

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 172

Topic: Incarcerated Disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Background: During the Legal & Constitutional Estimates hearings I put some questions to the Attorney-General's Department in regard to what progress was being made under the Indigenous Law and Justice Framework in regard to the unacceptable level of Indigenous incarceration in Australia. I was told that in early last December a working group was established under the auspices of the Ministerial Council involving the areas of justice, disability and corrections. I was also informed that the Commonwealth representative on this working group was FAHSCIA. Could you please tell me the names and work titles of all members of that working group? What is the purpose of this working group? How many times has the working group met so far?

Answer:

The Formal Network on Mental Illness and Cognitive Disability in the Criminal Justice System (the Formal Network) members are still being finalised by relevant reporting bodies but will consist of representatives from justice, corrections and disability service agencies across jurisdictions.

The Formal Network aims to improve information sharing across government portfolios within and across jurisdictions on problems and solutions relating to people with mental illness and cognitive disability in contact with the criminal justice system.

The working group has communicated via teleconference and e-mail on a number of occasions since its establishment.