



Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the criminal justice system in South Australia

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will travel to Adelaide this 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 Thursday, the Committee will hear from representatives of South Australian Government departments, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, and the Youth Justice Aboriginal Advisory Committee. A roundtable will be held in the afternoon with various community and social organisations, including Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (SA) Inc, Police Drug Diversion Initiative, Kumangka Aboriginal Youth Service, Young Nungas Yarning Together, Kura Yerlo, Grannies Group, Wiltanendi Program, and the National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Related Disorders Inc.

The Committee is concerned about the relationship between alcohol and substance use and high contact with the criminal justice system and will discuss health issues that affect Nunga youth, such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

The Committee is also investigating best practice examples of programs that support the diversion of Indigenous juveniles and young adults from crime and juvenile detention.

The Hon Bob Debus MP, Committee Chair, said “One in five Indigenous people in South Australia aged 15-24 are expected to come into adverse contact with the criminal justice system this year. We also know that in every year since 2000, the rate of imprisonment for Indigenous people in South Australia has increased. It is crucial that we find ways of better coordinating and targeting service provision across the Government and community sectors if we are to begin to reverse this trend.”

Public hearing program:

Date: Thursday 20 May

Time: 11.30am - 4.45pm

**Venue: David Spence Room, Adelaide Town Hall
128 King William Street, Adelaide**

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>