

Submission No 9.a

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Recommendation to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs from the Indigenous Offender Health Research Capacity Building Group (IOHR-CBG)

RECEIVED
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That a national Reference Group on Justice Reinvestment be established.
Membership might include –

BY:.....ATSIA.....

Members of the Australian Social Inclusion Board
Federal and State Attorney Generals departments
Mr Tom Calma (outgoing Social Justice Commissioner)
Mr Mick Gooda (incoming Social Justice Commissioner)
Representative/s from Federal and State Health departments
Representative/s from Federal and State Education departments
Representative/s from State Justice departments
Economists (Treasury & academic institutions)
Research institutions (providing evidence through research from demonstration sites)

Incongruities in funding arrangements for diversionary programs: eg, funding for capital works comes from one source, but funding for salaries & programmes from another source.

Often no capacity within funding provided to do any evaluation, including long term cost-effectiveness in terms of prevention, of pilot diversionary programs.

Nowanup Farm – emerged from community, with support & benefit seen and utilised by the local judicial sector – however no sustained funding.

Winnunga Youth Diversion Program – received \$200,000 capital grant from ACT government, but no current funding for salaries to run the program – they need to get this from other sources.

Community-owned and operated Juvenile Justice Work Camp – trial pilot diversion program run by Kimberley Aboriginal Law & Cultural Centre from April to June 2009

Russ Taylor, Principal AIATSIS, visited this group in 2009. Co-ordinator, Wes Morris advises Russ that 13 youths who had been through the pilot program in 2009 re-offended over the Christmas period. KALCC have no capacity to undertake further formal diversionary work with them and fact that they re-offended is not about the failure of the program, it's that beyond June 2009 KALCC had no capacity to continue working in a case-management intensive way with these youth.

They are in negotiations and having funding to evaluate their preventive programs, but no funding to evaluate their diversionary programs – told that community-owned diversionary programs will not be funded unless they can demonstrate strict cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit criteria, but they have no capacity to do this sort of analysis, as caught up in service provision aspects, with no capacity or skills to do evaluation.