



Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Recommendation

78. Queensland government grants to Aboriginal councils

That with respect to the provision of grants the Queensland State Government should ensure that Aboriginal and Islander Community Councils are considered against the average standards used for mainstream local government councils. Aboriginal Community Councils should have access to the Capital Works Subsidy Scheme available to mainstream local Government Authorities. The operation of the Aerodrome Local Ownership Scheme should be extended to Aboriginal Community Councils.¹

Background²	The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) noted that Aboriginal Community Councils in Queensland were structurally disadvantaged due to their exclusion from the Local Government Act. As a result, these councils were ineligible for a range of Commonwealth and state government subsidies, grants, and services typically accessible to local governments, including support provided through the Local Government Association of Queensland. The RCIADIC emphasised that these legislative gaps significantly limited the capacity of Aboriginal councils to deliver services and infrastructure on par with other local government authorities.
Intent	Provide Aboriginal Community Councils in Queensland access to funding available to mainstream local government authorities.
Responsibility	Queensland Government.
Key action taken	
2005 Review³	Recommendations 78 was classified as not relevant to Victoria in the Victorian Government 1996-97 Implementation Report.
2018 Review⁴	Deloitte concluded that the Queensland Government had fully implemented this recommendation, however, it was unclear whether the specific schemes referred to in Recommendation 78 were still in existence.
Since then	Recommendation 78 was not relevant to Victoria. It was not considered further in this project.

¹ Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (Final Report, 1991) vol 2, 556 ('RCIADIC').

² Ibid vol 2, 555 [20.5.5].

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, 280, 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').

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Evidence of impact

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

Related recommendations

	None identified.
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Assessment summary⁵

Recommendation 78 was not relevant to Victoria.

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)*').