

Response to question on notice

Question

The Hon. ROD ROBERTS: Ms Hey-Nguyen, you say 400 deaths in custody. That is something you just quoted. Where do you get that figure from? Ms HEY-NGUYEN: We got that figure from—let me find it—it is 434 First Nations individuals have died since the 1991 royal commission. The Hon. ROD ROBERTS: What about in New South Wales, because bearing in mind our remit is about New South Wales? How many people died in custody in New South Wales? Ms HEY-NGUYEN: I am not sure I have that on hand. So I have to take that on notice. The Hon. ROD ROBERTS: If I said it was 112. Ms HEY-NGUYEN: Yes. The Hon. ROD ROBERTS: Would you accept that? Ms HEY-NGUYEN: I would have to, yes, take that on notice.

Response

According to data tables released by the Australian Institute of Criminology National Deaths in Custody Program (which provided data up until 2017-18) and the 2018 and 2019 NSW Coroner Annual reports into deaths, there have been **110** Aboriginal deaths in custody in NSW since the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

This total was calculated as follows:

- from 1991-92 to 2017-18 number of indigenous deaths in prison custody was 73
- from 1991-92 to 2017-18 number of indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations was 29
- for 2018 and 2019, the number of Aboriginal deaths which occurred in custody as recorded by the NSW Coroner were eight (3 in 2018, 5 in 2019).

Sources: <https://www.coroners.nsw.gov.au/coroners-court/resources/publications.html>

<https://www.aic.gov.au/statistics/national-deaths-custody-program>