

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Group 2**

**Program 1.3**

**Question No. 155**

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

1. What work has occurred, with the aim of including incarceration rates or other justice-related measures in the Closing the Gap targets?
2. What measures is the Government putting in place to address Indigenous disadvantage in the justice system and to honour its stated commitment to reducing the incarceration rate of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders?

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

1. The Government has indicated that it will consider advice on ways to improve Indigenous community safety, including whether a justice target would be an effective mechanism to drive change. Further information in relation to this issue should be sought from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as the lead agency for Indigenous Affairs including community safety and justice.
2. The Government is investing in a range of social programmes in areas such as employment, health and housing to address some of the underlying causes behind Indigenous peoples' contact with the criminal justice system. It is also investing in justice-related programmes that prevent crime, reduce reoffending and re-integrate offenders into their communities. Further information in relation to this issue should be sought from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as the lead agency for Indigenous Affairs including community safety and justice.