

Submission
No 34

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 7 August 2020

Partially
Confidential

I would like to expressed my deepest concerns about the high level of First Nations people in custody.

NEVER has a police or prison officer been held accountable for the more than 435 Indigenous deaths in custody since the Royal Commission, or the thousands of deaths before that time. I demand examination of the suitability of the oversight bodies tasked with inquiries into deaths in custody in New South Wales, with reference to the Inspector of Custodial Services, the NSW Ombudsman, the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Corrective Services professional standards, the NSW Coroner and any other oversight body that could undertake such oversight.

Overpolicing of Aboriginal communities is an ongoing problem, and leads to high levels of unnecessary contact with the criminal justice system. Young First Nation people are targeted for just hanging out in parks or in shopping centres and face serious penalties for offences which their non-Aboriginal peers would receive only a warning. All of this contributes to the overrepresentation of First Nations people in our prisons.

This is quite frankly disgusting and we as a country deserve better.