

**Submission
No 7**

**INQUIRY INTO HIGH LEVEL OF FIRST NATIONS
PEOPLE IN CUSTODY AND OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW OF
DEATHS IN CUSTODY**

Name: Mr David Edwards

Date Received: 10 August 2020

Inquiry by the NSW Parliamentary Select Committee on the High Level of First Nations People in Custody and Oversight and Review of Deaths in Custody.

I personally welcome this enquiry and ask that its recommendations be implemented unlike the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody where the vast majority of its recommendations remain unimplemented. There is no need to review deaths in custody, just implement the outcomes of this 30 year old Royal Commission whose recommendations are no less relevant today. I also ask that the committee give consideration to diversionary programs to engage our socially disadvantaged youth with cultural learning/ renewal opportunities, education and job ready/ employment related skills. We would not need such an inquiry if more effort was spent in meaningfully engaging our young people in endeavours to secure hope for their future and break the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage, poverty and crime that leads to our people being over-represented in the justice system. Please consider diverting funding spent on incarceration and targeted policing into community development, youth engagement and collaborating with Aboriginal controlled community organisations to plan, work towards and realise their community aspirations for prosperity and wellbeing.

Please accept this journey needs to be navigated community by community, as whilst we may be 'one mob,' we have many different goals and ways of doing business.

Yours sincerely David Edwards