



Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians
Senator for Northern Territory and Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

s 47F

s 47F

Dear s 47F

Thank you for your email s 47F regarding the death in custody of Kumanjayi White in Mparntwe Alice Springs. The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I too am deeply saddened by this tragic loss, and I acknowledge the grief experienced by his family and the communities of Yuendumu and Mparntwe Alice Springs.

I want to assure you that the Albanese Labor Government is committed to eliminating deaths in custody.

I continue to express my concerns to the Hon Lia Finocchiaro MP, the Northern Territory (NT) Chief Minister and will continue to seek opportunities for an independent investigation and actions to build community cohesion and public trust.

The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody found the best way to reduce deaths in custody is to reduce the incarceration rates of First Nations people. That is why I am working with my Ministerial colleagues to address the underlying drivers of contact with the justice system, including through:

- Investing in First Nations-led justice reinvestment initiatives nationally, including in the NT, and establishing an independent National Justice Reinvestment Unit.
- Supporting the Justice Policy Partnership, led by the Commonwealth and the Coalition of the Peaks, to bring together all levels of Government, peak organisations and First Nations representatives to improve justice outcomes for First Nations people.

- Increasing investment under the National Access to Justice Partnership (NJAP) to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples receive essential frontline services and proper legal assistance.
- Using forums such as the Standing Council of Attorneys-General (SCAG) and Police Ministers Council to progress shared priorities such as bail and remand reform and raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.
- Developing an approach to implement the findings from the National Review of First Nations Health Care in Prisons (2023-24), in partnership with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services sector, and other key First Nations stakeholders, and Ministers responsible for corrections and youth justice.
- Prioritising prevention and diversion investments specific to the NT including Community Safety Patrols; peacemaking and mediation services; the Custody Notification Service; and supporting the delivery of Aboriginal Mental Health First Aide Training.

Thank you for writing to me on this critical issue.

Yamalu

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Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians

02 / 07 / 2025

cc. The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister