Submission to inquiry on Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the criminal justice system

December 2009

Both our organisations have considerable experience with issues facing people with intellectual disability in the criminal justice system, including the double disadvantage faced by Indigenous people with intellectual disability.

NSW governmental studies show very high rates of both people with intellectual disabilities and Indigenous people in the juvenile justice system. See NSW Young People on Community Orders Health Survey 2003 - 2006 and Young People in Custody Health Survey 2003 at http://www.justicehealth.nsw.gov.au/publications

Time pressures unfortunately prevent us from making a detailed submission to the current inquiry. However, we ask the Committee to take note of detailed publications on these issues which we have produced or been associated with:


The Framework Report, Appropriate community services in NSW for offenders with intellectual disabilities and those at risk of offending, 2001

FRAMEWORK PLUS 5 - Human Services in NSW for Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities – Five years on from the Framework Report

Enabling Justice, A report on problems and solutions in relation to diversion of alleged offenders with intellectual disability from the NSW Local Courts System.
http://www.idrs.org.au

Another very important resource is the Australian Human Rights Commission report Preventing Crime and Promoting Rights for Indigenous Young People with Cognitive Disabilities and Mental Health Issues (2008)

We are happy to discuss relevant issues with the inquiry if that would be helpful.