



Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Recommendation

316. Economic self-sufficiency in remote communities

That the relevant Governments, in consultation with relevant Aboriginal organisations give consideration to funding the establishment of a small unit, comprising Aboriginal people drawn from northern Western Australia, the Northern Territory and northern Queensland, which would be based in the northern part of the country. The function of the unit would be to study, in consultation with the residents of remote communities in those areas, the means of achieving greater self-sufficiency in those communities. The Unit would have the task of keeping remote communities advised of successful initiatives achieved in other communities and assisting remote communities in the preparation of their community plans, so as to assist them in developing economic independence, or at least a greater degree of self-sufficiency.¹

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| Background² | The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) recognised that reliance on federal funds for remote communities impacted the ability to provide support tailored to local needs. The Commission highlighted that, for remote communities to achieve economic prosperity, innovative and creative initiatives needed to be implemented. Initiatives centred on Aboriginal self-determination and community control were found to be the most successful in achieving positive economic outcomes. Therefore, the RCIADIC recommended forming a small unit of Aboriginal people to investigate ways of supporting local economies. |
| Intent | Establish a small unit of Aboriginal people to consult with remote communities to investigate ways to achieve greater economic self-sufficiency. |
| Responsibility | The Commonwealth, Queensland, Western Australian and Northern Territory governments. |
| Key action taken | |
| 2005 Review³ | The Victorian Government considered Recommendation 316 was not relevant to Victoria. |
| 2018 Review⁴ | Deloitte concluded that Recommendation 316 had been fully implemented by the Commonwealth Government. While a small research unit had not been established, Deloitte found that other programs had been implemented in line with this recommendation's intent, including the Remote Jobs and Communities Program. |
| Since then | Recommendation 316 was deemed not relevant to Victoria and was not considered further. |

¹ Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (Final Report, 1991) vol 4, 423 ('RCIADIC').

² Ibid vol 4, 423 (34.4.74).

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 ('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) 645 ('2018 Review').

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Evidence of impact

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

Related recommendations

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| | None identified. |
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Assessment summary⁵

Recommendation 316 was not relevant to Victoria.

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)

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)

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 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)*').