

Submission  
No 56

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 23 August 2020

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Partially  
Confidential

To sit in a country courtroom it is impossible not to see racism at play.

In the manner a magistrate speaks to Aboriginal people.

In the decisions the magistrate makes.

In the representations made by the prosecutor.

In the lack of experience in the ALS lawyer representing the most vulnerable people in our community.

Aboriginal people are imprisoned for trauma related actions.

Aboriginal people are imprisoned for taking food to eat.

In police stations around NSW it is impossible not to see racism at play.

Arrest of Aboriginal people is the first resort not the last resort as per the recommendation from the 1991 Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody.

Aboriginal people are stopped and searched for the colour of their skin.

Aboriginal people are spoken to and treated differently by police, hurt, pushed, abused, often in manner worse than anything they are being arrested for.

Aboriginal people are removed from their families due to lack of support from the wider community.

We need more healing centers for Aboriginal people and less prisons.

Cultural competency needs to be mandatory within the police force, all officers, correctional staff, the legal profession, in every person who has anything to do with Aboriginal people.

We need it today not tomorrow.

Aboriginal children should not be arrested for crimes related to \$2 shoplifting, then spending \$200,000 to imprison them.

The system is broken every way you look at it.

It is up to all of us to treat people from trauma with compassion.

What we are currently doing is not working, the imprisonment rate of Aboriginal people is the worst it has been.

It begins with keeping Aboriginal children safe in their families.

The act of removal begins a life in the court system where normal actions of childhood are criminalised and judged by people without cultural competency.

Aboriginal people need to be given the right of self determination.

Around the world it is proven to help First Nation people heal and succeed.