

Cardell, Susan (REPS)

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Submission No 93

From: Thursday, 22 April 2010 11:01 AM
Sent: Committee, ATSIA (REPS)
To: NW replied - NW forwarded to RG Inquiry draft submission NATALIA WELLS
Subject: Documents for [redacted] - 1.pdf; Document for Paul - 2.pdf
Attachments:

BY: ATSIA

Dear Natalia,

I have sent 52 pages for perusal- Maybe they are not warranted but I was trying to show a case study that is quite typical of a negative environment.. My Grandson at Mossman saw 6 of his class all teenagers going to prison too I am showing my grandsons case -how a 17 year old on a serious charge stating he had a weapon when he didn't, by a clerical error went to court 11 times with the error undetected by ATSILS A drinking problem escalated got him into more and more trouble but there was no alcohol or mental health programs operating for him to go to when he was not working.. He, like his peers felt that he had no voice or support. The agencies that could of helped unfortunately did not. There was no cohesive team or realistic strategies to intervene and prevent the negative cycle. Although he had a known background with suicide, no referral to welfare or mental health eventuated until we paid for it. Unfortunately a very common occurrence hence the large numbers turning away from mainstream system and their problems escalating without treatment.

On the other hand I had also seen where team work and programs had created a positive environment and kept young people out of prison. As I had formerly been a teacher and had worked with an amazing energetic experienced Indigenous team abstudy into Cairns High which changed a drop out rate of 90% after grade 8 into 75% retention rate I knew that teamwork did create positive outcomes... In 8 years 1976-1984 we had 120 indigenous students in Grade 11 and grade 12. and 350 indigenous students. These students went on to jobs, trades and higher education. They did not go to prison. they are well entrenched in mainstream society in sports and have shown that there can be a better life then for those in other areas.

The experience in the Cape is another scenario with negative outcomes. I saw the youth at Napranum and Aurukun which I had family connections having young people without purpose, without programs dropping out of school and heading in droves to the prisons..

So then I tried to get programs into the prison. They could be rehabilitated and a purpose other than going in and out of prison could be established. I saw the same problem of Queensland Govt Prison and Commonwealth Govt that we had tackled at Cairns High a qld govt school and commonwealth abstudy program. I was dismayed to see that Abstudy- Lawful custody allowance had not been known about therefore not encouraged or utilised. I eventually found after a year contacting tertiary places that the Boorogun College in Kempsey had distance education that went into prisons. They had not heard of the abstudy legislation Lawful custody allowance even though it had been legislated in 1996

.I have included an email of [redacted] who had administered abstudy in Cairns where Lotus Glen has 560 indigenous inmates but did not know of the abstudy grant.

The justice people also have not the experience or protocols to help with the legal complexity and the protocols or staff to liase with the agencies who could help. This has caused indigenous clients to get angry and for the co-ordinators to retreat, get police protection and administer a less supportive and more police influenced punitive position than was imagined when giving RCIADIC money to have indigenous imputand change police elationships with the community... Police Liason Officers are also struggling still under Police supervision with no independent advisory body either to help them relate better with the community they are supposed to support. These interventions have not been developed to give either the Justice people or PLOS EQUAL PROFESSIONAL STATUS OR autonomy, with training and strategies that would support them away from Police.

Please contact me if anything I have written or sent you is suitable. I can rewrite or leave out what is irrelevant or not needed.

Yours sincerely

sue barstow

Margaret Sue Barstow