

**Submission  
No 51**

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

**Name:** Ms Jenny Rae  
**Date Received:** 22 August 2020

---

First Nations people are terribly over-represented in custody in NSW and in all Australian states. This has to do in some cases with initial disadvantage, lack of education and job prospects. But it also has to do with racist policing. Aboriginal people are more likely to be arrested, often on trivial charges, and then incarcerated. Aboriginal deaths in custody are still occurring despite the Royal Commission and its recommendations (1987-1991). There is a lack of accountability. Each death in custody should be investigated by a coroner. There should be liaison with Aboriginal people to oversee procedures including medical procedures in relation to First Nations people in custody. Medical care and proper procedures should be available equally for women in custody. It is high time we overcame this systemic racism with its degrading and tragic consequences.