

SOUTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AID

COOPERATIVE LIMITED

88 Regent Street
Redfern NSW 2016

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ANNUAL REPORT 1997

OPEN: MONDAY TO FRIDAY
9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
1.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

South Sydney Community Aid Cooperative is an independent community based service, which resources individuals and groups to assist them to identify and meet their needs, informed by the principles of social justice.

Members of the cooperative are local residents who elect the Board of Management annually.

-MOST OF OUR SERVICES ARE FREE OF CHARGE-

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the staff on getting through another year of working under less than perfect conditions. Funding is inadequate to do everything that we would like to, the building is an inappropriate design for a community centre and the rent is too expensive. There is also the issue of being located on Regent St. an island surrounded by traffic.

The building was always intended to be a transitional home between St Lukes and wherever we operate from in the future. The lease is up in June 1998 and it is now time to look for another premises. A daunting task indeed. In addition to this South Sydney Community Transport, a co-tenant with South Sydney Community Aid since its beginning, will relocate with other Home and Community Care services in 1998. They will be part of a multi-service HACC facility to be built at St Saviours. We wish them luck and congratulate them on their success in convincing the funding bodies that such a facility was required.

A similar task faces South Sydney Community Aid. Accommodation is a major problem for us and potentially for a lot of other community based groups in South Sydney. We cannot afford the market rate rental for the kind of premises we need; the government is increasingly pulling out of arrangements allowing community groups access to surplus government owned sites; and the Council seems to have little in the way of suitable local property not already in use by agencies. We can't move out of the area because we exist to service needs in Redfern/Waterloo. If we can't be here we may as well close up - and we don't have any intention of doing that.

All of this is happening in a climate in which the value of the community development model and that of community based groups is being undermined by a prevailing monetarist ideology which demands that market principles are applied to the community sector. Relationships between funding bodies, community organisations and members of the community are being redefined. We are no longer a community it seems - rather a loose collection of customers all looking for the best deal. And the best deal has little to do with

quality of ideals or philosophy, its about breaking down what community agencies do into quantifiable services which lead to tangible outcomes. Sounds very rational, but what about all those outcomes which are not tangible - commitment, relationships, confidence, trust, accessibility, smiles and, do we dare say, empowerment? Accountability to the local community through our management committee is being replaced with accountability to the tax payer through an accountant.

All of this does not auger well for South Sydney Community Aid. While no one admits it at the moment you don't have to be Nostradamus to see a time when all community services will be open to competitive tendering. Organisations such as Community Aid will find it difficult to compete with cashed up, centrally administered charities and opportunist business people wanting to turn a buck in the welfare sector. If we want to exist, if we feel that a commitment to community development and ideals of empowerment are worth retaining we need to take actions to secure our future. Long term, secure and affordable premises is essential to that future.

Towards this end South Sydney Community Aid has committed to working with other local community agencies to take possession of the old Rachel Forster Hospital site on the corner of George and Phillip Sts. We are currently in discussions with the Department of Health and the Premiers Office to work out a suitable arrangement. We can only hope that there is enough good and decent old fashioned labor values in the NSW government to ensure a positive result.

I'd like to say goodbye to Pippa Lausen who is taking up the position of Co-ordinator of The Factory and thank her for her great efforts as the "driving force" behind the resurrected Redfern/Waterloo Festival for the last two years and as the Community Information and Outreach Worker while Siobhan Bryson has been sojourning in Ireland. Thanks Pippa, good luck and enjoy your new job. By an amazing coincidence or possibly just sheer brilliant timing Siobhan returned from Ireland in the same week Pippa got the job and she

COMMUNITY INFORMATION/ OUTREACH WORKER'S REPORT

In June 1996, I started as Community Information & Outreach Worker, (a maternity leave position created by Siobhan Bryson leaving work until December 1997), with my main responsibility being to disseminate information throughout the South Sydney area. The position is part-time, and involves holding weekly stalls at the DSS, Redfern Mall and the Waterloo high rises; attending inter-agency meetings and keeping local noticeboards and pamphlets stands up to date.

