

**Submission
No 23**

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

Name: Mr James Godfrey

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I refer you to the book *Criminal Laws*, (7th edition) eds, Brown et al, 2020).

re Terms of Reference: (a)

I understand from the detailed research in this book that overpolicing of Indigenous communities leads to high levels of unnecessary contact with the criminal 'justice' system, including for example Indigenous young people being targeted for simply hanging out on the street, in a park, or in a shopping centre. As a result they often face arrest, detention, fines and sometimes imprisonment, in contrast to non-Indigenous young people who are more likely to not be targeted or might receive a warning.

re Terms of Reference: b, c and d

Families deserve to know that if their loved one dies in prison they will be heard and a proper independent investigation will occur – including inspection of where their family member died, that all potential witnesses are interviewed, including fellow inmates, and that they will be kept up to date with the inquiry's progress.

Independent oversight is needed of all Aboriginal deaths in custody to ensure that those responsible face justice.