

## **ATSILS FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR IAS:<sup>1</sup>**

Application	Funding Status	Impact
Custody Notification Services, which offers 24 hour legal advice and RU okay line to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people taken into police custody. Since the service has been in operation there has been no Aboriginal deaths in custody in the areas in which it operates.	Not funded	The service will cease and six solicitors will be made unemployed. The concern is that without the service Aboriginal deaths in custody are at greatly increased risks of occurring
Back on Track, a pilot program which would increase the number of solicitors and field officers to focus on diversion (including issues around fines and licencing), compliance with Court orders, and referral. Through these increased support measures the programme aimed at improving education and employment outcomes for people in contact with the justice system.	Not funded	Measures that could improve the outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contact with the criminal system will not be able to be fully implemented. Offending and re-offending rates are likely to continue to rise.
Prison Support Programs which offer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners access to high quality advice and case management services to assist with parole applications and reintegration into the community.	Not funded	This will mean that Aboriginal prisoners in the area will be disadvantaged in terms of their access to services and as a result will be more likely to cycle through the system without therapeutic intervention. This is very concerning, given the high incarceration rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the very high recidivism rates.
Prisoner through care programmes which support prisoners, pre, during and following their imprisonment. These services reduce re-offending which in turn creates safer communities and enables prisoners to become productive members of the community.	One of the ATSILS application to provide this service was denied. Another ATSIL was denied funding, but as noted the circumstances in which the application was denied in unclear (see para 5.4 of submission)	Prisoners will be more likely to cycle through the system without therapeutic intervention. This is very concerning, given the high incarceration rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the very high recidivism rates.
One of the ATSILS, Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Services (CAALAS) was reliant on Supplementary Legal	Not funded.	If they do not receive funding under another funding stream CAALAS will be crippled as 25% of

<sup>1</sup> This table does not provide a comprehensive list of all funding tendered for by ATSILS as not all ATSILS provided this information to be included.

Assistance funding. They applied for funding through IAS to cover this funding.		their services was funded this way. The result would be that they would have to significantly reduce services across their practice which would significantly impact on the ability of Aboriginal people to access justice, and would also burden other service providers, such as the courts.
Indigenous Youth Justice Programme, an intensive case management programme which targets Indigenous youth before the Youth Justice Court, particularly high needs clients with issues such as FASD, cognitive impairment, mental health, hearing problems or other disabilities. The programme has shown early signs of success in reducing offending and recidivism with high-risk clients.	Not funded.	Indigenous juveniles with complex needs in contact with the criminal justice system will not have access to the support, treatment and rehabilitation they need and will therefore be likely to come into further contact with the criminal justice system. Providing services to high needs offenders is particularly important given the complex needs that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander juveniles have. <sup>2</sup>
Night Patrol, Community Safety Legal Education & Crime Prevention Program was a raft of services all aimed at preventing offending.	Funded, but only at a third of the amount asked for.	The ATSILS will be unable to provide the service as tendered for and their ability to provide services that assist in decreasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples interaction with the justice system will be limited
Funding for additional Caseworkers	Not funded	Further funding for caseworkers for this ATSILS would have provided much needed legal assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
The Youth Justice Advocacy Program has been operating for eight years. The program is coordinated by an experienced youth worker, and provides court support and case coordination services to children and young people in the Youth Justice Court. The program fulfils an important	Funded at 20% of applied for level.	Unless further funding is secured through the IAS the program will cease from 1 July 2015. The ATSIL will lose a highly experienced youth worker, who was recently a finalist for a national Children's Law Award for her work. Aboriginal

<sup>2</sup> See generally House Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, *Doing Time - Time For Doing: Indigenous Youth in the Criminal Justice System* (20 June 2011).

monitoring and systemic advocacy role. It is highly valued by Magistrates and other stakeholders.		children and youth and their families will not have support to engage with the court process, and are likely to face lengthy court processes, more adjournments, more time on remand, and potentially more custodial sentences.
In house counselling service to provide early intervention in families at risk of or experiencing family violence. The service would involve two to three counsellors providing a mix of direct one on one counselling and group counselling (yarning circles) to provide different levels of support. The aim was to either prevent people's behaviour becoming violent or identify situations in which people might be a victim of violence.	Not funded.	An initiative which could prevent the very high incidence of family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities was not able to be operationalised. Would be perpetrators will not be identified and supported and will more likely end up in contact with the criminal justice system. Victims of family violence will not be identified and given appropriate support in a culturally appropriate environment.
NATSILS as the peak body for the ATSILS applied for funding to continue its operations. As a national peak body, NATSILS plays a critical role in supporting its members to increase organisational capacity, create strong governance structures, identify, share and implement best practice within service delivery and provide greater strategic direction. NATSILS has a proven record of working with Governments to address the underlying causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disproportionate representation in the justice system.	Not funded.	Unless alternative funding is sourced after 30 June 2015, NATSILS will cease operations. This will have a major impact on the ATSILS and will mean that the government no longer has access to the expert advice of NATSILS.