



National Deaths in Custody Program Steering Group

Terms of Reference

Background

The National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) monitors the extent and nature of deaths occurring in prison, police custody and youth detention from 1980 onwards. The NDICP was established at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) in 1992 in response to recommendation 41 of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody: 'that statistics and other information on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal deaths in prison, police custody and juvenile detention centres, and related matters, be monitored nationally on an ongoing basis...within the Australian Institute of Criminology'.

Purpose and role

To provide advice on the National Deaths in Custody Program, on matters associated with ongoing program implementation. This may include program design, definitions, data collection, analysis and reporting. The Group will play an advisory role and is not intended to be a decision-making body. In so doing, the Group will help to ensure that the NDICP is responsive to emerging issues associated with the monitoring of deaths in custody in Australia.

Input will be sought at two scheduled Steering Group meetings annually. Requests for input outside of the meeting program may be sought where required.

Membership

The membership for the Group will be by invitation from the AIC. Members of the Group will include data providers for police and correctional authorities in each state and territory, representatives from the National Indigenous Australians Agency and representatives from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services. Appendix A lists invited entities.

The Group will be chaired by Dr Rick Brown, Deputy Director of the AIC.

Frequency of meetings

It is anticipated that the Group will meet twice-yearly. Members will be provided with a meeting agenda and meeting papers (where relevant) a minimum of two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date. Minutes will be taken of all meetings and circulated to members of the Group.

Meetings will be held via video conference unless otherwise indicated by the AIC.

Appendix A

Table 1: Entities invited to be members of the Steering Group	
Commonwealth	National Indigenous Australians Agency
New South Wales	NSW Police Force
	Corrective Services NSW, Department of Communities & Justice
Victoria	Victoria Police
	Department of Justice and Community Safety
Queensland	Queensland Police Service
	Queensland Corrective Services
Western Australia	Western Australia Police Force
	Department of Justice
South Australia	South Australia Police
	Department for Correctional Services
	Youth Justice Services, Department of Human Services
Tasmania	Tasmania Police
	Tasmania Prison Service, Department of Justice
Northern Territory	NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services
	Northern Territory Correctional Services, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
	Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities
Australian Capital Territory	ACT Coroners Court
	ACT Corrective Services, Justice and Community Safety Directorate
Community	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service