

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 2

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Question No. 122

Senator Scullion asked the following question at the hearing of 23 May 2012:

Committee recommendation 27 states that the Attorney-General "take to the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General the proposal to increase funding for appropriate accommodation options for youth who are granted bail, in order to prevent the unnecessary detention of Indigenous youth".

Has this recommendation been actioned?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Australian Government response to the *Doing Time – Time for Doing: Indigenous Youth in the Criminal Justice System* Report was tabled on 24 November 2011. In the response, the Australian Government accepted Recommendation 27 (Post-Release Accommodation), stating:

The Australian Government is concerned about the increasing rate of Indigenous young people being held on remand. The *Doing Time* report notes that about half of Indigenous young people in detention on an average day were on remand.

The Australian Government, through the Standing Council on Law and Justice, will ask State and Territory Governments to consider ways of reducing the incidence of young people being held on remand. In particular, the Government will propose that jurisdictions seek to understand and reduce the drivers of remand including any unintended consequences of legislation, the appropriateness of bail conditions, the role of police and community services agencies in bail and remand outcomes and increasing the availability of appropriate accommodation options for youth who are granted bail.

The Australian Government will also work with non-government organisations to identify opportunities to increase the number of bail accommodation places for young people.

Australian Government support for accommodation for young people is discussed in the Government's response to Recommendation 7.

At the 12-13 April 2012 meeting of the Standing Council on Law and Justice, the Australian Government brought forward a paper on the *Doing Time* report, specifically raising Recommendation 27. The Standing Council noted the paper. Any further action in relation to this recommendation is a matter for State and Territory governments.