During the year I have initiated a *Community News Digest* which is circulated to all community workers in the area, and is put on our Home page on the Internet. It has been generally well-received, with people contributing on a regular basis to the items of information listed.

I also co-ordinate the running of WARTS (Waterloo & Redfern Trading System), which has a membership of about 60. Up until February of this year, regular monthly meetings and trading and information days were held to try and encourage wider participation. However, activity within the organisation is presently at a low level, but, with the return of a key member to the area, it is likely that the group will become reinvigorated.

For the second year running, I have been appointed co-ordinator (lasts for six weeks) of the local community festival due to take place on November 1st. The organisation of the festival has been more widely based this year, with an emphasis on local voluntary help rather than relying on Council staff.

I am leaving SSCA on November 7th, and will miss the place and the people more than I can say. I have enjoyed being here very much, and hope that I have contributed to the development and relevance of the organisation in its service to the local community.

PIPPA LAUSEN
October 13th 1997

MONTHLY MULTICULTURAL BUS TRIPS

Another year has passed, thanks to South Sydney Council, South Sydney Community Transport & South Sydney Community Aid that we could offer another service to migrants living in the area.

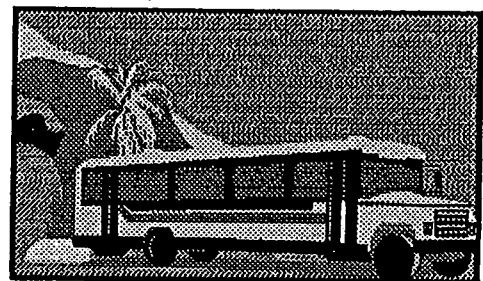
South Sydney Community Aid is proud to offer this service beside our long list of services!

The monthly trip is an eye opener for every person who comes. I could not see a better way to learn about our beautiful country. Everyone who comes on the bus trip awaits with patience for the next outing. We have had the opportunity to visit different National Parks and places of interest like the Blue Mountains, Wollongong, the different stage of Homebush Bay Olympic Park to name a few.

By the combined effort of South Sydney Council and especially South Sydney Community Transport, we will take this service to the 21st century. Unfortunately this year our Council like others has cut down our funding for the mailing list and we have had to impose a charge of two dollars per person. The only drawback is that the numbers have fallen. I've asked the committee to advertise the service around the rest of the migrant community in our area.

I'm delighted to have been asked to fulfil the role of Tour Co-ordinator & to be able to give something back to the community, helping migrants to integrate easily in our community.

JACQUES GONTHIER
The Tour Co-ordinator



SMPO - SPECIALIST MIGRANT PLACEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

It was a year of Survival! Anti-forces were stronger than ever within & without. The transformation of the Australia's workplaces, massive job losses, privatisation, economic rationalism, racism & discrimination, chaos and cuts in the Labour market programs etc, etc, etc... created some real-life horror stories in the lives of the people. Yet the social issues around SMPO Project were not found interesting / important enough to be listened / heard / acted upon even by the project's funders & providers. It was merely a project of figures and outcome reports. Cheap and politically correct!

Now it is the time of the year, once again, we ask the Question, 'To be or Not... Should we say our Farewell now? or are they going to fund us for another year? Here is the summary of the work report goes as usual....

SMPO Program is designed to assist disadvantaged NESB migrants (Non English Speaking Backgrounds) with their employment training and further education needs. The program is funded by the NSW MSQB (Migrant Skills and Qualifications Board) within the DTFC (Department of Training and Education Co-ordination). Currently there are 19 SMPO positions in the areas of high migrant unemployment.

Client's Case work comprised a large section of my work. SMPO assisted 280 unemployed people from NESB, providing a range of interpersonal services including advice, counselling, information, advocacy, referral, assessment of overseas qualifications and access into bridging courses, job search skills and employment preparation assistance, organising work experience and placements into employment, training, further education.

