



***From the President's Office
Dr Danielle McMullen
MBBS (Hons), FRACGP, DCH, GAICD***

29 January 2021

The Hon. Adam Searle
MLC Committee Chair, Select Committee
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Via email: First.Nations@parliament.nsw.com.au

Re: Select Committee on the High Level of First Nations People in Custody and Oversight and Review of Deaths in Custody – Post-hearing questions taken on notice

Dear Select Committee,

Thank you for providing the Australian Medical Association of New South Wales (AMA NSW) with the opportunity to supplement our appearance before the Select Committee with our response to questions taken on notice during the hearing.

Question 1:

The Hon. ROD ROBERTS: Dr McMullen, on page 5 of 6 of your submission the last paragraph states: *Not a single police officer or prison officer has been held accountable for the deaths in custody.* Above that, you quote a figure of 435 Aboriginal deaths in custody. Your submission continues: *AMA NSW recommends there be independent oversight into all Aboriginal deaths in custody.* *Would you care to elaborate on that?*

Answer 1a:

Not a single police officer or prison officer has been held accountable for the deaths in custody.

Reference:

Alison Whittaker. "Despite 432 Indigenous deaths in custody since 1991, no one has ever been convicted. Racist silence and complicity are to blame." *The Conversation*. 03 June 2020.

Answer 1b:

AMA NSW recommends there be independent oversight into all Aboriginal deaths in custody. *Would you care to elaborate on that?*

AMA (NSW) supports independent oversight and investigation into how and why those Aboriginal deaths in custody occurred. That process should be transparent and inquisitive, rather than accusatory. Having a body, such as the Law Enforcement and Conduct Commission or an

independent Indigenous Commissioner to work alongside coroners and oversee investigations into First Nation deaths in custody would improve trust in the investigation process and subsequent findings.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Danielle McMullen
President, AMA (NSW)