



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.<sup>1</sup>

Background <sup>2</sup>	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 ATSIC was under their jurisdiction.
Key action taken	
2005 Review <sup>3</sup>	<p>The Victorian Government did not assess Recommendation 313 as it was deemed to be the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth Government.</p> <p><b>Review Team</b></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>

<sup>1</sup> Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (Final Report, 1991) vol 4, 402 ('RCIADIC').

<sup>2</sup> Ibid vol 4, 399-402 [34.3.29]-[34.3.38].

<sup>3</sup> 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').

### 313. Development of Enterprise Program

<b>2018 Review<sup>4</sup></b>	Deloitte concluded that Recommendation 313 had been <b>fully implemented</b> 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). ATSIC subsequently reviewed and reformed funding arrangements and the assessment process for the Business Funding Scheme to improve performance.
<b>Since then</b>	Recommendation 313 was deemed to be the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and therefore was not considered further.

#### Evidence of impact

<b>Authorising documents</b>	None identified.
<b>Outputs</b>	None identified.
<b>Outcomes</b>	None identified.
<b>Community views</b>	None identified.

#### Related recommendations

<b>2005 Review<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Recommendation 5</b> That the Department for Victorian Communities: (h) apply the principles enshrined in Recommendations 311 to 313 relating to Aboriginal enterprise and developing economic opportunities to its own business enterprise programs, (o) provide a report to the Aboriginal Justice Forum on (a)-(n). 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 summary

The Aboriginal Justice Caucus confirmed that Recommendation 313 was the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and outside the scope of this project.

<sup>4</sup> 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').

<sup>5</sup> 2005 Review, vol 1, 31-2.

## **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)