

## Scholes, Carly (REPS)

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**From:** Towner, Joanne (REPS)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 December 2009 8:36 AM  
**To:** Committee, ATSI (REPS)  
**Subject:** FW: aboriginal incarceration

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**From:** Lenore Ketchup [mailto:lkjustice@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 December 2009 3:38 PM  
**To:** Committee, Reps (REPS)  
**Subject:** aboriginal incarceration

Submission No 1

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BY: B.

To The secretary,

My name is Lenore Ketchup. I am the Justice Coordinator for the Ngooderi Mabuntha Justice committee in Doomadgee.

I am particularly interested in this inquiry as it is my core business

I have been in my position for 7 years and have grown up with the Doomadgee people.

I am a representative for the State Wide Reference Justice Group.

After working in this area for 7 years and supporting those who come in contact with the Justice System there are many floors and some loops that need ironing out.

The biggest concern is the percentage of Indigenous People in our prisons and also the Youth.

Government has tried to address this on a number of occasions but to no avail.

In remote communities there needs to be programs and more people experienced and qualified in this field to address the problem

Alcohol and drugs are the main factors.

If we also look at housing and the shortage in employment for young and old in remote communities. There needs to be on the ground on going programs if we are to see a change.

Prison is not the answer.

We need to be proactive and have places for our people to go to undertake such programs.

When we have people coming home from prison what have we got in place for them upon their return. The transitional period is paramount to say the least.

They have been away from family and in that time there could and is alot that happens. Babies are born, loss of income in the family, one partner left to be Mum and Dad to the children. Deaths within the family this all has to be addressed upon their return.

There could also be other broken homes and lives I am speaking of the Victim, it could be a stranger a family member a partner. This to has to be monitored and they all the family need alot of support at this time.

In prison they have a structured life style they go to work eat at a certain time go to bed at a certain time. this is structure they don't have when upon return.

Again what have we done in communities to prepare for their return. This is the time we have to work with them so they do not get back on that merry go round of committing crime.

Why are the offending and re offending.

There is no self esteem no direction no structure they are left to work it out themselves this in itself is the biggest mistake.

So after my addressing this inquiry I believe Government should have a look at what programs there are for offenders maybe adopt them into each community where Justice Groups deliver them to find them the prison could have some positive programs they use within that system.

Also for our Young People see what Youth detention Centres deliver they would no doubt be more assistance to our people outside rather than inside.

Sending them to outside facilities does not prove to be the answer there still has be another transitional shift before they return home, sometimes this is where they get lost in the system next time you hear from them they are back before the court. This is a very stressful time for their families. this is why I say it needs to be delivered in each community.

i hope this is of some assistance please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish

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