



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE HIGH LEVEL OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN CUSTODY AND
OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW OF DEATHS IN CUSTODY

MEDIA RELEASE

FURTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 December 2020

The Upper House Select Committee undertaking the inquiry into the high level of First Nations people in custody and oversight and review of deaths in custody will be holding a further three public hearings on Thursday 3, Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 December.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Adam Searle MLC, said, "At our previous two hearings, the committee heard from a number of key stakeholders on how to address the high level of First Nations people in custody and how to improve the oversight of this part of the criminal justice system".

"At the committee's next three hearings we will hear from the key oversight bodies, including the Inspector of Custodial Services, the NSW Ombudsman, and the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, along with several government departments. We will also hear from organisations focused on supporting women and youth in the criminal justice system, as well as health and medical experts and industry unions. Importantly, the committee will also hear from other families who have lost a loved one in custody".

The Chair continued, "It is extremely important that we speak with all stakeholders from within government and outside of government on how to address these complex issues, so as to inform the committee's report and its recommendations. We aim to table our recommendations in March next year, with the aim of improving the justice system for First Nations people, and the role of oversight agencies of deaths in custody".

The hearings will be held in the Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney on:

- **Thursday 3 December 2020, from 9.00 am to 4.15 pm**
- **Monday 7 December 2020, from 9.00 am to 5.45 pm**
- **Tuesday 8 December 2020, from 10.45 am to 4.30 pm.**

The hearings are open to the public, however due to COVID-19 restrictions there will be limited capacity in the room. Members of the public are encouraged to watch the livestream, available on the Parliament's [website](#).

For further information about the inquiry, including submissions received and the hearing schedules, please visit the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee, the Hon Adam Searle MLC, on 0418 381 636