Community Development, Outreach and Networking continued to be an important part of SMPO role. It is vital to raise community awareness of NESB employment and training needs and issues and to address Access and Equity in the provision of all services in the field. SMPO is actively involved with DEETVA General and Regional Multicultural Consultative Forums, Migrant Employment taskforce. SMPO attended to Information Seminars throughout the year for various groups ie Job Clubs, Adult Migrant English Program Classes, TAFE Multicultural Education Unit's various Bridging Course

Classes, TAFE - Outreach and Work Opportunities for Women Classes and some ethno-specific groups. Additionally SMPO has played an active role on various committees, advisory groups, forums and campaigns to address the issues of access and equity and utilisation of overseas skills & qualifications on behalf of clients. The SMPO Project continued to hold its regular Information stall every Tuesday at Haymarket CSDA (previously CES) to reach more local people. SMPO Project has continued to establish and develop links with employers / employer associations in Public, Private and Community sector through ongoing liaisons and canvassing.

ESOL Provision SSCA-SMPO organised and co-ordinated six English Classes (2 terms) in conjunction with East Sydney TAFE Outreach Unit. The Classes for Beginners and Intermediate level have been well attended and much appreciated. Many thanks to East Sydney TAFE - Outreach for teachers and to the Redfern Skills Centre for providing the course venue.

Keyhan Yilmaz & Beatrice Tong

This is how the third year that I have been involved in providing a Tax Help service for people on a low income living in the South Sydney area. This service has become more popular as the years progress & looks set to continue to be a well used facility for local people.

This year Tax Help started on Wednesday 29/07/97. Many people have sought support & assistance and we have been able to provide the service to 53 people this year as follows:

CLIENTS	TOTAL	MALE/	FEMALE
Senior (pension age)	20	11m & 9f	
Disabled	7	4m & 3f	
Migrant/Ethnic	9	7m & 3f	
Aboriginal	7	3m & 4f	
Low income	10	2m & 8f	

SOHEIR SHEHATA
Tax Help worker & Bookkeeper

Chairperson's Report continued.
will recommence work in the new year.
Welcome back Siobhan!

This will be my last report as Chair of South Sydney Community Aid, as I am no longer working locally and due to a number of other commitments I find I am unable to devote the time the position requires. I will however renominate to stay on the management committee. To whoever takes up the position of Chair, good luck - they are a great bunch of people to work with.

JIM PIOTROWSKI

CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

South Sydney Community Aid (SSCA) has survived another year, this time thanks to a special grant from the Premiers Department. This one-off payment will help SSCA to pay the rent until next June. After this date it is imperative we secure affordable accommodation for ourselves and the other groups located alongside us, i.e. The South Sydney Aboriginal Resource Centre, and more recently CAHPACA - the Committee against Health Professional and Clergy Abuse.

The accommodation problems faced by community organisations operating in the Inner City areas has now reached crisis point. The Premier is at present considering our situation and it is hoped he will be able to offer a solution which will guarantee that we do not have to worry about paying rental costs that are way beyond our means.

During the year the centre has been involved with:

- Inner Sydney Migrant Interagency
- Arabic Speaking Grant-In-Aid Position (based at Botany Neighbourhood Centre, and operating two days a week from South Sydney Community Aid premises).
- South East Sydney (Regional) Child Protection Committee
- NSW Child Protection Council - as the Eastern Sydney Area representative.
- South Sydney Child Protection Action Group
- Police South Region Metropolitan Customer Council - now disbanded

- Police Standing Committee on Victim Support - now disbanded
- Department of Community Services, Community Services Grants Programme Planning Forum
- CAROBS (Coalition Against Removal of Banking Services)
- Inner Sydney Neighbourhood Centres Forum
- Redfern Legal Centre Women's Domestic Violence Court Support Scheme, Redfern Court and,
- Downing Centre Women's Domestic Violence Court Support Scheme.
- Redfern and Waterloo Community Festival
- Xmas On The Green
- Waterloo Neighbourhood Centre
- Neighbourhood Advisory Board
- Connect Redfern
- South Sydney Council LEAPS Policy Development and Migrant Advisory Committee
- Migrant Bus Trips
- NESB Coffee Group
- Development of SSCA's Internet home page

SSCA would like to extend a welcome to CAHPACA, who moved in during August this year.

In the coming year South Sydney Community Aid will continue to offer meeting space, Open Access Computer Usage, information about services, advice for people from a non-English Speaking Background who are seeking work, and advocacy and support on local issues and concerns.



