

PREVENTING THE JAILED GENERATION

AUSTRALIAN GREENS SENATOR BOB BROWN

1. I support the report of the committee.

On the basis of the compelling evidence before the committee, I further recommend that:

2. The Commonwealth legislate against all mandatory sentencing for adults.¹
3. The Commonwealth act upon the alarming evidence that Australia is now causing a 'jailed generation' of Indigenous people. Particular attention should be had to:
 - the causes of, and remedies for, jailing of Aborigines, with particular reference to cultural disintegration, loss of land, and poor education, health and social services
 - the disproportionate (up to 60:1 in Western Australia under mandatory sentencing) rates of Aboriginal people compared to non-Aboriginal people
 - the detriment of jailing to Aboriginal individuals and therefore to society at large
 - the impact of language-deprivation on Aborigines in their communities, schools, courts and jails
 - the failure of Australia to implement recommendations from previous inquiries including the Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody
 - the option of granting Indigenous self-government and customary law (as in Canada)
 - any related matters.



Senator Bob Brown

Australian

Greens

1 The Parliament should take note of the comments made by, after the Committee's hearings, seven former High Court judges, Sir Ronald Wilson, Sir Gerard Brennan, Sir Ninian Stephen, Sir Anthony Mason, Sir Harry Gibbs, Sir Daryl Dawson, and John Toohey opposing mandatory sentencing as reported in the Melbourne *Herald-Sun* (8/3/00).

