



AIDA

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
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Doctors call for justice reinvestment

“This week all Australians are coming to terms with the distressing CCTV footage aired on the ABC Four Corners program on Monday night,” said Dr Sean White, Acting President, Australian Indigenous Doctors’ Association (AIDA).

Dr White hopes the newly established Royal Commission will ensure all Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory who are currently in custody, and experience violence in detention, get therapeutic support and counselling to help them recover. This is also a reminder of the inaction taken to address Indigenous incarceration rates in the 25 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mick Gooda put it best when he said “to see it laid bare in front of us last night must be a wake up call to everyone in Australia that something has got to be done about the way we lock our people up in this country and particularly the way we lock our kids up”.

The ABC story also uncovered evidence of mistreatment of children as far back as 2010, and AIDA shares the concern of Human Rights Commission President, Gillian Triggs, that around 1,000 children are currently being held in detention facilities throughout Australia. AIDA also supports Commission President Triggs call for “...greater investment in communities, justice reinvestment, instead of building new prisons...”

AIDA supports Mick Gooda’s call to all levels of governments to focus on helping create safe communities so Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children don’t go to jail.

Dr White said the ABC story also highlighted the need for justice targets and justice reinvestment to be included in the Federal Government’s Closing the Gap strategy. AIDA calls on all jurisdictions to take action to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in detention and ensure that they have access to the health care they need.

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