BRENDA NEWMAN

COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT SCHEME WORKER'S REPORT
MAY 5TH - OCTOBER 13TH 1997

ARABIC WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group are still meeting weekly for art & craft classes at the BMRC Daceyville, which I occasionally visit.

The following activities were organised and well attended from this group. For the school holidays with the kids:

- Picnic at Sir Joseph Banks Park which was changed to lunch at the Seals Club at Maroubra due to wet weather (1st July)
- Taronga Zoo (4th July)

For the women

- Symbio Park, at Stanwell Tops (14th July)
- Powerhouse Museum (29th August)
- Picnic at Sir Joseph Banks Park (30th Sept)

Self-esteem Workshop - 14th August - 25th September at the Deli Mascot on Thursday mornings. This was well attended and the women were responsive. A follow up workshop on Parenting Skills will begin on the 21st Oct - 11th Nov run by Daniel from the Deli whom I will be assisting. A speaker from Breast Screening NSW will talk to the women on the 14th Oct.

I am currently in the process of establishing an Arabic Women's Group at SCA.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

I have been involved in the Court Assistance Scheme in Both Waverley and the Downing Centre, Sydney.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

There were information sessions organised for the 14th & 16th August concerning employment, training & particularly the recent changes with CenturLink. This was held in conjunction with Mile from the Commonwealth Services Delivery Agency and Reyhan from South Sydney Community Aid who talked about her SMPPO project. They were held at both Redfern (Town Hall) and Maroubra (RICC).
 Juanita Zepeda MLO spoke at BMRC about the current changes on 2nd Sept. Neil Parker a team leader from Dept. of Housing will speak to workers about priority housing and eligibility on the 15th Oct.

CASEWORK
 I am still doing casework from the Deli at Mascot on Tuesdays & South Sydney Community Aid on Wednesdays & Thursdays.

ROSEMARY LAULACH



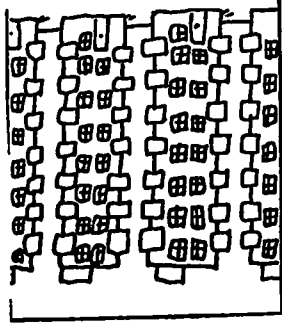
ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Board members have been involved in campaigns to counter balance Urban Consolidation favouring wealthy investors. We support low income people in Public Housing and Community Accommodation projects.

We urge the preservation of local heritage buildings; and we press for the up-grade of basic infra-structure - water supply, sewerage, energy, communication systems and transport systems.

The dominance of large scale facilities for Super-Star Sports events and entertainment. Spectacular Performance must be corrected by the design of community recreational facilities.

Our vision of social/cultural inclusive diversity and mutual respect is facing selective attacks by entrenched economic organisations and management agencies. Psychological warfare is claiming many casualties: substance abuse, psychotic behaviours, violence against children and frail adults and suicide.



FRED TURVEY

SOURCES OF FUNDING AND SUPPORT

South Sydney Community Aid acknowledges the support from funding donations or other material assistance from the following sources over the past year.

- Department of Community Services
- South Sydney Council
- Migrant Skills and Qualifications Board, NSW Department of Training, Education and Co-ordination.
- CAS Computers - Redfern

Student on Placement: *Susan O'Donnell*
(Based at Waterloo Community Development Project)

STAFF AT NOVEMBER 1997

Neighbourhood Centre Project:

Co-ordinator:
Brenda Newman

Information/Outreach:

Pippa Lausen 3 days
Siobhan Bryson
(currently on Maternity Leave)

Administrative Support and Bus Trip

Assistant: *Cathy Seelin* 10 hours

Accounts and Tax Help:

Soheir Shehata

Finances and Audit: *Alex Whitehead*

Specialist Migrant Placement Officer Programme:

Specialist Migrant Placement Officer (SMPO):
Reyhan Yilmaz

SMPO Assistant:

Beatrice Tong (present worker)
Cathy Seelin
Dianne Bolt

Community Settlement Scheme Worker:

