



Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Recommendation

216. Regular meetings with magistrates to monitor NT program

That the Northern Territory Department of Correctional Services should, at the conclusion of the review of the Aboriginal Community Justice Project, establish regular meetings with Magistrates to monitor the effective operation of the program and establish a mechanism to ensure that the views of the Aboriginal communities in which the program operates are considered in the context of these meetings.¹

Background²	The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) highlighted the Aboriginal Community Justice Project, which sought to integrate Aboriginal law into the Northern Territory's judicial system, including the use of traditional punishments in court sentencing. The project was originally established in the Northern Territory in 1982 with further trials in subsequent years. None were active at the time of the RCIADIC. Despite its broad support, the project had mixed outcomes, and the Commissioners believed it was important to understand why, given its promising potential. They advocated for the review, and monitoring of the project, and involvement of local Aboriginal communities in these processes.
Intent	Establish regular meetings with magistrates to monitor operation of the Aboriginal Community Justice Project and ensure Aboriginal perspectives are considered.
Responsibility	Northern Territory Government.
Key action taken	
2005 Review³	This recommendation was classified as not relevant to Victoria according to the Victorian Government 1996-97 Implementation Report.
2018 Review⁴	Not relevant to Victoria.
Since then	The Aboriginal Justice Caucus confirmed this recommendation was not relevant to Victoria.
Evidence of impact	
Authorising documents	None identified.

¹ Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (Final Report, 1991) vol 4, 97 ('RCIADIC').

² RCIADIC, (Final Report, 1991) vol 4, [29.2.25]-[29.2.36] ('RCIADIC').

³ Aboriginal Justice Forum (Vic), Department of Justice (Vic), *Victorian Implementation Review of the Recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Review Report, October 2005) vol 1, 387 ('2005 Review').

⁴ Deloitte Access Economics, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Report, August 2018) 438 ('2018 Review').

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Outputs	None identified.
Outcomes	None identified.
Community views	None identified.
Related recommendations	
	None identified.
Assessment summary	
The Aboriginal Justice Caucus confirmed that Recommendation 216 was not relevant to Victoria.	

Related recommendations

Assessment summary

Bibliography

Aboriginal Justice Forum (Vic), Department of Justice (Vic), *Victorian Implementation Review of the Recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Review Report, October 2005)

Deloitte Access Economics, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Report, August 2018)

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, (Final Report, 1991)

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (Final Report, 1991)