

Submission  
No 87

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

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The figures of Aboriginal people incarcerated show the complete failure of our country to acknowledge the rights and sovereignty of the First Nations people.  
Most Australian Governments should hang their heads in shame over the historical abuse of the Aboriginal people.

Come to the table. Free these people to live their lives. If a 1/3 of people in prison and half the children in detention are Aboriginal we all have a problem.

Why doesn't an Aboriginal person ever serve me in a shop?

Why do we continue to persecute these poor souls on this unlevel playing field we've set up to benefit mainstream Australians. We throw away people on the margins and exploit them for prison profits.

I have had the great privilege to listen to Aboriginal people speak of their culture.

They have so much to teach the whole planet, if only we would listen.

Reconciliation is a word that has been tarnished, but it is still a very noble word.

Let's give the people and the word the recognition they deserve.

Put down your fear and your guilt and open your hearts to see the person inside the skin. To quote Mother Teresa 'if we love and forgive each other, God will bless us.'