



Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Recommendation

311. Distinguish between commercial viability and social development

That ATSIC ensure that in the administration of its Enterprise Program a clear distinction is drawn between those projects that are supported according to criteria of commercial viability and those that are supported according to social development or social service satisfaction criteria.¹

Background²	<p>The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) made a range of recommendations to increase economic opportunities for Aboriginal communities and encourage the establishment of Aboriginal enterprises to progress economic and social development goals.</p> <p>Most community enterprises funded under the Enterprise Program in 1988–89 were community projects. These were often the least commercially viable initiatives but provided the best options for creating employment in areas where no formal labour markets existed, or those that did were inaccessible to Aboriginal people. These initiatives also provided essential community services such as retail stores and transport.</p> <p>Several reviews of the Enterprise Program found that a failure to clearly distinguish between social and economic objectives of funded initiatives undermined efforts to effectively operate and evaluate the program.</p>
Intent	Distinguish projects supported according to social development criteria from those supported for commercial viability under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission’s (ATSIC) Enterprise Program.
Responsibility	The Commonwealth Government (as ATSIC was under their jurisdiction).
Key action taken	
2005 Review³	<p>The Victorian Government did not assess Recommendation 311 as it was deemed to be the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth Government.</p> <p>Review Team</p> <p>The Review Team noted that little information was elicited on recommendations 311–314 during consultations with Aboriginal people. Some respondents saw a clear need for Aboriginal enterprises to address unemployment, stating that, ‘for employment to improve we need to create our own businesses.’</p>

¹ Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (Final Report, 1991) vol 4, 399 ('RCIADIC').

² Ibid vol 4, 393-9 [34.3.12]-[34.3.28].

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, 154-5, 172 ('2005 Review').

311. Distinguish between commercial viability and social development

2018 Review⁴	Deloitte considered Recommendation 311 to be the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. They concluded that it was fully implemented through ATSIC's development of the Community Economic Initiatives Scheme which funded projects with a social development focus.
Since then	Recommendation 311 was deemed to be the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and was not considered further.

Evidence of impact

Authorising documents	None identified.
Outputs	None identified.
Outcomes	None identified.
Community views	None identified.

Related recommendations

2005 Review⁵	Recommendation 5 That the Department for Victorian Communities apply the principles enshrined in recommendations 311 to 313 relating to Aboriginal enterprise and developing economic opportunities to its own business enterprise programs and provide a report to the Aboriginal Justice Forum. That the Victorian Government continue to implement and monitor recommendations 311-313 through any monitoring process established as a consequence of this Review.
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Assessment summary⁶

Recommendation 311 was the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and therefore outside the scope of this project.

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) 645 ('2018 Review').

⁵ 2005 Review, vol 1, 31-2.

⁶ Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group (Project Team, Meeting, 13 June 2024) ('Working Group Meeting (13 June 2024)'); Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus (Project Team, In person, 26 June 2024) ('Aboriginal Justice Caucus (26 June 2024)').

Bibliography

Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus (Project Team, In person, 26 June 2024)

Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group (Project Team, Meeting, 13 June 2024)

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)