

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous

Topic: Incarceration rates

Senator: Kakoschke-Moore, Skye

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Type of question: Written

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Question:

The National Justice Coalition has recommended that strong justice targets be aimed at reducing ATSI incarceration rates which seek to close the gap in rates of imprisonment. What is the Government's strategy to reduce the ATSI incarceration rates?

Answer:

The Commonwealth's focus is on addressing the underlying factors that lead to high rates of offending and incarceration by targeting investment to its key priority areas of education, employment and community safety. Under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, the Commonwealth is investing \$4.9 billion over four years for activities that benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy's Safety and Wellbeing Programme, the Commonwealth provides funding for a range of activities to complement efforts by states and territories to improve justice and community safety outcomes for Indigenous Australians. In 2016-17, approximately \$257 million is being provided to improve community safety and wellbeing, including activities which aim to:

- prevent young people from engaging in offending or antisocial behaviour and divert them away from the justice system
- change offending and antisocial behaviour, including intensive support for people exiting detention
- reduce alcohol and substance misuse
- improve social and emotional wellbeing through connection to culture and community.

The Commonwealth is also working with states and territories through COAG and with Indigenous communities to help support Indigenous people transition from prison into work.