

Submission
No 58

**INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY BASED SENTENCING
OPTIONS FOR RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS AND
DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS**

Organisation: Federal Government
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Date Received: 5/10/2005

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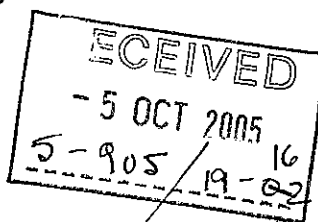
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MV 20050254

29 SEP 2005

The Hon Christine Robertson MLC
Committee Chair
Standing Committee on Law and Justice
Legislative Council
Parliament House Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Ms Robertson

Thank you for your letter of 26 July 2005, seeking information for the Inquiry into community based sentencing options for rural and remote areas and disadvantaged populations. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) in my Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has been established to develop and support the Australian Government's new Indigenous affairs arrangements. While the OIPC has responsibility for some limited programme funding, most of the programmes and services previously delivered by ATSIC-ATSIS have been transferred to those Australian Government agencies that deliver services to the entire Australian Community. The OIPC has not funded or administered community based sentencing programs in any of the listed communities.

I understand that you have sent a similar letter to the Australian Government's Attorney-General, the Hon Philip Ruddock, MP. You may also wish to seek information from the Australian Government's Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator the Hon Chris Ellison.

I look forward to receiving details on the outcome of your inquiry and leveraging from the recommendations you make to improve the lives of remote and regional Indigenous Australians.

Thank you for drawing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

AMANDA VANSTONE