

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Question No. 150

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:

In your report, *Building on the Close the Gap platform: Commitments for an incoming government*, you have called for the development of specific COAG Closing the Gap targets in relation to incarceration rates and community safety. How should these justice targets be structured?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The *Building on the Close the Gap platform: Commitments for an incoming government* was a publication prepared by the Close the Gap Campaign. Commissioner Gooda is a Co-Chair of the Campaign Steering Committee and the Secretariat is housed at the Australian Human Rights Commission.

The Commission supports the Campaign's view that COAG Closing the Gap targets should be developed in relation to incarceration rates and community safety. The Commission believes that these targets should be developed in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their representative organisations. The Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage headline indicators in the area safe and supportive communities could be used as a starting for the development of these targets.