands where the primary location for police is at Pirlangimpi (Garden Point.)

Bi-lateral discussions will be necessary to better understand the nominated priorities, apparent imbalances and gaps in service delivery and other possibilities for Australian Government assistance in expanding the permanent presence of police throughout the Northern Territory.

Western Australia

The key priorities nominated by Western Australia are:

- The construction of visiting officer's quarters at:
 - Warburton
 - Kintore
 - Balgo
 - Kalumburu
 - Bidyadanga
 - Dampier Peninsula
 - Warakuna
 - Jigalong and
 - Warmun

- The construction of Multi Functional Police Facilities (MFPP), accommodation and visiting officers quarters at:
 - Oombulgurri
 - Wingellina
 - Burringurrah and
 - Looma.

Against the reference framework this review considers that the construction of the MFPPs should be a higher priority for Australian Government assistance than visiting officer's quarters.

The following table provides an analysis of police numbers throughout the relevant remote areas and of implied police numbers using present staffing averages.

Community	Population (1)	Police within community	Police within 75kms	Implied police required using jurisdictional police to population ratio	Nominated by jurisdiction as priority
Beagle Bay	300	0	N	1.7	
Looma	250	0	N	1.5	*
Burringurrah (Mt James)	250	0	N	1.5	*
Noonkanbah	230	0	N	1.3	
Mindibungu	220	0	N	1.3	
Wingellina	200	0	N	1.2	*
Junjuwa	500	0	Y	2.9	
Mirima	300	0	Y	1.7	
Oombulgurri	210	0	Y	1.2	*
Dampier Peninsula (including Bardi, Djarindjin and Lombadina)	1250	2	Y	7.3	*
Bidyadanga	800	2	Y	4.7	*
Warburton	500	4	Y	2.9	*
Kalumburu	450	2	Y	2.6	*
Warmun	450	2	Y	2.6	*
Balgo	384	2	Y	2.2	*
Jigalong	300	2	Y	1.7	*
Warakurna	300	3	Y	1.7	*
Wiluna	210	8	Y	1.2	

Notes:

- 1) All population figures are estimates based on underlying CHINS data sources and adjusted through local knowledge, recognising significant fluctuations in population numbers over time and rounded to the nearest 10. State/Territory population data used where provided.

The Western Australia model for Multi Function Police Facilities (incorporating other government agencies in a coordinated approach to service delivery) is the most progressive of the four jurisdictions examined and has much to recommend it.

Notwithstanding that the jurisdiction's priorities fall within the highest category of priorities on that analysis, the policing arrangements for the other priority communities need to be further examined, particularly the adequacy of police numbers in some locations (noting there are larger communities than those nominated) and the proposed policing arrangements for those communities to ensure any Australian Government assistance is provided in the most appropriate manner.

Recommendations

This review has identified for further consideration a number of priority communities in each of the jurisdictions as indicated in the respective tables and where opportunities exist for Australian Government assistance.

Recognising the present data limitations and in order to establish clear priorities for enhancing policing in remote indigenous communities it is recommended that the Australian Government commence bi-lateral discussions with South Australia, Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia to determine:

- Why those remote indigenous communities without police services within community or 75 kilometres as indicated in the tables above should not be considered as priorities;
- What assistance the Australian Government might be able to provide in respect of any further identified priorities and a timeframe for the provision of that assistance;
- The extent of readiness of jurisdictions to proceed with the priorities agreed to as a result of those discussions; and
- In respect of South Australia the appropriateness of the present locations of police in relation to the indigenous communities and the specific timeframe in which to deploy a further four officers to the APY Lands, noting their readiness to do so as indicated in their submission.