



Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Recommendation

313. Development of Enterprise Program

That the ongoing review of the Enterprise Program by the Commonwealth Government should seek to develop the Program in such a way that:

- a) *Adequate program flexibility is provided to allow for the diversity of aspirations and needs of different Aboriginal communities; and*
- b) *Funding difficulties caused by cyclic government budgeting and delays between application and receipt of moneys are minimised.¹*

Background²	The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) specified that the Commonwealth Enterprise Program should be reviewed for its responsiveness to local community needs and aspirations. The Commission were aware of many examples of Aboriginal enterprises that catered to the needs of the community and evolved to become rewarding and profitable businesses and recognised that flexibility and adequate funding would allow for Aboriginal enterprises to reach their full potential. Funding injected into the Enterprise Program from 1987-1990 was only a fraction of the amount allocated to employment programs. The RCIADIC considered that for Aboriginal enterprises to be long lasting and successful, they needed to be adequately supported in their establishment phases through regular and reliable funding measures.
Intent	Provide more flexibility and simpler funding arrangements to improve the Enterprise Program.
Responsibility	The Commonwealth Government as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) was under their jurisdiction.
Key action taken	
2005 Review³	<p>The Victorian Government did not assess Recommendation 313 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, 402 ('RCIADIC').

² *Ibid* vol 4, 399-402 [34.3.29]-[34.3.38].

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').

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2018 Review⁴	Deloitte concluded that Recommendation 313 had been fully implemented as the Commonwealth Government had undertaken a review. To better address the needs of Aboriginal communities the Enterprise Program was subsequently restructured into the Business Funding Scheme (commercially oriented), the Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (socially based), and Enterprise Employment Assistance (wage subsidy program). ATSIIC subsequently reviewed and reformed funding arrangements and the assessment process for the Business Funding Scheme to improve performance.
Since then	Recommendation 313 was deemed to be the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and therefore 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	<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>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.</p> <p>That the Victorian Government continue to implement and monitor recommendations 311-313 through any monitoring process established as a consequence of this Review.</p>
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Assessment summary⁶

Recommendation 313 was the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government.

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) 645-7 ('2018 Review').

⁵ 2005 Review, vol 1, 31-2.

⁶ 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 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, In Person, 4 November 2022)

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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)