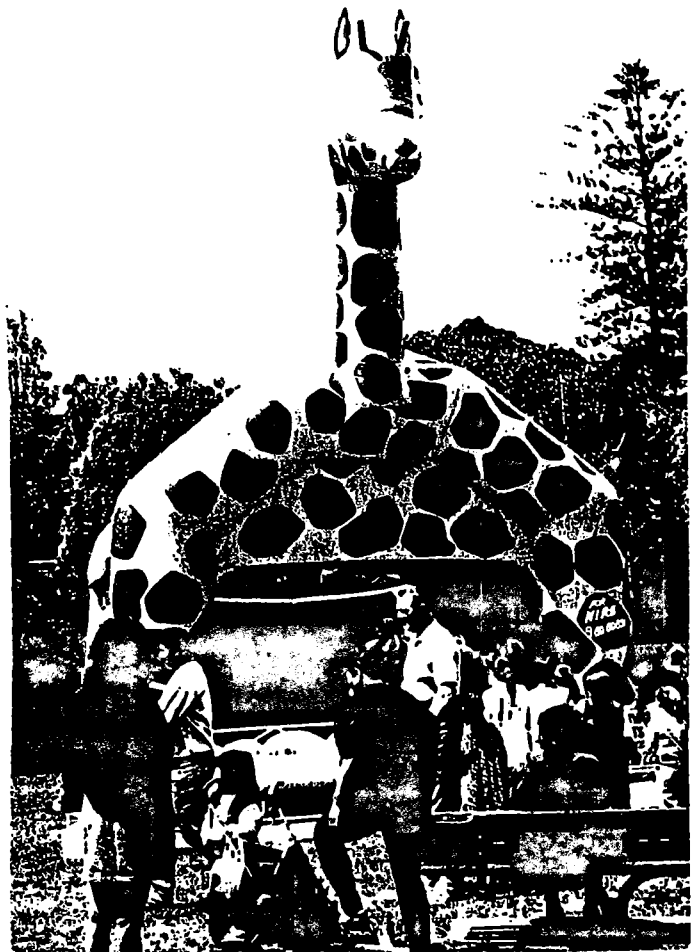
Rosemary Laoulach, (on secondment from Botany Neighbourhood Centre)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1996-1997

- ✪ Jim Piotrowski
- ✪ Fred Turvey
- ✪ Betty Bullivant
- ✪ Neryl Cooke
- ✪ Jacques Gonthier
- ✪ Antonio Castillo
- ✪ Jo Fletcher
- ✪ Lana Mundine
- ✪ Ben Harris
- ✪ Hanne Makhoul

Volunteers:

Airan Gold
Dina Kaplun
Katuska Fuchslocher
Maureen Magee (Based at Redfern Skills Centre)



SOUTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AID

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Phone numbers that you may need

Aboriginal Community Health	9360-3133	Redfern Community Health	9690-1222
Aboriginal Legal Service	9318-2122	Redfern Legal Centre	9698-7277
Aboriginal Medical Service	9319-5823	Redfern Occasional Child Care	9310-2336
Aboriginal Resource Centre	9319-4428	Redfern Skills Centre	9698-1855
AIDS Hotline	9332-4000	Redfern Home Visit & Support	9319-3587
Child Protection \ Family Crisis	9381-0402	The Shop (Women & Children)	9699-9036
Credit Line	9951-5544	Social Security - Redfern	132468
Domestic Violence Advocacy	9637-3741	Social Security - JET	9930-5302
The Factory Community Centre	9698-9569	South Sydney Council	9300-4000
Gullama (Dept. of Community)	9381-0370	South Sydney Community Aid	9319-4073
Home Care Service of N.S.W.	9689-2666	South Sydney Community Trans.	9319-4439
Interpreting Service (Telephone)	131-450	Tenants Advice Hotline (Aboriginal)	9690-0020
Food Distribution Network	9699-1614	Tenancy Service Redfern Legal Centre	9698-5975
Parent Line	132-055	Westmead Hospital Children's	9845-0000
Police Station Redfern	9690-4600	" " Adult's	9845 5555
Police Station Surry Hills	9265-4144	Welfare Rights Centre	9211-5300
Rachel Forster Hospital	9395-0211	Women information	1800817227
Rape Crisis Centre	9819-6565		

For New Arrivals to Australia

- Find out about community services, information support and referral
- Courses, workshops and seminars
- Discuss your concerns about immigration, interpreting, Social Security, legal rights etc.
- Talk to the Specialist Migrant Placement Officer about employment, training and overseas qualifications.
- English classes (ask for details of next course)
- English conversation - drop in any Thursday at midday, join the coffee group.
- Monthly bus trips to places of interest

**WARTS (Waterloo and Redfern
Trading Scheme)**



Looking for an alternative to money!!, why not join WARTS and trade your goods, skills or services without any money being involved.

