



Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the criminal justice system in Queensland and the Northern Territory

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will travel to Brisbane, Darwin and Cairns next week for public hearings in relation to its inquiry into the high level of involvement of Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the criminal justice system.

On Tuesday in Brisbane, the Committee will hear from representatives of Queensland Government departments, Magistrate Stephanie Tonkin, Province Promotions, the Ipswich Community Justice Group, Mental Health Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Services, the Youth Advocacy Centre and BoysTown.

On Thursday in Darwin, the Committee will hear from representatives of Northern Territory Government departments, Phoenix Consulting, the Menzies School of Health Research, Youth Justice Magistrate Sue Oliver, and the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency. The Committee will also speak with the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, the Central Australian Youth Justice Committee, and the Central Australian Youth Link-up Service via a videoconference link.

On Friday, the Committee will travel to Cairns to hear from the Families Responsibilities Commission, ACT for Kids, Professor Chris Cunneen, the Cairns and Innisfail Community Justice Groups, and the Cairns Flexible Learning Centre.

The Committee is concerned with the broad range of issues bringing Indigenous youth and young adults into adverse contact with the criminal justice system. The Hon Bob Debus MP, Committee Chair, said, "Holistic responses are required to address the diversity of issues that underpin Indigenous contact with the criminal justice system. We need to find ways of better coordinating and targeting service provision across the Government and community sectors if we are to make some headway in reducing the unacceptably high numbers of Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system."

Public hearing program:

**Tuesday 4 May, 9.15am - 4.20pm, Jagera Arts Centre, Community Hall,
121 Cordelia Street, South Brisbane**

**Thursday 6 May, 9.00am - 4.45pm, Charles Darwin University, Casuarina Campus, Building
6 Red, Room 1.04, Darwin**

**Friday 7 May, 11.00am – 3.30pm, Mercure Cairns Harbourside, 209-217 The Esplanade,
Cairns**

For background information, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or atsia.reps@aph.gov.au, or see the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/atsia>

For more details of the Committee's **interstate public hearing program**, check the website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/atsia/sentencing/hearings.htm>