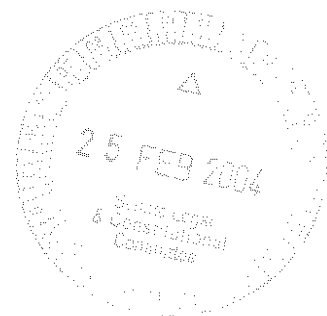


**YUELAMU COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL  
INCORPORATED  
ABN. 70 486 874 907**



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**Bev Cubillo  
Senator Nigel Scullions Office**

**Fax No. 89813022**

**Re: Questionnaire, Senate and Constitutional References Committee.**

**Dear Bev**

**In answer to the questions I can only be brief, and may not know all that there is to know, however I can give some input to local happenings here at Yuelamu. Yuelamu is a small Aboriginal Community 300kms NW of Alice Springs and 50kms east of Yuendumu a larger Community to the west.**

**Q1, No, there has never been any visits to this Community by any lawyer to my knowledge.**

**Q2, Obviously the Community is not satisfied due to the above.**

**Q3. Yes, access can be obtained via telephone to Aboriginal aid service in Alice Springs, that deals mostly with criminal matters, however in most cases an appointment is made eventuating in the person seeking advice having to travel into Alice Springs to the legal aid office. In non criminal matters advice is often sought through the legal department of the Central Land Council, in some cases the land Council lawyer will visit.**

**Q4, Not relevant due to the above.**

**Q5. Circuit Magistrates court happens at Yuendumu 50kms away, a court which sit approximately every two to three months. People have to travel over to Yuendumu when called to attend. Most are only seen by a Legal aid lawyer just prior to the court opening, on that day.**

**Q6, This question is hard to answer as most people held in custody are held for the more serious of offences, the duration of a custodial term is dependant on the seriousness of the offence and evidence gathering.**

**Q7, Interpreters are needed and in most cases interpreters do come along with the legal aid people, however in some cases the interpreter could be a close family member and could be limited by traditional obligations in the passing on correct interpretation.**

**Q8, As said before no lawyers are available within the Community or visit people have to travel outside of the Community.**

**Q9. Family violence within Communities is often difficult, in lots of cases the victim will not pursue and lay charges due to traditional law and pressure.**

**Hope this helps**

**Mick Jessop**