**MINUTES OF SOUTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AID
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held on Thursday 13th November 1997

ATTENDANCE: See attached list.

APOLOGIES: Jane Lanyon, Charles McCartney, Cathy Seelin, Hanadi Nemra, Deidre Grusoven, Jim Piotrowski, Gavin McCairns, Bob Carr, Andrew Refshauge, Ron Dyer, Edna Turvey, Kathy Brooks, John McIntyre.

MINUTES OF 1996 AGM: Accepted. Jacques Gonthier/Loretta Dunn.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Brenda Newman read report from resigning Chair, Jim Piotrowski. Included in report were:

Congratulations to staff for achievements throughout year on low budgets and inadequate building.

Ongoing problems regarding accommodation - high rents, community transport moving out next year, governments seeking market rents etc.

Community Development still underrated by funding bodies but SSCA will keep at it.

Goodbye to Pippa Lausen who is taking over as Co-ordinator at the Factory.

Report accepted, Fred Turvey/Loretta Dunn.

TREASURER'S REPORT: given by Neryl Cooke.

SSCA survived another year but needs to continue tightening belt.

The balance sheet at 30th June 1997 and the Income and Expenditure & Financial Accounts for the year ended 30th June 1997 received and accepted.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT: from Alex Whitehead B.Comm, LLB,ACA presented and accepted, Jacques Gonthier/Loretta Dunn.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

Following ten members nominated for ten positions and were all declared elected to the board for the following year:

Jim Piotrowski

Neryl Cooke

Jacques Gonthier

Antonio Castillo

Cathjerine Frost

Betty Bullivant

Fred Turvey

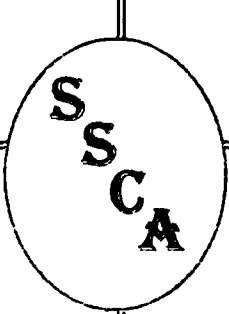
Jo Fletcher

Lana Mundine

Dina Kaplun

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR: Alex Whitehead was nominated and elected as Auditor for the 1997/98 financial year. Jacques Gonthier/Loretta Dunn.

MEETING CLOSED: 5.50p.m.



SOUTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AID Co-op Ltd.

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AGENDA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 13th November 1997, 5p.m.

1. Opening of Meeting & Welcome by the Chairperson.

2. Apologies

3. Confirmation of the 1996 Annual General Meeting Minutes.

4. Reports:

Chairperson's Report.

Resolution - That the chairperson's report for the year 1996/97 be received & adopted.

Financial Report.

Resolution - That the Balance Sheet at 30th June 1997 & the Income & Expenditure & Financial Accounts for the year ended 30th June 1997, received & adopted.

5. Election of Directors: (Board Members)

The Returning Officer has received nominations from the following members who are ~~declared~~ elected:-

Jim Piotrowski
Betty Bullivant
Neryl Cooke
Fred Turvey

Jacques Gonthier
Jo Fletcher
Antonio Castillo
Lana Mundine

Catherine Frost

check

6. Appointment of Auditor:

Resolution - That Alex Whitehead, Company Auditor be retained as Auditor for the ensuing year at a fee to be set by the Board.

7. Closure of Meeting by Chairperson.

Empowerment through Community Action

Information on Community Services

Monthly Bus Trips for people from a Non English Speaking background

English Classes

Open Access
• Computer
• Meeting Space
• Resources

Advocacy & Support with Domestic Violence issues

Child Protection Action Group

Specialist Migrant Placement Officer Employment & Training Assistance

WARTS Waterloo & Redfern Training System