

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 2: Indigenous  
**Topic:** Incarceration rates

**Senator:** Kakoschke-Moore, Skye

**Question reference number:** 88

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 December 2016

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Has special consideration been made regarding the need to reduce the rates of incarceration of ATSI children?

**Answer:**

States and territories are responsible for administering the criminal justice system, however the Commonwealth Government is committed to work with them to drive down incarceration rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and improve community safety overall.

Under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS), the Commonwealth is providing \$4.9 billion over four years for a range of activities to complement the efforts of states and territories to improve justice and community safety outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In 2016-17, approximately \$257 million is being provided through the IAS Safety and Wellbeing Programme for activities that complement the work state and territory governments are doing to improve justice and community safety outcomes. A number of these activities are specifically targeted at young people, including activities which aim to:

- prevent young people from engaging in offending or anti-social behaviour and divert them away from the justice system;
- change offending and anti-social behaviour, including intensive support for young people exiting detention;
- support young people to reduce alcohol and substance misuse; and
- increase engagement with education, training and employment.

Approximately \$8 million from the Safety and Wellbeing Programme is being provided for youth diversion activities in 2016-17. Of this, approximately \$6 million is being provided for activities including intensive case management, working with youth at risk of offending or already in contact with the criminal justice system, and approximately \$2 million is being

provided to run youth activities in remote locations aimed at reducing the risk of contact with the justice system.

The Commonwealth Government is also committed to ensuring Indigenous children and their families have access to quality early childhood services. These are critical to supporting their early development and learning, future schooling and later life opportunities. The Commonwealth has invested \$177 million over the first two and a half years of the IAS in early childhood activities, which funds 315 service providers.