



Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Recommendation

77. Commonwealth roads funding

That the distinction between communities with or without formal local government authority status should be abolished for purposes of access to Commonwealth roads funding. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Federal Minister for Local Government should establish a review of Commonwealth Local Road Funds and specific purpose funding with, amongst others, one specific term of reference being to find feasible solutions to the problem of inequity for Aboriginal people in the provision and maintenance area of roads.¹

Background²	The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody identified significant infrastructure inequities affecting Aboriginal communities. While communities with formal local government status were eligible for Commonwealth Government roads funding, most Aboriginal communities lacked this status and were therefore excluded from direct access to these funds. The Commission noted that this structural gap contributed to persistent disadvantages in infrastructure development and access.
Intent	Ensure more equitable access to Commonwealth roads funding for Aboriginal communities.
Responsibility	Commonwealth Government.
Key action taken	
2005 Review³	Recommendation 77 was classified as not relevant to Victoria according to the Victorian Government 1996-97 Implementation Report.
2018 Review⁴	Deloitte concluded that the Commonwealth Government had not directly implemented Recommendation 77 but assessed it as partially implemented based on other actions taken.
Since then	Recommendation 77 was the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and was not examined further as part of this project.
Evidence of impact	
Authorising documents	None identified.
Outputs	None identified.

¹ Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (Final Report, 1991) vol 2, 551 ('RCIADIC').

² Ibid vol 2, 544 [20.5.9].

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, 279, 295 ('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) 157 ('2018 Review').

77. Commonwealth roads funding

Outcomes	None identified.
Community views	None identified.
Related recommendations	
	None identified.
Assessment summary⁵	
Recommendation 77 was a Commonwealth Government responsibility.	

Bibliography

Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus (Project Team, In Person, 17 May 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)

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, 17 May 2023) ('*AJC Meeting (17 May 2023)*').