

GURUNGU COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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Attention Bev Cubillo
Re:
Senator Nigel Scullion
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Fax: 89813022


Ref: Questionnaire.

Bevely,

Sorry for the delay with this but I received this second hand from the town Clerk at Elliott and the staff here thought it was sent to the wrong place and returned it.
On behalf of the Gurungu Council Aboriginal Corporation and after having discussions with the council, I will answer the questions of your Survey to the best of my knowledge.

1. There are no resident lawyers in our community at Elliott and the nearest representation would be at Tennant Creek some 250 km away. This could be improved by having regular visits by a lawyer from Tennant Creek.
2. The quality at times has been poor and lawyers need to be more patient and understanding with clients and there understanding of Law.
3. Yes clients do have access to legal advice. It is used frequently and is useful.
4. The lawyers need to have more understanding of cultural matters and need to be more patient.
5. Yes we do have a magistrate visiting Elliott on a 3 monthly basis. Access to lawyers is only on the day of the court.
6. When a person is held in custody to attend court they are sent to Tenant Creek Police station and then sent on to Alice Springs.
7. As English is well spoken in this community there has been no need for an Interpreter.
8. There are no lawyers residing in Elliott representation is only on the day of the court for both criminal and non-criminal matters. Yes there is a need for legal advice and representation in non-criminal matters.
9. Only the person who has been charged with the offence has access on the day of the court to representation. The only services available are the clinic, police and the lawyer on the day of the court. Gurungu Council are in the process of establishing a Safe House at 39 Brae Street Elliott, to assist the clients that have been affected by Family Violence.

Best Regards



Edward Winter
C.E.O.



23 February 2004