



Justice reinvestment a better strategy for combating growing Indigenous juvenile detention rates

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will hear from Mr Peter Murphy of Noetic Group on Thursday, 18 March, as part of its inquiry into the high level of involvement of Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the criminal justice system.

Noetic recently undertook a comprehensive strategic review for the NSW Minister for Juvenile Justice. The review considered the long-term costs and benefits that provided the logical basis for future investment in the juvenile justice system. One of the recommendations highlighted the policy of diverting funds for the building of detention centres to programs that prevent offending and recidivism among young people.

The Committee is investigating best practice examples of programs that support the diversion of Indigenous juveniles and young adults from crime and juvenile detention. Several submissions to the Committee have recommended the practice of justice reinvestment and raised the need for more funding for preventative and diversionary programs.

The Hon Bob Debus MP, Committee Chair, said, “Indigenous youth are highly over-represented in juvenile and youth detention centres and prisons. They are also highly over-represented in recidivism rates, and this needs to be addressed. We are hearing that programs that target the issues which contribute to high offending and recidivism rates among young Indigenous Australians are more effective – economically and socially - than remanding people in detention for minor offences or breaches of bail.”

Public hearing program:

Mr Peter Murphy, Noetic Group
10.45 am, Thursday 18 March 2010
Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

To listen to the public hearing on your computer, go to <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

For background information, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or atsia.reps@aph.gov.au or see the Committee’s website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/atsia>

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