



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE HIGH LEVEL OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN CUSTODY AND
OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW OF DEATHS IN CUSTODY

MEDIA RELEASE

PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE INQUIRY INTO THE HIGH LEVEL OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN CUSTODY AND OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW OF DEATHS IN CUSTODY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23 October 2020

The Upper House Select Committee undertaking the inquiry into the high level of First Nations people in custody and oversight and review of deaths in custody will be holding its first public hearings next week.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Adam Searle MLC, said, "There is a significant problem in Australia with the over-representation of First Nations people in the criminal justice system, including in custody. This inquiry aims to grapple with this issue and look at how the oversight bodies in New South Wales who have a role in this space are structured and whether they could or should be consolidated into a single oversight body."

The Chair continued, "Out first two hearings next week we will hear from legal experts, including community legal centres, Aboriginal community groups and organisations and researchers in this field. We will also be hearing from the Dungay Family. The committee will be holding further hearings in December to hear from other families who have lost a loved one in custody and the relevant government departments and oversight bodies."

"It is extremely important that we hear from those dealing with these issues on the ground and the families who have been so profoundly impacted, to address how oversight of this part of the criminal justice system can be improved", concluded the Chair.

The hearings next week will be held in the Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney on **Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 October 2020, from 9.25 am to 5.30 pm**. The hearings are open to the public, however due to COVID-19 restrictions there will be limited capacity in the room. The hearings will also be webcast live via the Parliament's [website](#).

For further information about the inquiry, including submissions received and the hearing schedules, please visit the committee's [website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee, the Hon Adam Searle MLC, on 0418 381 636