

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 2

Output 1.5

Question No. 124

Senator Scullion asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

Are you familiar with the concept of justice reinvestment?

Has justice reinvestment, supported in principal by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, been considered at a national level as part of a wider strategy to help reduce indigenous incarceration, or at the very least been considered for trial and investigation?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Department has undertaken research and analysis of international experiences with justice reinvestment. A Background paper on justice reinvestment prepared by the Department was tabled in the Senate on 24 August 2011 by Senator Ludwig on behalf of the Attorney-General in response to a Parliamentary Question on Notice asked by Senator Ludlam.

In 2011, the Department chaired a cross-jurisdictional Working Group to investigate the potential of justice reinvestment/causes of crime approaches as a mechanism to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous people within the criminal justice system. A key finding of this work was that there are currently criminal justice data gaps that would make the implementation of an effective justice reinvestment approach in Australia difficult. Work is currently underway with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to improve the national corrections datasets to address these issues.