

25 November 2015

The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP  
NSW Attorney General  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

**Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders**

I write to request action to address the disproportionate incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

According to Amnesty International Australia's report on Indigenous incarceration, 'A Brighter Tomorrow', Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are 32 times more likely to be incarcerated in NSW than young people from other backgrounds.

The report recommends that resources be diverted away from imprisonment and put back into local communities, local community solutions and early intervention in order to prevent the need for custodial sentences. I share community concern that specialised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support and legal services are funded in NSW, and have supported ongoing resources for community legal centres and the Aboriginal Legal Service. These expert services are essential in ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are supported in their own community, especially while they are on bail and once they have been released from prison.

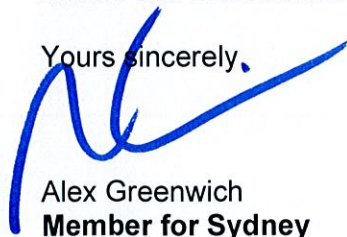
The 'A Brighter Tomorrow' report identifies that young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may be detained with adults, there is a significant gap in the provision of bail accommodation and bail laws do not give young people priority to bail.

According to the Amnesty report, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are held to be criminally responsible from the age of 10, when the Convention on the Rights of the Child says the minimum should be 12 years of age.

According to BOSCAR statistics, last year's increase in children in detention was almost entirely due to the increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being remanded in custody. I share community concern that the government investigate this rise in remand and develop strategies to address increased numbers in remand.

***Could you please consider the Amnesty International report 'A Brighter Tomorrow' and inform me what action you will take?***

Yours sincerely,



Alex Greenwich  
Member for Sydney

