

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

Program 1.5

Question No. 43

Senator Wright asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:

Senator WRIGHT: Did the [National Justice CEOs] working group consult with Indigenous groups in the process of developing its report?

Mr Wilkins: I am not sure about that. It was certainly composed by people who had developed a number of programs with Indigenous groups and brought to bear a lot of experience in that regard. Whether or not they were specifically consulted for his purpose, I do not know, but you will appreciate that a lot of it looks at extant programs and programs that are being developed by various states and territories.

Senator WRIGHT: Could I ask you to take that question on notice. Also, if there was consultation undertaken, could you indicate which groups were consulted with.

Mr Wilkins: Okay. I do not think there is a clear answer to that question; that is what I am trying to say, but we will—

Senator WRIGHT: To the best of your ability—

Mr Wilkins: get something back to you.

Senator WRIGHT: Thank you.

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

There was no specific consultation process associated with the development of the National Justice Chief Executive Officers (NJCEOs) working group report on Justice Reinvestment / Causes of Crime.

The primary tasks of the working group were to document existing activity underway across jurisdictions consistent with justice reinvestment approaches, and consider options for future work. Justice reinvestment theories take location rather than ethnicity as the starting point for the development of targeted criminal justice strategies to reduce crime and incarceration. Any impact on specific ethnic groups occurs as a consequence of co-location in high-crime areas, and other socio-economic factors.

If any of the options for future work are adopted by the NJCEOs, consultations will of course be undertaken where relevant.