

RECEIVED - 5 JUN 2019



Our reference:
Your reference:

Department of
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Partnerships

31 MAY 2019

Judge John Robertson
Chair
Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council
GPO Box 2360
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Judge Robertson

Thank you for your letter of 9 May 2019 advising of the release of *Community Based Sentencing Orders, Imprisonment and Parole: Options Paper*.

I note that in responding to the Terms of Reference for this review and developing the Options Paper, the Council acknowledges the input and advice provided by the Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel, and also that it has consulted widely with stakeholders, including representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services.

I also note that one of the fundamental principles guiding the options for reform is an aim of reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system.

The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) is involved in a range of justice initiatives currently being undertaken by the Queensland Government, including: actions to inform the *Working Together Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019–2023*; implementation of the recommendations from the Sofranoff Review into Queensland's parole system; initiatives to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in the justice system through the Criminal Justice System Reform Project Management Office in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; the Queensland Productivity Commission's current *Inquiry into imprisonment and recidivism*; and progressing justice reinvestment in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

I wish to commend the Council for its work on this review, and look forward to the Council's final report later this year on ways to address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in the criminal justice system.

If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please contact

Yours sincerely

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Director-General

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