



Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Recommendation

217. Consider resourcing in review of NT Community Justice Project

That the review of the Aboriginal Community Justice Project should undertake a detailed consideration of the resources required by the Project to operate effectively. Consideration should be given to the creation of specific liaison officer positions employing Aboriginal people to facilitate communications between the court and the community.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.
Intent	That the review of the Aboriginal Community Justice Project considers the resources required for it to operate effectively.
Responsibility	Northern Territory Government.
Key action taken	
2005 Review³	Victoria Police assessed Recommendation 217 as partially implemented and provided a copy of the 2002 Review of the Aboriginal Community Justice Panels (ACJP). Findings from another independent review were to be available post completion in September 2004.
2018 Review⁴	Deloitte considered Recommendation 217 was 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.
Outputs	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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Outcomes	None identified.
Community views	None identified.

Related recommendations

	None identified.
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Assessment summary⁵

It appears there was some confusion in relation to this recommendation in the 2005 Review, given the Northern Territory project and Aboriginal Community Justice Panels in Victoria share the same acronym. Recommendation 217 was not relevant to Victoria.

Bibliography

Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus (Project Team, In Person, 13 December 2023)

Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group (Project Team, In Person, 4 November 2022)

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)

⁵ Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group (Project Team, In Person, 4 November 2022) ('Working Group Meeting (4 November 2022)'); Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus (Project Team, In Person, 13 December 2023) ('Aboriginal Justice Caucus Meeting (13 December 2023)').