

Submission
No 92

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

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The number of Aboriginal adults in prison and Aboriginal children in youth detention is severely disproportionate to their numbers. They are overpoliced and, as a result, penalised for behaviour for which a white person would receive no more than a warning, if anything. Not a single police officer or prison officer has ever been held responsible for any of the more than 435 deaths in custody since the Royal Commission, or the thousands of deaths before that time. This adds up to racism and it has to stop. We need the Aboriginal community to have significant input into how to deal with whatever justice related problems do exist in ways that minimise the number of people taken into custody. We need to address the issues within the police force that result in over policing. Being taken into custody should be a last resort.